December 2012 / January 2013

Inside This Issue:

The Nativity of Jesus Christ

From Fr. Anthony
Spiritual Wisdom
Clergy Message
Greek Message
Calendar
Youth News
Sacraments
Donations
Philoptochos News
Parish News
Ministries

Due Date for
February Bulletin
January 16, 2013

Church Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturdays</td>
<td>Great Vespers</td>
<td>6:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundays</td>
<td>Orthros</td>
<td>8:45am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>10:00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekdays</td>
<td>Orthros</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>10:00am</td>
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<td>6:00μμ</td>
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<td>Καθημερίνες</td>
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# Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church

## Reverend Presbyter Anthony Evangelatos
George Stavropoulos, Chanter  
Heidi Mason, Choir Director  
Ona Calogrias, Organist

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### OTHER MINISTRIES

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

**Greek School**
- Tina Boutas  
- Sofia Trikalas  
- Konstantininia Goudanas

**GOYA**
- Jon Buterbaugh

**Jr. GOYA**
- Suzanne Barrus

**JOY & HOPE**
- 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**
- Joanna Stellakis, Stephen Savas, Linda Sakelaris Poole
FROM FATHER ANTHONY

Each year, the secularization of Christmas becomes more pronounced. It is amazing to hear of retailers opening during the pre-dawn hours after Thanksgiving, on what has been named “Black Friday.” Believe it or not, some retailers were even advertising “Pre-Black Friday sales!” As all the madness of the retail world unfolds around us during this time of year, simultaneously, schools and government bodies are prepared to stifle any Christian who dares to refer to the season as the Christmas season, or makes any reference to the birth of Christ. In the private sector as well, employees are instructed not to use the greeting Merry Christmas, but rather, Happy Holidays. Now I ask, do we Orthodox simply take all this in stride, or do we attempt to reclaim the sanctity of this holy season to whatever extent we can?

For the Orthodox Christian, the primary focus during the Nativity advent season should be a personal, spiritual preparation for the birth of Christ. As I explain each year, Orthodox Advent stands in stark contrast to the worldly observance of the “Christmas season,” or to be more politically correct, the “holiday season.” For us, the Nativity fast serves as a vigil, as we prayerfully await the birth of our Lord. For the secular world, this is a time of excessive- ness – both materialistically, and in the pleasure of food, drink, and merriment.

As with all the fast periods of the Orthodox liturgical calendar, we observe this fast with dietary restrictions, increased prayer and church attendance, and by performing charitable acts. To complete our preparation for the coming of Christ, we should also seek repentance for our sins and shortcomings, and receive spiritual cleansing through the holy mystery of Confession. After the 40 days of preparation, we are then truly ready to celebrate the birth of Christ through the various church services, most especially at the Divine Liturgy of the Nativity at which we partake of His Spotless Body and Blood.

Even if we observe all these things, the reality is that we are surrounded by the secular observance of the “holiday season.” It is not impossible, however, to live in a pluralistic society as we do, and be able to maintain an Orthodox way of life. It may take some “spiritual creativity,” but if we are sincere in our efforts, we can maintain an attitude of spiritual vigil throughout the season. If we are obligated to attend pre-Christmas parties at work or at the homes of non-Orthodox relatives and neighbors, we should go and participate in a limited fashion, of what the host has prepared. This has always been the advice of the Holy Fathers when we are confronted with such situations during a period of fasting. Obviously however, these should not be seen as opportunities to be gluttonous and lose all self-control! The other advice I always give regarding “rowdy” Christmas parties that include much drinking and carousing, is to politely excuse one’s self as the party begins going “downhill.”

Now, am I saying that no one is supposed to have fun during this festive time of the year? Of course not, because there is a definite time for celebrating. For the Orthodox Church, the actual celebration begins on the feast of the Nativity and ends on January 4th, just prior to the celebration of Holy Theophany. This is the time for Christmas parties, when we should be rejoicing and celebrating the great event of the birth of our Lord in the flesh. During this period, the Church purposefully prohibits fasting in order to emphasize the joy of the season. Why not consider introducing Orthodox Christmas parties in our homes during the eleven days of feasting, and invite other Orthodox families as well as friends and neighbors, in order to celebrate the true reason for the season?

Besides those things already mentioned, there are also other things we can be aware of in order to keep Christ ever-present in Christmas. As much as possible, make sure to say, “have a Merry Christmas,” or “have a Blessed Christmas,” which stands out even more profoundly as a Christian greeting. In our homes, we could strive to accentuate the spiritual nature of the Advent season through our decorations and family traditions. Why not de-emphasize or completely eliminate the mythological side of Christmas in order to not confuse our children? Teach them about St. Nicholas and St. Basil instead. Re-introduce the Orthodox custom of giving gifts to children on the feast of St. Basil (January 1st) – at least small “stocking stuffers.” And most importantly, have them involved with charitable acts, such as visits to nursing homes, helping at a soup kitchen, shopping for a needy family, bringing items to the Salvation Army, etc.

Beloved in Christ, especially in our homes, we have the complete ability to make the advent season a holy time for our families. In the world at large, we also have the ability to overlook the secular madness of this season, and to keep a spiritual focus. Let us attempt each year, to put more of an Orthodox perspective into our preparation for, and celebration of the Holy Nativity of Christ. We should see this is as a sacred responsibility for the salvation of our children, and of ourselves!

