MAY2012

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Due Date for
June Bulletin
Thursday, May 10th

Church Services

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<td>Saturdays</td>
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<td>Divine Liturgy</td>
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Paschal Reflection

At this very moment we relive the Holy Resurrection, the central mystery of our Christian faith. We will shortly light our Paschal candles to boldly proclaim that “the light of Christ shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overtake it.” (John1:5)

At this very moment “as the first day of the week dawns,” (Matthew 28:1) we mystically draw near to the life-giving tomb together with Mary Magdalene and the other Myrrh bearing women who discover that the great stone placed there has been rolled away, and that the body of the Savior is nowhere to be found. We overhear Mary Magdalene lament, “they have taken away the Lord from the tomb and we do not know where they have laid Him.” (John 20:2)

How sad it was for the myrrh bearers not to find the Risen Lord.

How sad it is that we cannot seem to find the Risen Lord either. We cannot find him anywhere—not in the world of politics or the world of finances. We cannot find the Risen Lord in our schools or in our judicial courts. We cannot find the Risen Lord in our homes. Sadly, some claim they cannot even find him in our churches.

The Risen Lord met the myrrh bearers as they were going to the disciples, and He said to them “Do not be afraid, go and tell my brethren to go to Galilee and there they will see me.” (Matthew 28:10) Like the myrrh bearers, we are directed to go to Galilee to see the Risen Lord.

Galilee is Boston. It’s Worcester and Springfield. It’s Manchester and every city and town in America and throughout the world.

The Risen Lord awaits us in Galilee where the rich have removed God from their altar of worship, and placed instead their money and their perceived importance.

The Risen Lord awaits in Galilee where the powerful plot to marginalize the church and muzzle its voice in society.

The Risen Lord awaits us in Galilee—in every corner of the earth—but especially where our fellow human beings are victims of human trafficking, of cultural wars, of crimes, of genocide, of ethnic cleansing and every other conceivable atrocity.

The Risen Lord awaits us, His disciples, in our personal Galilee to shine Him mercy, His forgiveness and His love in our hearts. In the midst of our failures — in our emotional solitude, in our doubt and abandonment, on our spiritual death beds, in our tombs of doubt and disbelief — the Risen Lord comes to raise us to experience our own Resurrection.

Let us greet Him in Galilee and boldly proclaim our faith in His Resurrection. Let us share the Light of the Risen Lord in a world that is steeped in every conceivable form of darkness, a world which faces financial turmoil, in a world suffering from both spiritual and material poverty, in a world of violence and deprivation, of terrorism, of incivility and divisiveness.

Let us light our Paschal candle of hope and joy and let us proclaim together with St. John the Evangelist “the light of Christ shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overtake it.” (John 1:5)

Come receive the light from the unwaning Light and glorify Christ who is risen from the dead.
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christ is Risen! Χριστός Ανέστη! If you are anything like I am, you never tire of those words. Whenever I hear them or say them myself, I feel as though Christ’s victory has just occurred, as if He just won the greatest battle over evil that could ever be. In fact, while we may be separated by 2,000 years and thousands of miles from Jerusalem, it would not be wrong to say that Christ continues His victory lap even today and even in your hometown Church. Whenever a heart is turned to Christ, whenever a life of selfishness is turned to selflessness, whenever a child is baptized and nurtured in the faith that Christ has brought us, He conquers sin and death once again and overcomes the power that still lurks in the darkness.

During the recent Lenten season, we had the opportunity to experience the power and beauty of our Church’s Lenten services. From the Compline (Apodeipnon) to the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy to the poetic Salutations we sang to the Theotokos and, of course, to the liturgy of St. Basil, we heard the words of the prophets, the Psalms, the wisdom of Proverbs and the Church Fathers speaking to us of the eternal significance of Christ. If we have attended these services with any regularity, we know that the Church continues to hold Him up as the ultimate example of what we can become: gods (with a small ‘g’), partakers of the Divine nature, participants in the life of Christ, and even temples of God.

St. Basil the Great stated that “becoming a god” is the highest goal of all. St. Gregory the Theologian urged us to “become gods for (God’s ) sake, since (God) became a man for our sake.” All of this may sound very foreign to some of us -- even polytheistic -- but, in fact, it’s very Christian and completely biblical (Psalm 82:6). What most of us miss by listening only to popular culture is the concept of true holiness or, better yet, true godliness that the Church and Christ are asking us to acquire. With many not knowing what godliness even means, my greatest fear is that our Churches will simply become places where we gather socially and look more for the food at the Coffee Hour than the food that comes from Christ: His divine good news and His Body and Blood.

If the Lenten services accomplished anything, it is that they brought us first into the House of God with the Body of Christ. Beyond that, the services allowed us the opportunity to slowly ease into another way of thinking about and acting toward the events that fill our days at work, at home or at school. They urged us to do and not simply to believe. They filled our hearts with words of love and mercy while, at the same time, they reminded us that these are not simply feelings but also actions – charity and almsgiving.

So, as we continue to shout out that beautiful expression at every service with a sense a victory accomplished, let us also remember that Christ’s true victory comes when hearts are enlightened, when lives are transformed and when communities of Christians lift Him up as their first and only model. Let us all continue to be the Church, the Ecclesia, the people called out by God to accomplish His will on earth as it is in heaven.

Truly He is Risen!
Beloved in Christ, it seems that every where we turn these days we hear of violent, senseless crimes occurring at an alarming level. Besides violent crimes, we also continue to see wars and various other conflicts happening in many parts of the world. Drug trafficking, international pornography rings, child pornography, “white collar” crimes, and a variety of other types of crimes, continue to plague today’s world as well. As the Orthodox Church continues its celebration of the triumph of Christ over death and the power of the Devil, we continue to see evil manifest its ugly face again and again. In today’s world, it is easy to become frustrated, angry, depressed, and our very faith potentially shaken. However, these negative situations are also an opportunity to reflect on the divine gifts of faith, love, and hope that should be present in the life of every Orthodox Christian. These three virtues are a major part of the foundation upon which the Church has grown throughout the ages.

When we look back at the ancient Church we are reminded of the days of persecution, when Christians could easily be put to death for their belief in Christ. We Orthodox can also look back with great sadness and disappointment, at the barbaric and sacrilegious pillaging and sacking of Constantinople, by western Christians during the Fourth Crusade of 1204. And where do we begin regarding the capture and fall of Constantinople in 1453, and the subsequent captivity of Orthodox Christianity in the lands occupied by the Ottoman Turks? The dark years of Communism also had tragic consequences upon Orthodox Christianity, in some places more so than others, such as Albania. And lastly, let us not be ignorant of the oppression and outright persecution that modern Orthodox Christians have been facing at the hands of fanatic Muslims, in places such as Indonesia, Iraq and Turkey.

On an individual level, both Orthodox and non-Orthodox Christians worldwide, are constantly faced with an ever-growing secular, Godless society that is indifferent to, and many times even despises the teachings and traditions of Christianity. We can become spiritually confused by various teachings and philosophies which contradict Christian doctrines and dogma. Humanism – basically, man’s “love affair” with himself – is one of the greatest enemies of traditional Christian doctrines and values. Even within Christian circles, we constantly see perversions of the faith, and outright heretical teachings that chip away at the very foundation of Orthodox Christianity.

Now, given all these examples above, we need to retrospectively review these periods of Christian history as well as consider our present situation, and remind ourselves of the gifts of faith, love, and hope given by the Holy Spirit, that have kept devout Orthodox Christians faithful in times of tribulation. All of these periods of Christian history have produced martyrs and many other saints of various categories. The evangelical spirit and mission of the Church have never ceased, even though they were suppressed during the darkest periods of Church history. Throughout the ages, Orthodox Christian men have continued to be called to the Holy Priesthood, as well as to the monastic life along with countless females.

So, getting back to the many negative aspects of society, let us all take spiritual assessment of ourselves, in order to ensure the presence of faith in God, and love and hope deep within our hearts. If we let each tragic event that occurs chip away at the love we have for God and our fellow human beings, then we will lose everything. If faith in God, and hope in the promise of eternal life are diminished within us because we can only focus on the negative, then we will have nothing for which to live. If our Orthodox Christians ancestors hadn’t stood firm in their faith, our Church may have become an obscure sect found here and there. Thank God, this is not the case at all, since God obviously had different plans for His Church.

Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, our task as a faith community is to continue to pray for the entire Church, for our local parish, and for ourselves and all the world, as we do in each and every Divine Liturgy. By truly living our Orthodox faith, we will be examples of true Christian living to those around us. We cannot change the entire world, nor stop acts of violence forever; these things will always be with us. However, no one can stop us from praying, from growing into the image and likeness of Christ. So let none of us be distracted from our sacred task by any obstacle placed before us through the forces of evil. Our Risen Lord has destroyed the power of the Enemy, so that we may follow Christ toward eternal life and salvation.

Christ is Risen!
+Fr. Anthony

IN APPRECIATION

Once again we express our sincerest gratitude to everyone involved with this year’s entire Lenten and Holy Week experience. This is the most beautiful and meaningful time of the liturgical year, and it cannot be done without the aid of many hands. This includes our altar boys, chanters, choir, Parish Council and Philoptochos members, as well as many other humble volunteers and donors who collectively contributed toward the various needs of this holy season. May the Crucified and Risen Lord bless all of them and their families for their various contributions!
FROM THE HOLY FATHERS
(the following is taken from the writing of St. John of Damascus, regarding the Resurrection of Christ)

The deified soul went down into hell so that, just as the Sun of Justice rose upon those on earth, so also might the light shine upon them under the earth who were sitting in darkness and the shadow of death; so that, just as He had brought the good news of peace to those on earth, so also might He bring that of deliverance to captives and that of sight to the blind...And thus, having loosed them that had been bound for ages, He came back again from the dead and made the resurrection possible for us.

After His resurrection from the dead He put aside all His passions, that is to say, ruin, hunger and thirst, sleep and fatigue, and the like. For even though He did taste food after His resurrection, it was not in obedience to any law of nature, because He did not feel hunger, but by way of dispensation that He might confirm the truth of the resurrection by showing that the flesh which had suffered and that which had risen were the same. Moreover, He did not put aside any of the elements of His nature, neither body nor soul, but kept possession of the body and the rational, intellectual, willing and acting soul. And thus He sits at the right hand of the Father and wills our salvation both as God and as man. And, while He acts as God by working the providence, preservation, and government of all things, He acts as man in remembering His labors on earth and in seeing and knowing that He is adored by all rational creation.

MEMORIAL DAY CEMETERY VISITS
On Memorial Day, Monday, May 28th, Fr. Anthony will be at the following cemeteries:

- Melrose Cemetery – 10:00 am
- Evergreen Cemetery, Stoughton – 10:45 am
- Knollwood Cemetery, Canton – 11:30 am
- Canton Corner Cemetery, Canton – 12:15 pm

It would be most helpful to not have your names in an envelope, since it is time-consuming to be opening them on the spot. Instead, please be ready to hand Father your papers with the names of your loved ones. Thank you.
Προσφέρεις Αδελφοί και Αδελφές ἐν Χριστῷ,

Χριστός Ἀνέστη!