In Christ’s love,

+Fr. Anthony

Beloved Brothers and Sisters,

Please accept my best wishes and the blessings of our Lord Jesus Christ and His Holy Mother for a most blessed celebration of our Lord’s birth in the flesh, as well as a most healthy and happy New Year.

In the Newborn Christ,

+Fr. Anthony
SPIRITUAL WISDOM

Our Nativity Fast Continues

Below are traditional and widely accepted guidelines for those who choose to follow the Church’s tradition in its fullest. These guidelines are also illustrated on your 2012 church calendar produced by our holy Archdiocese.

- Fish, wine & olive oil permitted daily, except for Wednesdays & Fridays (with some exceptions) up to 12/12.
- From 12/13 – 12/24, strict fasting daily (no animal products permitted, including fish, eggs & dairy); wine & olive oil permitted on Saturdays & Sundays.
- 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.

Confession Schedule

The Holy Fathers have always stressed participation in the sacrament of Holy Confession during all major fast periods of the Church, as well as on an as-needed basis.

For those wishing to be reconciled with God through this soul-cleansing sacrament during the Nativity fast, Fr. Anthony will be available, as usual, on Saturday evenings after Great Vespers, or during office hours by appointment.

From the Philokalia:
Evagrios the Solitary on Prayer

When Moses tried to draw near to the burning bush he was forbidden to approach until he had loosened his sandals from his feet. If, then, you wish to behold and commune with Him who is beyond sense-perception and beyond concept, you must free yourself from every impassioned thought.

Persevere with patience in your prayer, and repulse the cares and doubts that arise within you. They disturb and trouble you, and so slacken the intensity of your prayer.

Do not pray for the fulfillment of your wishes, for they may not accord with the will of God. But pray as you have been taught, saying: Thy will be done in me. Always entreat Him in this way – that His will be done. For He desires what is good and profitable for you, whereas you do not always ask for this.

From the Holy Fathers

From “On the Incarnation” by St. Athanasios

When God the Almighty was making mankind through His own Word, He perceived that they, owing to the limitation of their nature, could not of themselves have any knowledge of their Artificer, the Incorporeal and Uncreated. He took pity on them, therefore, and did not leave them destitute of the knowledge of Himself, lest their very existence should prove purposeless. For of what use is existence to the creature if it cannot know its Maker? How could men be reasonable beings if they had no knowledge of the Word and Reason of the Father, through Whom they had received their being? They would be no better than the beasts, had they no knowledge save of earthy things; and why should God have made them at all, if He had not intended them to know Him?

But, in fact, the good God has given them a share in His own Image, that is, in our Lord Jesus Christ, and has made even themselves after the same Image and Likeness. Why? Simply in order that through this gift of God-likeness in themselves they may be able to perceive the Image Absolute, that is the Word Himself, and through Him to apprehend the Father; which knowledge of their Maker is for men the only really happy and blessed life.

“O Heavenly King, the Comforter and Spirit of truth, Who are present everywhere and permeates all things, Treasury of blessings and Giver of Life, come and dwell in us, cleanse us of all sin, and save our souls, O gracious One.”
On the Use of Material Things

We are made up of soul and body; the two cannot be separated in our conduct. Let the physical therefore come to your aid: Christ knew our weakness and for our sake used words and gestures, spittle and earth as media. For our sake He let His power flow from the fringe of His garment (Matthew 9:20; 14:36), from the handkerchiefs or aprons that were carried away from the apostle Paul’s body (Acts 19:12), yes, from the shadow of the apostle Peter (Acts 5:15).

Therefore use all that is of earth as a staff of remembrance on your troublesome wandering along the narrow way. May the whiteness of the snow and the blue of the heavens, the jeweled eye of the fly and the scorching of the flame, and all of creation that meets your senses, remind you of your Creator; but make use especially of what the Church offers you to help you “yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness” (Romans 6:19). First of all, the Lord’s Holy Communion. But likewise the other mysteries, or sacraments, and the holy Scriptures. And the Church offers you also the holy icons of the Mother of God, the angels and the saints; and prayer before them, and candles and incense, holy water and the gleam of gold, and singing. Receive all this with gratitude and use it all for your upbuilding and encouragement, improvement and benefit as you travel further.

Give free outlet to your love for the generous Lord of love, kiss the Cross and the icons, adorn them with flowers; if only evil be crushed with silence, the good will be allowed to breathe freely. If what is given in love is received with love, the scope of love is increased and enlarged, and this is the aim of your work. The greater the river, the wider the delta.

Use your own body, too, as an aid in the struggle. Trim it down and make it independent of earthly whims. Let it share your trouble: you wish to learn humility, so let the body also be humble and bow to the ground. Fall on your knees with your face to the earth as often as you can in privacy, but get up at once, for after a fall follows restoration in Christ.

Make the sign of the Cross assiduously: it is a wordless prayer. In a brief moment, independent of sluggish words, it gives expression to your will to share Christ’s life and crucify your flesh, and willingly, without grumbling, to receive all that the Holy Trinity sends. Moreover, the sign of the Cross is a weapon against evil spirits: use this weapon often and with reflection.

A house is never built until the scaffolding is raised. Only the strong man has no need of outward support. But are you strong? Are you not the weakest among the weak? Are you not a child?

In Appreciation

We would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Liz Karolemeas for her generous, voluntary efforts in producing our monthly bulletin from July 2011 through October 2012. Liz brought our bulletin to a new level, having created a format that has been enjoyed by all. Here again, is an example of true Christian stewardship in action. Thank you, Liz!

At this time, we would like to welcome our newest bulletin volunteer, Linda Sakelaris, whom many of you know as one of the friendly faces behind the Bookstore table. Linda is a professional writer who brings much experience to this venture. We are again very blessed with this voluntary offer of stewardship to our parish. Thank you, Linda!

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Our Wednesday evening program of adult religious education is “up and running.” As we have done the past several years, we begin with the service of Small Vespers in English, at 7 pm (or an abbreviated Paraklesis on the first Wednesday of the month), which lasts one-half hour, to be followed by a one-hour session in the conference room.

We generally begin with a Scriptural reflection, a short reading of the life of one or more saints of that day, a presentation on a particular topic, followed by an open forum for questions and answers. Those who have attended regularly thoroughly enjoy these sessions, so please accept our invitation to all interested parties – both “cradle” Orthodox and non-Orthodox alike!
The Shepherds and the Wise Men
A Clergy Brotherhood Message from Rev. Dr. Emanuel S. Chris, M.D., M. Div. of Annunciation Church, Cranston, RI

Have you ever imagined what it might have been like to be present at and to have borne witness to the Nativity of Christ? Can you imagine what it might have been like to be one of the shepherds sitting outside on a cold night watching over the sheep, hoping that no wolves would come and attack them, shivering and waiting for the light of the sun to come and warm you? You would have been a social outcast, away in the fields, far from the busyness of Bethlehem, unnoticed, probably not even being counted in the census being taken. That is how unimportant the shepherds were on the social level. All of a sudden, the sky brightens brilliantly and is filled with angels singing and announcing the birth of a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. In the midst of your fear and awe, you wonder, “What on earth are they talking about? I am just a shepherd. Do I dare go to Bethlehem and see what I am hearing about? Will I be welcome there? Does this Savior want to have anything to do with me, a simple shepherd?”

Can you imagine being one of the three wise men? You are a king, a member of the ruling class, well educated, looked up to and adored, revered, perhaps even feared by others. Looking up in the sky one night you see an exceptionally bright star among the multitude of stars and are moved to leave everything you have and know to follow it to a far and distant land. Can you imagine the moments of doubt. “Of all the stars in heaven, am I following the right one? Am I meant to be a part of this journey, and for what purpose?” After a long and arduous journey, is there any bit of disappointment that the prize is an infant rather than a new kingdom? Is it not ironic that three men, to whom people bow down to, now bow themselves down to worship an infant in a manger?

The Christian life is very much like the experiences of the shepherds and the wise men at Christ’s Nativity. Just as the wise men perhaps wondered, “Am I following the right star?” many times we as Christian’s wonder, “Am I really following the right faith?” As the shepherds wondered over the meaning of the angel’s message, how many of us have wondered, “What does this all mean – the Church, the Divine Liturgy, Holy Communion?” What would the wise men must have had to follow the star, almost blindly, for they did not know where the journey would end, but only trusted that they would be rewarded at its completion. Of all the people to reveal the message of Christ’s birth, the shepherds were the blessed hearers of the Good News precisely because they were the only ones who were ready to listen. It would have been impossible to hear the hymns of the angels above the din of the rush of people on the streets of Bethlehem. In the same manner, it is impossible for us to sing God’s praises or to feel the warmth of His love when we are constantly bombarded and over-stimulated by the many distractions and technological intrusions of our modern society.

Being a Christian is a lot like being a shepherd or a wise man. God came for everyone; from the mighty ruler to the social outcast, from the one praised by many to the one scorned by all. God came for each and every one of us. That is why at the Great Entrance, when the Gifts are being processed around the church, it is with prayer that God remembers all of us in His Kingdom. God’s message to us is one of hope, that anyone can find salvation in God, that He is the God of everyone. The shepherds and the wise men give us lessons on how to find God. From the shepherds, we learn the virtues of stillness and vigilance. Likewise, the Church celebrates the service of the Royal Hours at Christmas, a time for quiet and peaceful reflection. Prayer, when done in a peaceful and darkened place like the church at night or a quiet corner of the home, brings one to the same stillness as the shepherds at the Nativity. Prayer is much easier when you remove distractions and temptations, when you seek to truly be alone with God. It is then that prayer is beautiful, timeless, comforting, and reassuring. It is said that it is the darkest just before the dawn; so the light of Christ is the brightest when it is dark and still.

From the wise men we learn patience and trust. The Christian journey is much like the journey of the Magi. There are many mountains and valleys to be crossed, deserts to be survived, and doubts to be conquered. The journey is much easier if we keep our eyes on the prize. We ought to keep our eyes on the Lord as they kept their eyes on the star. When the star came to rest over the place where the child was with His mother Mary, the Magi fell down and worshipped Him. They were exceedingly joyful. No longer did they see themselves as the high and mighty rulers, but as true servants of God who fell at His feet and said, “God, I am nothing without You.” When we come to the point where church is more than a place to go once in a while, where Communion is not simply a ritual we do out of habit rather than an encounter with God, and when we fall down before God and confess, “I am nothing without You,” then we will know how it feels not only to be a servant of God, but a child of God.