Καθώς συγκεντρωμόμεθα γὰρ νὰ μορφάσωμε αὐτὴ τὴν μεγάλη Ἑορτὴ Ἑορτῶν ζωῆς τῆς ὑπέρτατης χαρᾶ τοῦ Ἀγίου Πάσχα καὶ προσφέρουμε δοξολογία στὸν Θεό γὰρ τὴν ἀπεραντήτη χάρη τοῦ καὶ τὸ θησαυρὸ τοῦ Λυτρωτὸς μας Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ ἐπὶ τῶν δυνάμεων εἰς ἀμαρτίας καὶ τοῦ Θεοῦ. Ἂς μια τρίτης φανερώσεσι τῆς ἀνακάθεντος δυνάμεως Του, ὁ Ἀναστάσις Κύριος μας θρήμασε ἐπὶ ὅλων ἑαυτῶν τοὺς διαφθείροις καὶ καταστρέφους τὴν ἀνθρώπινη ὑπόπταση μας. Μέσα ἀπὸ τὴν εὔσπλαγχνη ὧσθε Του καὶ τὴν Ἀγία Ἀνάστασις, μᾶς συμφίλησε μὲ τὸν Δημοσιογράφο μας, Θεοτάτῳ θάνατον πατήσας καὶ διαλύοντα τὸ σκότος τοῦ καιώλου µὲ τὸ φῶς τῆς ἀληθινῆς ζωῆς, μᾶς δοθήκη στὴ σωτηρία καὶ τὴν αἰώνια κοινωνία μὲ τὸν Θεό.

Τὴν ἡμέρα αὐτή ποὺ ἔστησαμε τὸ Ἀγίον Πάσχα, τῇ ἐρμήνευσι καὶ ἀναγκηφαλίᾳ, καὶ τὸν ἑορτικὸν κανόνα τῆς Ἑορτῆς νὰ κωνικόνησομε τοῦ καιώλου τῆς Αμπελού γεννήματος τῆς θείας εὐφροσύνης καὶ τῆς Βασαλέας τοῦ Χριστοῦ. Ἡ Ἀγία Ἀνάστασις τοῦ Κυρίου μας ἐπιβεβαιώνει ὅτι Ἐκεῖνος, ὃς Ἀληθινὴν Αμπελούν, εἶναι ἡ πηγὴ τῆς ζωῆς. Σ’ Ἐκεῖνον ὧδεικνύμε τὰ πάντα καὶ τῶρα μᾶς δοθήκη στὴν ἐνσωματικὴ μαζική τοῦ καὶ στὴ δύναμη τῆς Ἀναστάσεως Του διὰ τῆς πίστεως.

Ἡ Ἀνάστασις τοῦ Χριστοῦ μᾶς ἔχει εὐλογήσει ἐπίσης μὲ τὸ φῶς τῆς ἀπολύτου ἁληθείας. Τῇ διασμὸ τῆς ἀπάθετης καὶ τῆς πλάνης ἔχουσα ἑπονικήση ἀπὸ τὴν ἑσφράγισμα τοῦ Εὐαγγελίου τῆς ἁληθείας. Ψευδεῖς ἱδεολογίες καὶ φιλοσοφίες καὶ ποιητικὲς μηχανολογίες ἔχουσα ἀποξυσθεὶ καὶ διαλυθεὶ ἀπὸ τῇ λαμπρότητα τῆς θείας σοφίας. Ὡς πάντες αὐτοῖς τοῦ κόσμου τῆς ἀμαρτίας καὶ τῆς διαφθορᾶς ἔχουσα ἐκτείνει σὲ ὅλη τὴν κοινωνία τοὺς χάρους στὸν φωτισμὸ τοῦ νοῦ μας μὲ τὴν λάρυ, ὁ ἕμα καὶ αἰώνια ἁληθεία τὴν ὁποῖα ἀπεκάλυψε ὁ Χριστός.

Αὐτὴς ὅτι ἐρμήνευσις, αὐτοῖς ὁ καρπὸς τοῦ Πάσχα που παράγεται στὶς ζωῆς μας καθὼς ὁ Ἀναστάσις Κύριος εὐφραίνεται ἄνθρωπα μας, δὲν προφητεύουσα μόνο γὰρ μᾶς Ἀποστολοῦ μαρτυρία τῆς χάρους καὶ τῆς δυνάμεως τοῦ Θεοῦ μέσῳ τῆς ἁγίας μας, καὶ ἐνα ἐντολογίας που ἀκύκλωμεν μὲ ἀκύκλωμεν τῆς ἀνθρωπότητας. Μέσα στὴν χαρά καὶ τὸ φῶς τῆς ἡμέρας, ἡ καθαρία μας γεμίζει μὲ τέτοια ἀγάλληση ὅστε νὰ εἶναι ὄλων ἡ ἁρμονία μὲ μὴ μιληθοῦν γὰρ πράγματα τοῦ ἄρθρου, ἀλλὰ ἀναγνώσμα. Ἡ στάσις στὴν καθαρία μας, ὁ λόγος, ὁ πράξεις μας, καὶ ἡ ἀνακάθεσσα μας στὶς ἀνάγκες τῶν ἀνθρώπων μας φανερώνει μὲ πηγὴ δυνάμεως, ἀγάπης καὶ λόγους. Ἡ καθαρίας μας ἀποτέλεσε μαρτυρία τοῦ Πάσχα, ὡς ὁ πόλεμος αἰώνιας ὧδεικνύμενα μὲ τὴν συνάντηση μὲ τὸν Ἀναστάσις καὶ Λυτρωτὴ Χριστοῦ.

Σὲ αὐτὴ τὴν ἡμέρα, ἡ Ἑορτὴ τοῦ Μεγάλου, καὶ Ἐκείνηντον Πάσχα, ἢ ἔχουμε σὲ σᾶς καὶ τὶς ὅλοννες τὰς τὸ πλήρωμα χαράς καὶ τὸν εὐλογοῦντος τοῦ νοῦ μᾶς προσφέρει ὁ Θεός διὰ τὸν Ἀναστάσις τοῦ Κυρίου μας Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ Ἰεροῦ. Εἴποι τὸ πλήρωμα αὐτὸ τῆς χαράς νὰ γεμίζη τὰς καθαρίας ἡ ἀληθείας νὰ λάμπη στὴν καθαρίας μᾶς προσφέροντας σὲ ὅλους τὴν μαρτυρία τῆς μεταμορφώσιμης δυνάμεως τῆς Ἀναστάσις τοῦ Χριστοῦ.