One of the fruits of the Holy Spirit is the gift of peace. Peace is an important part of our worship in the Orthodox Church. We ask God that our prayers be in peace, we pray for peace in the world, peace in the churches, for peaceful times, and we bless ourselves with the words, “Peace be with you all.” The message of the angels to the shepherds was “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace towards men of goodwill.” (Luke 2:14). This is a more correct translation of the original Greek phrase because God’s message through the angels was not peace on earth and goodwill to all people, but rather peace to those people of goodwill. True peace is found in God. Peace is the absence of conflict whether that conflict is war with another country, hostility towards your neighbor, or inner conflict within yourself. Peace comes only to the one who seeks to be a person of goodwill. Indeed, peace in the world begins with peace within ourselves, with lives that are under control, with lives that desire to bring out the best in ourselves and in others. If we want peace in the world, we must seek at all times to make life peaceful for others. Peace in the world begins with peace within yourself and those around you.

Patience, trust, stillness, vigilance, peace; if you want to find God this is where you will find Him. The Christian journey is not one of immediate gratification. The Christian journey is the long journey of the Magi and the cold night of the shepherds. The reward for the shepherds was the witnessing the glory of God in the hymns of the angels. For the Magi, it was to behold the Lord with their own eyes. It is not easy being a Christian and the modern world makes it increasingly difficult every day. Our Church, founded by the Lord, is a piece of heaven on earth. Because human beings run the Church, it sometimes does not feel much like heaven. To those of you who struggle with your faith, offer a gift to God this Christmas, the gift of the shepherds. Offer God some of your time every day to spend in stillness and silence. Ask God to help you be still and silent, to block out distractions and help you experience the warmth that the shepherds felt when the light of the angels illuminated them. Offer the gift of the wise men. Come worship and bow down to God and confess to the Lord, “I am nothing without You.” Ask God to bring peace into your life and in turn help bring peace to others. When the last present is opened and when we take down the lights and the tree, do not pack up your Christmas joy into a box until next year. Let your joy be something that becomes a part of your everyday life. The joy of the wise men and the shepherds is something we can find every day of the year, but only when we are silent, patient, faithful, trusting, and peaceful.

I hope and pray that all of you have a joyous and wondrous Christmas Season, and may the blessings and love of the Incarnate Christ be with you all.
Δευτερα, 24/12: Αι Μεγαλεί Ωραι Χριστουγεννων – 10:00 πμ
Μεγας Εσπερινος Χριστουγεννων με Θεια Λειτουργια – 5 μμ
(Θεια Καινονια)

Τριτη, 25/12: Η Κατα Σαρκα Γεννησις του Κυριου Ημων Ιησου Χριστου
Ορθρος – 8:45 πμ, Θεια Λειτουργια – 10:00 μμ
(ανεν νυστασια μερη της 4/1 – καταλωσεις εις παντα καθημερινων)

Τριτη, 1/1: Περιτομη του Κυριου και Μνημη του Αγου Βασιλεου
Ορθρος – 9:00 πμ, Θεια Λειτουργια – 10:00 πμ

Παρασκευη, 4/1: Αι Μεγαλεί Ωραι Θεοφανειων – 10:00 πμ

Σαββατο, 5/1: Σαββατον Προ του Φωτον & Προσος Αγιασμος
Ορθρος – 9:00 πμ, Θεια Λειτουργια – 10:00 πμ
Μεγας Εσπερινος Θεοφανειων – 6 μμ
(νυστασια – καταλωσις εις εναν και ελαιος)

Κυριακη, 6/1: Τα Αγια Θεοφανεια του Κυριου Ημων Ιησου Χριστου
Ορθρος 8:45 πμ, Θεια Λειτουργια & Μεγας Αγιασμος 10:00 μμ

Δευτερα, 7/1: Η Συναξη του Τιμου Ενδεξου Προφητου, Προδρομου και Βαπτι–
στου Ιωαννου
Ορθρος 9:00 πμ, Θεια Λειτουργια 10:00 μμ

Περιποιηση της ευχαριστιας στη λιτερα και πιστα μας, μας οδηγει να προσφερουμε ευχαριστια συγκεκριμενα, να ζομε νικοτας ευγνωμοσια σε όλες τις συγκεκριμενες τις ζωες. Αυτη εκει ι διλητης μαρτυρια ευγνωμοσιας άλλως και δυναμως της παρουσιας του Θεου. Ακομη και σε μεσα διαχειριστικων κατασκευων και συνθεων, εκφραζουμε ευγνωμοσια σε δωσεν ή όποια πιηαζο απο τη βασικη απο τις υποσχεσεις Του και την παρουσια της άγαπης Του. Αυτη ζητο και στο ομ αποστολοσ Παπλος ή παρατηρο τους Χριστιανους στην Θεσαλονικη απο την άγαπη αυτη (Α’ Θεσ. 5:18). Αυτη η και μαρτυρια πολλων Αγωνων και Μαρτυριων ανα της ζωες ι όποιοι εδοξηξαι του Θεου αντιμετωπιζουν διωμος και θυσιασ. Αυτη ζητοει η θανος και η μαρτυρια των πρωτων υποσχαις σε ενα συνε και απο χωρη η ευγνωμοσια καθως ανθεπιταχυνει τιρασης προς την προσπαθειας τους να εξευθεινουν και καινουργια ζωη απο την χωρη. Ακομη η ζητει η ολη της Προεδρου Αξιωμα Λαικου και θα επιτυχαι την Ζητοει την Χριστιανους, με σκοπο να προσανατολισει τις καρδιες ενος τραχιαμενου ελθος σε μια μεγαλετετη πνευματικη θεραπευτικη δυναμη.

Η ζητει ευγνωμοσιας την Χριστιανος αποτελει ζητειες, και μαρτυρια της ζωες μας και της δυναμου του Θεου. Ανετα μπορουμε να εκφραση ευγνωμοσια για τους θυσιασ, την ζωες μας και για την επικρατουσα απο συγκρατομεν και άχους. Ομως, γινωσκουμε πως αυτη δεν είναι μόνο και ι διλητης προκληση επει η εμπειρι ευγνωμοσιας εν σημερι θεου και θανουμεν προσπαθειας. Όταν εμπειρι ευγνωμοσιας αντιμετωπιζουν διωμες και θυσιες, Ιταν θα επιτυχαι στον θεου ακομη και οταν διωμες μεγαλες ι τιμωριες, Οταν εξευθεινουμε να τηρουμε τη θελημα Του ζειναμε με αριθμη και πιστα, οι άλλοι θα διαπιστωνο όταν η ευγνωμοσια μας δεν εξευθειναι, η ζητειες για προσωπικες ιμπεριες και εξαφανιση της επικρατουσας ζωες άλλω μελλουν να τις υποσχεσαι και να συντηρει τον Θεου!

Αυτη την ημερα, καθως αναγνωρισουμε τον θεου, η ζητει ευγνωμοσια για τις οικογενειες μας και τους φιλους μας, τις ικανοτητες μας και τις πολλες ευλογιες και έρωθα τα οποια εισαγομαι την ζωη και εμπειρι της ζωες. Αλλα, πρωτιστως, τη ευγνωμοσια στου Θεου για τη τελελυκη αγαπη του για μας. Ας ανανθυμουμε την ευγνωμοσια μας προς Αυτου, με ευγνωμοσια η ημερα πηγαζε απο τις παχα ι για να γνωρεμουμε ότι οι υποσχεσαις Του θα πραγματοποιησουμε, ότι η αγαπη Του διακει αλωνια, και ότα να ζεμε η Αυτου στην αλωνιτη.

Με πιστικη εν Χριστου αγαπη.
† Ο Αρχιεπισκοπος Αμερικης Δημητριος
# December Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Great Vespers 6 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 14th Sunday of Luke  
Κυρ. 14η Λουκα | Stewardship Committee 6-7 pm | Finance Comm. 5 pm  
Great Vespers of St. Nicholas 7 pm followed by Adult Rel. Ed. | St. Nicholas the Wonder-worker  
Orthros & Lit.  
Του Αγιου Νικόλαου | Parish Council Elections | Parish Council 6 pm | Great Vespers 6 pm |
| 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  |
| 10th Sunday of Luke  
Κυρ. 9η Λουκα | Parish Council 6 pm | Small Vespers 7 pm followed by Adult Relig. Educ. | (Fr. Anthony away on pilgrimage through 12/14) | Greek School Christmas Program  
11 am | Great Vespers 6 pm |
| 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  |
| 11th Sunday of Luke  
Κυρ. 11η Λουκα  
Philoptochos family luncheon  
Special General Assembly |     |     | Small Vespers 7 pm followed by Adult Relig. Educ. | House & Grounds 6 pm |     | Great Vespers 6 pm |
| 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  |
| Sunday before the Nativity  
Κυρ. Προ των Χριστουγεννων  
Sunday School Pageant | Nativity Eve  
Great Hours of the Nativity  
10 am  
Vesperal Div. Liturgy-5 pm  
(Holy Communion) | Holy Nativity of Our Lord in the Flesh  
Orthros 8:45 am  
Divine Liturgy 10 am | (Fr. Anthony on vacation through 12/28) |     |     | Great Vespers 6 pm |
| 30  | 31  |     |     |     |     |     |
| Sunday after the Nativity  
Κυρ. Μετα των Χριστουγεννων |     |     |     |     |     |     |