Μὲ πατρικὴ ἐν Χριστῷ Ἀναστάσιν ἀγάπη, ἧ Ἄργητος Αμερικής ἄνθίστατος

Greek Independence Day Flag Raising Ceremony—Brockton City Hall
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<td>Small Vespers 7 pm followed by Adult Relig. Educ</td>
<td>182 Hungry Friends Dinner</td>
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<td>Sunday of the Paralytic</td>
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<td>Mid-Pentecost</td>
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<td>Sunday of the Blind Man</td>
<td>Sts. Constantine &amp; Helen, Equals to the Apostles</td>
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<td>Apodosis (Leave-taking) of Pascha</td>
<td>The Ascension of Our Lord</td>
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<td>Του Τοφλου</td>
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<td>Sunday School End of Year Program</td>
<td>Orthros &amp; Lit.</td>
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<td>Των Αγ. Κωνσταντίνου &amp; Ελένης</td>
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<td>Philoptochos Food Festival</td>
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<td>Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council</td>
<td>Memorial Day (see entry for schedule of cemetery visits)</td>
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I greet you with this glorious passage because it speaks to our heart in a simple and pure way. The faithful women went very early in the morning on the day of the Resurrection because they understood their sacred and pious duty to anoint the precious body of Jesus. They went to the tomb knowing they may be arrested and even mocked and not fully sure how they would move the huge stone that was placed as a seal to the tomb of Jesus. As believers we must remember that none of this deterred these women because they were on a mission of faith and love.

The women’s dilemma of who would move the stone away from the tomb was no longer a concern because miraculously “the stone had already been rolled back.” Seeing the passage cleared, they entered the tomb to anoint the precious body of our Lord and Saviour. Instead of seeing the body of the crucified Jesus, they were greeted by a holy angel and were the first to hear the words that changed the entire creation forever: “He has been raised; He is not here.” (Mark 16:1-6)

I believe that we must ask ourselves: “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?”

This Pascha let us find strength to meet all challenges. Let us go forward serving our families, all those in need and our Holy Church with the courage and faith of these pious women, always knowing that the Lord has cleared the way before us. Let us reflect and accordingly respond to the immeasurable love of God. Rejoice in the proclamation of the Resurrection and in your calling to go forward into the world to make this good news known to the disadvantaged, to the disenfranchised and to all people.

Christ Is Risen! Truly He Is Risen!

With love in the Resurrected Christ,
Aphrodite Skeadas

This is the model for our lives as Philoptochos servants, as mothers and daughters, sisters and aunts and grandmothers and godmothers, to approach our sacred role as women of faith. The obstacles and the huge stones that at times stand in our way throughout our life will be removed by Christ as we approach Him in faith and in service. We fret, as the myrrh bearing women did, as to how the task of moving the stone will occur. We learn from the Resurrection narrative that the huge stones we face in our life will never prevent us from approaching the merciful Christ because He will have already moved them even before we encounter them. We must offer exactly what the holy women offered: faith and the will to serve Him. As we confront the difficult moments of our life and observe the huge stones that impede our progress towards Him, all will be cleared as it has been for centuries because the greatest gift for us is that He is Resurrected from the dead.

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Beloved National Board Members, Chapter Presidents and Dear Members of the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society,

“When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Him. 2And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. 3They had been saying to one another, ‘Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?’ 4When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. 5As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were afraid. 6But he said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid Him.’” (Mark 16:1-6)

Don’t forget to join or renew your membership for 2012!

2012 Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Philoptochos Meeting</td>
<td>Tuesday, May 1st</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philoptochos Food Festival</td>
<td>May 19th &amp; May 20th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philoptochos Meeting/End of Year Dinner</td>
<td>TBA for June</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Philoxenia Luncheon</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Festival Baking</td>
<td>Monday, August 20th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Christmas Party</td>
<td>Thursday, December 6th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Christmas Luncheon</td>
<td>Sunday, December 16th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, May 5th    Red Cross Blood Drive
Sunday, May 6th     GOYA Meeting
Sunday, May 20th    Sunday School Graduation  
                     GOYA Meeting
Friday, May 25th    GOYA Fun Night
Sunday, June 3rd    Greek School Graduation
Sunday, June 10th   GOYA Monthly Meeting

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Christos Anesti!

We hope everyone had a blessed Pascha. We are coming to the end of our Sunday school year The remaining classes are as follows:

May 6, May 13 and May 20 (Sunday School Graduation)

Please note that on May 20th Sunday School will start at 10:30 and awards will be held in the church following the Divin Liturgy.

GOYA

Christos Anesti GOYAns and parishoners!

April was a fun and busy month for the GOYA. As a follow-up to the canned goods drive we collected at our Souper Bowl, two of our GOYAns visited facilities to donate the food. Andrew Ciulla visited the Main Spring House in Brockton and Sophia Terzakis visited the Raynham Food Basket (see photo).

On the weekend before Easter we had a Lenten Retreat at our church. We had 3 members of the MBC Staff come down from NH to help us. The Retreat involved making of Palm Crosses, discussions, church services, fun & games, a sleepover, and to finish it off a breakfast after Communion. Everyone had such a great time that we are already talking about wanting to do another one in the fall.

The month of May will be a busy month. On Saturday May 5th we have invited the American Red Cross to our church and we will be hosting a Blood Drive. This will run from 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM. Please save the date and come support this great cause!

On Sunday, May 6th we will have our monthly meeting, it will run from 12:00 to 1:30pm.

On Mother's Day we will be handing out carnations at church.

The month of June we plan to hold elections for next year's officers. In addition we will be going to Six Flags Thursday June, 21st. Similar to last year we will extend an invite to members of our parish who will like to attend. We will be asking for a $25 deposit per family or individual interesting in going.

New members are always welcome! If you know someone who is in grades 6 thru 12 send them our way!