*Please see your illustrated Archdiocesan calendar for daily scripture readings and fasting guidelines.*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(no fasting through 1/4)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Circumcision of Our Lord &amp; Feast of St. Basil the Great Orthros &amp; Lit.</td>
<td>(no Vespers or class)</td>
<td>Great Hours of Theophany 10:00 am Αι Μεγαλαι Ωραι</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Περιτομή του Κυρίου/του</td>
<td>Stewardship Committee 6-7 pm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Synaxis of the Holy Forerunner &amp; Baptist John Orthros &amp; Lit.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Theophany Great Blessing of Water</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Η Συναξίς του Τιμίου Προδρόμου</td>
<td>Parish Council 6 pm</td>
<td>Small Vespers 7 pm followed by Adult Relig. Educ.</td>
<td>Finance Comm. 5 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Τα Αγία Θεοφάνεια Μεγάς Αγίασμος</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday After Theophany Κυρ. Μετα Τα Φωτα</td>
<td>House &amp; Grounds 6 pm</td>
<td>Great Vespers of St. Anthony the Great 7 pm followed by Adult Relig. Educ.</td>
<td>St. Anthony the Great Orthros &amp; Lit. Του Αγ. Αντανάκτο νου του Μεγαλου Καθαρίσεως</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vasilopita Celebration</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Gr. Vespers of St. Athanasios-Arlington-7 pm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12th Sunday of Luke Κυρ. 12η Λουκα</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Small Vespers 7 pm followed by Adult Relig. Educ.</td>
<td>Great Vespers of St. Gregory the Theologian in Mansfield 7 pm</td>
<td></td>
<td>Great Vespers 6 pm</td>
<td>15th Sunday of Luke (Sunday of Zacchaeus)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Small Vespers 7 pm followed by Adult Relig. Educ.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please see your illustrated Archdiocesan calendar for daily scripture readings and fasting guidelines.
**SACRAMENTS, DONATIONS**

**BAPTISMS**

12/2 – Christopher, son of Kenneth & Effie Egan; godparent, Chrysanthi Stellou

**MEMORIAL DONATIONS**

In memory of Anastasia Theodossiou, $2,700
Dr. Michael & Rose Fields, in memory of Victor Fields, $1,000
Dr. Michael & Rose Fields, in memory of George Theofilou, $200
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Tsianakas & Family, in memory of Aristidis Mylonas, $500
Mrs. Efthalia Mylonas, in memory of Aristidis Mylonas, $500
Steve & Kathy Angelis, in memory of Aristidis Mylonas, $200
Michael Mylonas, in memory of Aristidis Mylonas, $50
Michael Mylonas, in memory of Theodoros Mylonas, $50
Mr. & Mrs. John Giannenakis & Family, in memory of Aristidis Mylonas, $100
Mr. & Mrs. George Capernaros, in memory of Elizbeth & Thomas Cole and Viola & Stanley Capernaros, $100
Olga Kotsiopoulos, in memory of Athanasios Passias (Florida), $50
Olga Kotsiopoulos, in memory of Stella Panagoulopoulos, $50
Avraam & Konstantina Vardaxis, in memory of Anastasia Theodossiou, $50
Dr. Chris & Nafsika Constantinou, in memory of Parents, $50
Dr. Chris & Nafsika Constantinou, in memory of Filia Mitchell, $20

**OTHER DONATIONS**

$300 to cover Holy Water bottles – anonymous
Maria Theofilou, Hurricane Sandy Relief, $50
Christos & Alexandra Liaiopoulos, $1,000
Dr. Dino Constantinou & Family, Building Fund/Roof Repair, $1,000
Dr. Chris Constantinou & Family, Building Fund/Roof Repair, $1,000
Anastacia Ellard, Building Fund/Roof Repair, $1,000

Since this edition was produced in late November, the donors for the decoration of the icons of the Nativity and Theophany will be acknowledged in the February 2013 Bulletin. **If you would like to make either of these donations, please contact the church office as soon as possible.**

**FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Dear Parishioners,

On behalf of Fr. Anthony and the Parish Council, we wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Please take a moment to update your stewardship pledge cards for 2013. We thank all you for your continuous support!

On Sunday, Dec 16, a Special General Assembly will be held immediately after The Divine Liturgy. If you have not read the letter regarding the roof condition, please take a moment to review the motion made by the council and supported overwhelmingly by the Fall General Assembly to move forward on this important matter. **Your vote counts and we need your support.** Our goal is to repair the roof in early spring. For more information, please visit our Church’s website. There is a link in the homepage with more information.

I would like to congratulate the new 2013 Board members. There will be no elections this year. We still have 2 open seats and would appreciate your candidacy to join. Please inquire within the office if you are interested in joining the Parish Council.

Finally, I would like to give a warm welcome to Demetra Orfanos, our new office manager. We are delighted to have her on board. If you have not made an effort to introduce yourself, please welcome her to our family.

In Christ’s Service,

**John Karolemeas**

John Karolemeas
Parish Council President

**Job Announcement**

Custodian / Sexton
We are seeking a part-time custodian/sexton to manage the facilities. Some responsibilities include:
- Support Fr. Anthony with all holy sacraments
- Coordinate, set up and take down tables and chairs and manage trash for all functions
- Minor repairs in church’s interior and exterior

The role is budgeted for 12 hours a week, preferably every Saturday, Sunday and 1 evening a week. Gratuity is given for all sacraments. If you are able to lift heavy objects and are interested in this position, please contact the church office or email office@annunciationbrockton.org for more details.
Αποτελεί βασική!

Αλλάζει μια περιόδος της ζωής μας και μετά αυτή! Πρέπει να συνεχίσουμε να αντιμετωπίζουμε την εποχή με ανεξίτηλα την επεξεργασία της ζωής μας. Σας ευχαριστούμε θερμά.

Δεν πρέπει να χάσουμε την εποχή που έχουμε και να συνεχίσουμε να εργάζομαι για να δώσω την καλύτερη επιδόσεις της εποχής μας. Σας ευχαριστούμε θερμά.

Δεν αποτελεί βασική!

Δεν πρέπει να χάσουμε την εποχή που έχουμε και να συνεχίσουμε να εργάζομαι για να δώσω την καλύτερη επιδόσεις της εποχής μας. Σας ευχαριστούμε θερμά.

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Δεν πρέπει να χάσουμε την εποχή που έχουμε και να συνεχίσουμε να εργάζομαι για να δώσω την καλύτερη επιδόσεις της εποχής μας. Σας ευχαριστούμε θερμά.
### CHURCH FINANCIAL STATEMENT

#### Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church of Brockton

**Profit & Loss**

January through October 2012 and 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Jan - Oct 2012</th>
<th>Jan - Oct 2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Candles</td>
<td>38,988</td>
<td>34,693</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directed Donations (A)</td>
<td>19,120</td>
<td>61,044</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>24,301</td>
<td>37,041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Festival (B)</td>
<td>172,523</td>
<td>176,453</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Functions/Fundraisers (C)</td>
<td>48,912</td>
<td>51,922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greek School</td>
<td>4,289</td>
<td>4,575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly Bulletin</td>
<td>1,600</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>9,243</td>
<td>46,086</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stewardship Pledges</td>
<td>101,305</td>
<td>92,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tray Collections</td>
<td>18,371</td>
<td>18,768</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gross Revenue</strong></td>
<td>438,632</td>
<td>523,582</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expense</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archdiocese Commitment</td>
<td>39,800</td>
<td>46,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Archdiocese Pension Fund</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>5,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clergy Laiy Conference</td>
<td>2,285</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Directed Donation Expenses</td>
<td>18,050</td>
<td>52,606</td>
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<tr>
<td>Employee Taxes and Benefits</td>
<td>17,823</td>
<td>26,719</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food Festival Expenses</td>
<td>83,859</td>
<td>81,470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Functions/Fundrsrs Expense</td>
<td>21,301</td>
<td>29,727</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greek School Expenses</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross Payroll</td>
<td>58,682</td>
<td>80,688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Allowance</td>
<td>43,917</td>
<td>41,250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>7,394</td>
<td>8,922</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maintenance Contracts</td>
<td>21,094</td>
<td>21,689</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maintenance and Repairs</td>
<td>15,614</td>
<td>19,386</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Expenses</td>
<td>2,880</td>
<td>9,683</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monthly Bulletin Expense</td>
<td>5,068</td>
<td>2,300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pastor Benefits</td>
<td>11,286</td>
<td>19,834</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reconciliation Discrepancies</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
<td>11,241</td>
<td>15,283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>21,083</td>
<td>24,531</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visiting Clergy / Cantor</td>
<td>3,550</td>
<td>2,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Activities Expense</td>
<td>2,944</td>
<td>2,129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expense</strong></td>
<td>392,971</td>
<td>491,049</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Income</strong></td>
<td>43,661</td>
<td>32,533</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church of Brockton Food Festival Profit Loss

**January through October 2012**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Jan - Oct 12</th>
<th>Expense</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Food Festival</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Food Festival Expenses</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refund</td>
<td>860.00</td>
<td>Beverages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bar</td>
<td></td>
<td>Licenses &amp; Permits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Register 1</td>
<td>8,277.00</td>
<td>Police Detail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Register 2</td>
<td>8,028.00</td>
<td>Beer/Liquor/Wine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Register 3</td>
<td>3,000.00</td>
<td>Supplies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Bar</td>
<td>19,705.00</td>
<td>Band</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children’s Corner</td>
<td>1,703.00</td>
<td>Custodial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Tours</td>
<td>382.00</td>
<td>Banners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>2,430.00</td>
<td>Bar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Festival Banners</td>
<td>6,600.00</td>
<td>Children's Corner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Festival Placemats (Placemats Advertisement)</td>
<td>1,075.00</td>
<td>Donations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Festival Banners - Premium (Festival Banners Premium)</td>
<td>-400.00</td>
<td>Tent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Festival Raffle</td>
<td>8,429.00</td>
<td>Festival Raffle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flowers</td>
<td>351.00</td>
<td>Food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td></td>
<td>General, Admin. and Misc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>register #3</td>
<td>5,599.50</td>
<td>Pastries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Register 1</td>
<td>40,843.46</td>
<td>Food Festival Expenses - (F)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Register 2</td>
<td>27,639.00</td>
<td>Total Food Festival Expenses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Food</td>
<td>74,381.96</td>
<td>Functions/Fundraiser Expense</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| General, Admin. and Misc.   | 1,654.00     | Total Functions/Fundraiser Expense| 0.00     |
| Gyros                       | 13,517.89    | Total Expense                | 83,659.17 |
| Icons-Holy Cross (Icons from Holy Cross) | -466.00     | Net Income                   | 80,864.20 |
| Icons-Phyllis Deane         | 105.00       |                             |         |
| Loukoumades                 | 5,679.00     |                             |         |
| Pastries                    |              |                             |         |
| Main Tent #2                | 6,261.00     |                             |         |
| Pastries - Other            | 26,779.50    |                             |         |
| Total Pastries              | 33,040.50    |                             |         |
| Vendors                     | 1,525.00     |                             |         |
| Food Festival - Other       | -419.00      |                             |         |
| **Total Food Festival**     | 172,523.45   |                             |         |