SOPHIA TERCZAKIS AT THE RAYNHAM FOOD BASKET
DANCE NEWS

Xristos Anesti to All!! I hope all our dancers had a wonderful Pascha and are ready to get back to work! Our upcoming practice schedule is as follows:

- **Sunday, May 6th**
  - Friday, May 18th, 6-8 PM (Dinner included; 6-7PM for pee-pees)

*On May 6 there is also a GOYA meetings; senior dancers should report to GOYA first on these dates, and will join practices for the second hour.

We are scheduled to perform on Sunday, May 20th, following Liturgy. Please save the date!!

ORATORICAL FESTIVAL

The Saint John Oratorical Festival in our church was held on March 12th. Participating in the Junior Division were Chris Constantinou, Eleni Constantinou and Andrew Ciulla and in the Senior Division we had Andreas Evangelatos. Chris, Eleni and Andreas participated in the District Festival in Cranston, RI along with 10 other participants in the Junior Division and 6 participants in the Senior Division. Participants were from Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut.

Chris Constantinou won First Place in the Junior Division and will participate on May 12th at the Metropolis Festival. The two winners from there will then go on to compete at the National Festival being held on June 8th-10th in Bethesda, Maryland. GOOD LUCK CHRIS!!!

We would also like to thank the judges at the local festival: Athina Critikos, John Nenos and George Theodossiou and to our timekeeper, Jon Buterbaugh.

J H O P E Y

Joy and Hope will hold their last meeting of the school year on Friday, May 25th at 6:00 pm.

Please join us for a movie night with popcorn and pizza as we celebrate the end of the year.

We would love it if you could bring drinks or dessert if you will be attending. We hope to see our members there.

BASKETBALL

I would like to thank all the parents and children who participated in this year’s Metropolis Basketball league. We started with about 12 kids for both teams and ended the season with over 20! All the families enjoyed dinner and an awards ceremony hosted by the Metropolis where all the Jr. Joy kids were given trophies. I look forward to seeing everyone.
DONATIONS

Memorial Donations as of March 16, 2012

Ourania Psilekaris $455
Michael Dalkouras $500
George Bandas $25
Elias Papadopoulos
  Mr. & Mrs. John Papadopoulos $100
Sophocles Kostiopoulos - Easter Eggs
  Soultana sand Chris Kostiopoulos $150
Michael Dalkouras
  Dalkouras Family and Papadopoulos Family $1000
Demetrios and Ourania Psilekaris
  Thomas, Dora and Fotini Psilekaris $500
Stella Panagoulopoulos
  Mr. George Panagoulopoulos $100
LovingParents
  Mr. & Mrs. Fotios Poulopoulos $400
Panagiotis and Stavroula Nasiopoulos
  Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Passias $100

Other Donations continued

Decoration of Nymphios Icon & Wreath for Cross
  Mr. & Mrs. Ilias Lainas
Decoration of Icon of the Anastasis
  Mr. & Mrs. Harry Mitoulis
Wine for Lenten Luncheon
  Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Sedell & Family
Tablecloths & Décor for Sunday of Orthodoxy
  Arthur Targontsides
Pizza for Greek Independence Day Parade
  Papa Stelios Pizza

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM

April 22nd Elisavet
Daughter of Antonios & Claire Iosifides
Godparents: Panagiotis & Deborah Zafirooulos

FUNERALS

March 30th Anastasia (Stacey) Varros
May Her Memory Be Eternal
Αιωνία η Μνήμη Αυτῆς

Other Donations

Embroidered Silk Epitaphios
The Potsis Family IMO of Areti Potsis, and for the health of their entire family

Embroidered Paschal Altar Table & Chalice Coverings
Anonymous

Green & Gold Altar Covering for Palm Sunday & Pentecost, plus various colored cloths for icon stands
Dr. & Mrs. Dino Constantinou & Family

Note: The green altar cover was sewn as a labor of love by our own Soula Psychos – Thank you, Soula!

Small Gold-Plated Gospel Book
Peter Pappas IMO of his wife Ernestine
Christos Anesti!
On behalf of Father Anthony and the Parish Council, we would like to thank all of our Parishioners who generously donated their time, treasure and talent to making our Holy Week most successful. We also want to thank Father John Kiramarios for joining us throughout the entire week.

May 3rd, The Parish Council will be hosting The 182 Hungry Man Dinner event. This is always a sellout occasion. All proceeds go to the church’s operating expenses. If you are interested in a ticket for $125, please contact the church office. Hurry while tickets are still available!

May 6th, immediately following the Divine Liturgy, The Parish will be conducting The Spring General Assembly. Please take the time to attend this important bi-annual meeting. We will be reviewing last year’s progress, as well as our direction for the new year. Your input is welcomed and we look forward to your participation.

Finally, on May 19th and 20th, the Ladies Philoptochos will be hosting their Spring Food Festival. This is a wonderful opportunity to bring the entire family down for some wonderful food, fun and pastries! In the past, the Ladies Philoptochos used the proceeds to purchase equipment for our larger food festival, upgrade tables needed in the lounge and other capital improvements throughout the church. Sunday will be a special day where our dance group will be performing. Please make an effort to attend and support our church! We hope to see you there.

As we wind down the Ecclesiastical year, we hope to see you in church over the summer months. As a reminder your Stewardship pledges are needed. If you have not had a chance to pledge for the year, please take a moment either online or in person to acknowledge your commitment. Stewardship is and always will be our best way to maintain our church operations. Without your support, we will have a difficult time maintaining this commitment.

In parting, we would like to formally make a correction to last month’s bulletin addressing the Savas Trust Fund donation. The donation to the Savas Trust Fund was donated directly by Charlie Savas himself. As you know we lost our dear friend this past winter. May his memory be everlasting.