**Total Income**             | 172,523.45   |

**Gross Profit**             | 172,523.45   |
**Holiday Gifts at the Bookstore**

*We have special things for family and Orthodox friends*

- **Christmas cards, in Greek and English**
- **Beautiful icon night light, unique and lovely, $8.50**
- **For Children, DVDs, hands-on books**
  - **DVD - Legend of the Three Trees:** Classic tale of three trees who learn that God has a special purpose for them. $12
  - **Birth of Jesus** story cube, unfolds, telling the story of Christ’s birth.
  - **Nativity Sticker Book,** offers colorful, re-usable stickers. Only $2.50
  - **For Unto Us a Child is Born,** a book for young readers explaining the Nativity. $5

- **Young Adults**
  - **The Tools of Spiritual Warfare.** 11 helpful tools, $20.
  - **A Rebel’s Journey.** Insight and questions about the Church, $16
  - **Basil’s Search For Miracles.** A 12-year-old talks to people who have seen a miracle, $20.
  - **The God, I Need to Talk to You** series of pamphlets, about using bad language, hurting others, lying, stealing and bullying, $2 each

- **Adults**
  - Pocket prayer books, $7 and $9
  - **What Orthodox Christians Believe,** booklets on a variety of subjects, such as fasting, confession and building a habit of prayer, $2.50 each
  - **Path to Sanity,** Maintaining spiritual health in a crazy world, $18.
  - **Icons,** wood and plastic, variety of sizes, even icon magnets.

*Come and visit our store every Sunday after Church*
Annunciationbrockton.bookstore@gmail.com

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**MaryAnne’s “Magical Moments” fundraiser**

Saturday, December 8, 2012
7 p.m. - Midnight
VFW on North Quincy Street
Brockton, MA

The proceeds for her Memorial Fund will benefit children with special needs, something that was very dear to MaryAnne’s heart.

To make a donation, contact Donna Loring, home 508-857-2941 and cell 508-521-0651

MaryAnne Kotsiopoulos
October 25, 1962—October 12, 2012

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**A Gift Certificate for the Bookstore would be a wonderful gift!**

Offering a choice of icons, booklets, auto decals, and other unique Orthodox items.

$5 and up.

Volunteers are needed to play with homeless children in our area. An upcoming meeting is scheduled for Sat, Dec. 8 9:30 am to 3:30 p.m. in West Bridgewater.

Mschafer @horizonsforhomelesschildren.org or call 508-510-3250
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.

Philoctochos Christmas Party

Please join us for a celebration of the holiday season.

6 p.m. December 6, 2012
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church

Please RSVP, by December 3
Lorii Stasiewski, 774-240-2867
Ann Marie Horne, 508-436-3110
Despina Papdopoulos, 508-586-3220

A DJ for your listening and dancing enjoyment will be available.

$25 per person
$10 maximum gift for gift exchange

Members and friends are invited.

Greek School Christmas Program

11.a.m. to 1 p.m.
Saturday, December 15

The students will recite poems and sing songs. Refreshments included!

Το Ελληνικό Σχολείο Ευαγγελισμού σας προσκαλεί στο Πρόγραμμα Χριστουγέννων που θα γίνει το Σάββατο 15 Δεκεμβρίου 2012 στις 11:00 π.μ.
Dear Friends of GOYA:

Thanks to everyone who donated their time, food, etc. to the Harvest Party. We collected $130, which will be donated to UNICEF for the many causes they support. Without your help, this would not have been so successful!

New members are always welcome! If you are grades 6 through 12, you are a candidate to join our team. If interested, please attend our next meeting, contact the church office or see a GOYA advisor.

Save the Date for our GOYA Dance, Saturday, Feb. 2 from 7 to 11 p.m. It will be open to the youth of our community who are GOYA age (grades 6-12). Details to follow.

JOY and HOPE would like to thank everyone for their generous donations for our Thanksgiving Family Feast on Nov 12. A great time was had by all. Make sure you stop by the lounge and take a look at our Tree of Thanks.

Our annual Christmas Party will be on Dec 7 at 6:30 p.m. If you plan on attending, please contact one of the advisors. Santa will be making a special appearance!

On Sundays, Dec 2 and Dec 9, we will have our annual wreath sale. If you plan on purchasing a wreath for your home or business, please consider waiting for our sale!

On Sun, Feb 10, we will hold our annual Have a Heart Lunch. Volunteers are welcome and needed. If you have some time to help us, please e-mail one of the advisors.
Congratulations to our dancers for a brilliant performance at the Hellenic Nursing Home in Canton on November 11. Our next performance will be at the Have a Heart Luncheon in February.

Youth Dancing Group

All children of our parish, ages 4-18, are welcome to join us!

Upcoming practices are scheduled on the following Sundays, after the Divine Liturgy:

December 2
December 9
January 13
January 20
February 3, Mandatory practice for the Have a Heart show
February 10 – Have a Heart Luncheon/Performance

There is also an Adult Dancing Group!

Ages 18 and over
Every Thursday from 7 - 9 p.m.
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church
Dancers of all levels are welcome!

Important note for all senior dancers:
We will be again attending the regional Greek Dance Conference at the Maliotis Center in Brookline, MA on Sat. Jan. 12, 2013.

Attendance is optional but strongly encouraged. Information about cost and registration to follow.
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

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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.
Christo’s

782 Crescent Street
Brockton, Massachusetts 02302
508/588-4200
508/583-6946 FAX