Thank you for your continued support.
God Bless

John Karolemeas
Parish Council President

2012 Calendar of Events

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<td>Thursday, May 3rd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring General Assembly</td>
<td>Sunday, May 6th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philoptochos Food Festival</td>
<td>Saturday, May 19th &amp; May 20th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday School Graduation</td>
<td>Sunday, May 20th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greek School Graduation</td>
<td>Sunday, June 3rd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministry Awards Banquet</td>
<td>Sunday, June 10th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Golf Tournament</td>
<td>Monday, July, 9th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer Picnic</td>
<td>Sunday, August 19th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Food Festival</td>
<td>Thursday, September 20th to 23rd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Festival Appreciation Luncheon</td>
<td>Sunday, September 30th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harvest Ball Dance</td>
<td>Saturday, November 3rd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall General Assembly</td>
<td>Sunday, November 18th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parish Council Elections</td>
<td>Sunday, December 2nd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parish Council Oath &amp; Election of Officers</td>
<td>Sunday, December 23rd</td>
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2012 Parish Council Meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 8th</td>
<td>September 11th</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 12th</td>
<td>October 9th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July (no meeting)</td>
<td>November 13th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 16th</td>
<td>December 11th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1st Thursday of the month:
- Finance Meeting 6pm
- Stewardship Meeting 7pm

3rd Thursday of the month:
- House & Grounds Meeting 6pm
- Food Festival Meeting 7pm
Looking for a unique Orthodox Christian book, Orthodox censor or other worship items? We work with a variety of suppliers that may have just what you need. Contact us at annunciationbrockton.bookstore@gmail.com.

Growing in Christ
This is a gentle discussion for the modern person, about growing your faith in a busy and reckless world. We also have the classic red and blue paperback prayer books and Orthodox visor clips, two easy ways to keep our Church close to you.

Icons
Our magnet icons are a wonderful, inexpensive gift item which lets us easily integrate our Faith into everyday life. We also have a variety of beautiful wooden icons and can order any particular size or style that you seek.

Great children’s section
Do you know the story of the Virgin Mary as a child? Our children’s section offers this history in large color illustrations. We also have Guardian Angel icons, in wood and small plastic handheld, for your child’s room. This icon depicts the large, loving spirit holding the hand of the child, a Protector for life.

Our God, I Need to Talk to You series for young Christians is designed to make children think about using bad language, whining, bullying or telling lies. Send your children over to take a look. Only $1.75 each.

Marriage, An Orthodox Perspective
This book examines what marriage can mean from the Church’s perspective and the opportunity it offers.

We also have Christian decals for cars, cookbooks offering meatless meals and much more. Come visit us.

Raffle News
Alex Sedell was the winner of March’s raffle of the Holy Week service book.

Our April 29 raffle will offer the Children’s Bible Reader. We are now selling tickets for the May raffle of the large pictorial album of the Greek Orthodox Churches of New England. Lovely, vibrant color photos of these churches, outside and inside, from Narthex to Altar, capturing the differences and similarities of our Church in all regional communities. Tickets are $2 each or 3 for $5.
The 2012 Stewardship desirable goal is $150,000 and as of April 2012 we have received $51,740 with 185 pledges. To meet our desirable goal, we need pledges in the amount of $98,260 to reach our goal. On behalf of Father Anthony, Parish Council and the Stewardship Committee, we thank all our faithful parishioners for their contribution and support and to the following stewards who have submitted their pledges as of April 22, 2012:

Aftosmes, Mr. Michael G.
Alexis, Mr. & Mrs. George
Anagnoston, Mrs. Ruby
Anastos, Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas
Antoniou, Mr. & Mrs. George
Antoniou, Mr. & Mrs. George J.
Arvanitidis, Mr. & Mrs. George
Babanikas, Mr. & Mrs. Konstantinos
Babanikas, Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas
Bandis, Mr. Michael
Barrus, Mr. & Mrs. Glenn M.
Bartorelli, Mrs. Bessie
Bloumbas, Mr. Kostas
Boutas, Mrs. Fotini
Bulgaris, Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas
Buterbaugh, Mr. & Mrs. Jon
Cariofiles, Mrs. Demetra
Cathcart, Mr. & Mrs. David
Cauldwell, Ms. Diana
Cefalo, Mrs. Anastasia
Cleary, Mrs. Elizabeth
Colorusso, Mr. & Mrs. Carl
Conley, Mr. & Mrs. Scott
Conley, Ms. Katherine
Constantinou, Dr. & Mrs. Chris
Constantinou, Mr. & Mrs. Dino
Cooper, Ms. Nicholetta
Corbett, Mrs. Leisa K
Costarellos, Mr. & Mrs. Sotirios
Costas, Mr. George
Costelas, Mrs. Gail
Cotter, Mr. & Mrs. Gerald
Covett, Mr. Robert G.
Covett, Mrs. Helen S.
Dalkouras, Mr. & Mrs. Euripidis
Deane, Mrs. Phyllis
Demakopoulos, Mrs. Madeline
Demetriades, Mr. & Mrs. Evangelos
Dinopoulos, Mr. & Mrs. John
Economos, Mrs. Irene
Economos, Mrs. Rhoda
Efremidis, Mr. & Mrs. Chuck
Ellard, Mrs. Anastasia G.
Evangelatos, Fr. & Mrs. Anthony
Fields, Mr. & Mrs. Michael G.
Fisher, Mrs. Jean
Fletcher, Mrs. Catherine

Reminder!!

Please do not forget to submit your 2011 Stewardship Obligation

Stewardships are the greatest source of income for our Church. Thank you!

Υπενθύμιση !!!

Αγαπητοί Ενορίτες,
Σας παρακαλούμε μη ξεχάσετε να αποτείλετε την ετήσια προσφορά σας για το παρόν (τούτο) το έτος 2011.

Η ετήσια προσφορά σας αποτελεί τη βασικώτερη πηγή εισοδήματος για τη συντήρηση και τις καθημερινές ανάγκες της Εκκλησίας μας.

Σας ευχαριστούμε θερμά

ONLINE BILL PAY
Now a convenient new way to fulfill your stewardship.
Available on our website
www.annunciationbrockton.org
STEWARDSHIP

Foley, Mr. Teresa
Foley, Mrs. Teresa
Gatsonis, Mrs. Helen
Georganias, Mr. Arthur
George, Mrs. Annie
Georgeu, Mrs. Linda M.
Georgeu, Mrs. Phyllis
Giannaros, Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas
Giannaros, Mr. & Mrs. Nikolaos
Giannouloudis, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas
Ginis, Mr. & Mrs. Dimitris
Habib, Mrs. Violet
Hall, Mr. & Mrs. Per
Hatsiopoulos, Mrs. Victoria
Hatzidis, Mrs. Kyriaki
Hatzis, Mrs. Anastasia
Hickman, Mr. & Mrs. Mark
Jaramillo, Mrs. Effie
Joseph, Mrs. Louise
Juris, Mr. & Mrs. John
Kakridas, Mr. & Mrs. Theodore
Kalivas, Mr. Constance
Kallianidis, Mr. Milton
Kallis, Mrs. Nikoleta
Kanellopoulos, Mr. & Mrs. Paul
Karalioliou, Mr. & Mrs. Arthur
Karolemeas, Mr. & Mrs. John
Kavgic, Mr. & Mrs. George
Kazis, Mrs. Penelope
Konstantilakis, Mr. & Mrs. Paul
Konstantilakis, Mr. & Mrs. Paul
Kontsas, Mrs. Dorothea
Korbas, Mr. & Mrs. John
Kotopoulos, Mr. & Mrs. Bill
Kotsiopoulos, Mr. & Mrs. Alex
Kotsiopoulos, Mr. Chris
Kotsiopoulos, Mr. Efthemios
Kotsiopoulos, Mrs. Soulanta
Krowski, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph
Kyranos, Mr. & Mrs. George
Lainas, Mr. & Mrs. Ilias
Lainas, Mr. Steve
Lenton, Mrs. Maria
Liapis, Mrs. Evangeline
Lin, Ms. Pan
Liolios, Mr. & Mrs. Daniel
Livani, Mr. & Mrs. Harry
Livani, Mrs. Catherine
Loiakono, Mr. & Mrs. Edward
Macrogiannis, Mr. & Mrs. Emanuel
Macrogiannis, Mr. Nicholas
Macrogiannis, Mrs. Evelyn
Maranian, Mrs. Anastasia
Marathas, Mr. & Mrs. Paul J.
Margos, Ms. Sadie
Mihos, Mr. & Mrs. Christy J.
Mihos, Mr. James C.
Mihos, Mrs. Marie G. Mihos
Mihos, Mrs. Marlene
Mihos, Ms. Melissa
Mroz, Mrs. Irena
Mylonas, Ms. Euthalia
Nanos, Mr. & Mrs. Odesseus
Nenopouloos, Mr. Armandina
Nickandros, Mr. & Mrs. George
Nickolaou, Mr. James
Nikolakakos, Mrs. Despina
Ntagkinis, Mr. & Mrs. Evangelos
Ntakoula, Mr. & Mrs. Ted
Odierno, Mrs. Paula
Palantzas, Mrs. Vasiliki
Panagopoulos, Mr. & Mrs. James
Panagopoulos, Mr. Peter
Panagoulopoulos, Mr. George
Papadopoulos, Dr. Andrea
Papadopoulos, Mrs. Elias
Papaj, Mr. & Mrs. Viron
Pappas, Mr. Peter
Pappas, Mrs. Mary
Pappas, Ms. Georgia
Pappas, Ms. Pauline
Passias, Mr. & Mrs. Andrew
Passias, Mr. & Mrs. Charles
Passias, Mr. Stephen
Perry, Mrs. Marion
Petropoulos, Mr. & Mrs. Alkie
Petropoulos, Mr. & Mrs. George
Petropoulos, Mrs. Georgia
Petros, Dr. & Mrs. George
Petros, Mrs. Joan
Phillips, Mrs. Demetra
Plessas, Ms. Petros
Polisson, Mrs. Helen
Potsis, Mr. George
Pouliopoulos, Mr. & Mrs. Fotios
Psilekaris, Mrs. Theodora
Psilekaris, Ms. Lamperni
Psilekaris, Ms. Ourania
Psychos, Mr. & Mrs. Sam
Sakellari Poole, Mrs. Linda O.
Sarhanis, Mrs. Irene
Sarris, Mrs. Teresa
Savas, Mr. & Mrs. Spyros
Savas, Mr. & Mrs. Stephen
Savas, Mr. Constantine A.
Savas, Mr. Irakli
Scappaticci, Mr. & Mrs. Albert
Scleparris, Mrs. Francis
Scopelitis, Mrs. Gregoria
Sideropoulos, Mr. & Mrs. Anastasios
Siogros, Mr. Steve
Siogros, Mr. Van
Skordares, Mr. & Mrs. George
Smilidopoulos, Mr. & Mrs. Elias
Smilidopoulos, Ms. Olga
Spanos, Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas
Spyropoulos, Mr. & Mrs. George
Stellakis, Mrs. Joanna
Stellakis, Mrs. Katherine
Syrniotis, Mrs. Vasiliki
Tasho, Mrs. Georgia
Terzakis, Mr. & Mrs. George
Terzakis, Mrs. Sophia
Terzis, Mr. & Mrs. Eric
Theofilou, Mrs. Maria
Thompson, Mrs. Jane
Tsallas, Mr. & Mrs. Chris
Tsampinis, Mr. Evangelos
Tsarhas, Mrs. Ourania
Tsarhopoulos, Mr. & Mrs. Paul
Tsokanis, Mr. & Mrs. Peter
Vallas, Mr. & Mrs. Anthoni
Vallas, Mr. & Mrs. Michael
Velas Sarris, Mrs. Dimitrios
Vellios, Mr. & Mrs. William
Weinberg, Mrs. Merri
Whowell, Mr. & Mrs. Frederick
Yiotopoulos, Mr. Steven
Zentackos, Mrs. Anna
Stewardship

On Tithing

GROWING IN CHRIST & MY GIVING LEVEL

As we grow in Christ, our commitment to Him also grows in maturity. Before deciding what to commit in 2012, check to see your current level of giving. Then, prayerfully seek God’s guidance for your decision. In the past our Greek Orthodox culture has not customarily emphasized giving 10%; however, as our parishioners grow in the Faith this type of responsible, mature giving naturally becomes part of a vibrant Christian culture. "Stewardship is recommended to be ten percent (10%) of one’s annual income as stated in Holy Scripture to help meet the financial obligations of the Parish." (from the Regulations of the Archdiocese)

Worksheet

Individual or household annual income: $ __________ Current weekly giving: $ __________

Use the chart below to find the percentage closest to your current giving: ______%

Consider growing to new percentage of ____________%

My new weekly giving amount from the chart below: $ ________ Annual Pledge ________

| Annual Income | WEEKLY | | YEARLY |
|--------------|-------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|              | 1%   | 2% | 3% | 4% | 5% | 1%   | 2% | 3% | 4% | 5% |
| $30,000      | $6   | $12| $17| $23| $29| $312 | $624| $884| $1196| $1508|
| $40,000      | $8   | $15| $23| $31| $38| $416 | $780| $1196| $1612| $1976|
| $50,000      | $10  | $19| $29| $38 |$48| $520 | $988| $1508| $1976| $2496|
| $60,000      | $12  | $23| $35| $46 |$58| $624 | $1196| $1820| $2392| $3016|
| $70,000      | $13  | $27| $40| $54 |$67| $676 | $1404| $2080| $2808| $3484|
| $80,000      | $15  | $31| $46| $62 |$77| $780 | $1612| $2392| $3224| $4004|
| $90,000      | $17  | $35| $52| $69 |$87| $884 | $1820| $2704| $3588| $4524|
| $100,000     | $19  | $38 |$58| $77 |$96| $988 | $1976| $3016| $4004| $4992|
| $125,000     | $24  | $48 |$72| $96 |$120| $1248| $2500| $3744| $4992| $6240|
| $150,000     | $29  | $58 |$87| $115| $144| $1508| $3016| $4524| $5980| $7488|
| $200,000     | $40  | $80 |$120| $150| $200| $2080| $4160| $6240| $7800| $10400|
| $250,000     | $48  | $96 |$144| $192| $240| $2500| $5000| $7500| $10000| $12500|

On-Line Bill Pay Now Available

To pledge by credit card, or to sign up for our "Auto Recurring Stewardship Program" Please visit our website at http://www.AnnunciationBrockton.org
ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
SPRING GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SUNDAY MAY 6TH, 2012
Immediately following the Divine Liturgy

AGENDA

Opening Prayer and Reflection

Secretary’s Report – Fall 2011 General Assembly

Treasurer’s Report:
   2011 Financials
   2012 Year to Date Financials

Fr. Anthony Evangelatos Remarks

President’s Remarks
Committee Updates

Old Business:
   2011 Auditors Report
   Church Playground Project

New Business:
   Roof Repair

Fr. Anthony Evangelatos    John Karolemeas
Proistamenos               President, Parish Council
182 Hungry Friends

Join us for our annual Dinner and Raffle

**THURSDAY, MAY 3, 2012**

The donation is $125 per person. Participants can bring a guest to dinner for an additional $25. Please see any Parish Council member for tickets.
Donate blood in May!

One blood donation may help save up to three lives. As a thank you for your life-saving donation this May, all presenting donors will receive a coupon for a free Small WHOPPER® Combo Meal or Garden Fresh Salad.*

Come in and roll up your sleeve to give the gift of life this month. Visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) to schedule your appointment to donate blood today.

Brockton Community Blood Drive
Sponsored by Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church
GOYA
Saturday, May 5, 2012
8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church
457 Oak Street

For an appointment to donate please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org

*Coupon is not redeemable for cash and non-transferable. See coupon for offer details. The BURGER KING® logo and trademarks are used with permission of Burger King Corporation. All rights reserved. ©2012 The American National Red Cross. NED.BURGERK.01.V1.03192012
Eat
Drink
Dance

Annunciation Ladies Philoptochos
3rd Annual

Food Fest 2012
May 19th & May 20th

Saturday 11 a.m. — 9 p.m.
Sunday 12 p.m. — 6 p.m.

Free Admission

Authentic Greek Food
Greek Music
Dance Performances
ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
457 OAK STREET
BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02301

Register and pay online at
http://www.annunciationbrockton.org
Now accepting Credit Cards

Join us for the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church Golf Tournament!

When: Monday July 9, 2012
9:30 a.m. Shotgun Start
8:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast
8:00 a.m. Golf Range

Where: Easton Country Club
256 Purchase Street
South Easton, MA
(508) 238-2500

Entry fee of $125 per player includes green fees, golf cart, driving range, continental breakfast, lunch banquet, and awards. Dinner Guests Welcome at $25 each.

Mail check & registration by July 1 to:
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church
Golf Tournament
457 Oak St., Brockton, MA 02301
Tel: 508-559-0910

Contact:
Stephen Passias
508-942-8483
passias@comcast.net

Sponsorship opportunities are available:

- Golf/Food Festival Bundle: $450 (includes tee sponsor for tournament, banner & placement ad for festival: $125 Savings!)
- Tee or Green Sponsor: $150
- Putting Green: $250 2’x6’ Banner Ad
- Driving Range: $250 2’x6’ Banner Ad
- Breakfast: $250 2’x6’ Banner Ad
- Lunch: $500 2’x6’ Banner Ad
- Golf Shirts: $1000 Company Name on shirt
- I cannot attend, but would like to make a donation. Please accept my donation of $_________

Sponsor Name:

Telephone:

Street:

City: _______________ State: ____ Zip: ___________

http://www.AnnunciationBrockton.org
Entry fee must accompany registration.
Downsized? Changed jobs?
Help protect your income for retirement.

Call us at 508-230-9988

Stephen Passias, LUTCF
Financial Professional
The Prudential Insurance Company of America
134 Main Street
North Easton, MA 02356

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