## April 2013

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**Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us**
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church
Reverend Presbyter Anthony Evangelatos
George Stavropoulos, Chanter - Heidi Mason, Choir Director - Ona Calogrias, Organist

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EMAILS
Father Anthony priest@annunciationbrookton.org
Demetra Orfanos, office mgr office@annunciationbrookton.org

OTHER MINISTRIES
Sunday School
Tina Boutas Dina Coon
Rhoda Economos

Greek School
Tina Boutas Sofia Trikalas
Konstantinina Goudanias

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
Stephen Passias

Dance Group
Jon & Penny Buterbaugh

Junior Choir
Corinne & Heidi Mason

Oratorical Festival
Rhoda Economos

Bookstore
Joanna Stellakis, Stephen Savas, Linda Sakelaris Poole
March 18 marks the beginning of the Great Lent. It is known in Greek as 'Kathara Deftera' or Clean Monday. The word kathara is closely related to catharsis or cleaning.

Everyone needs cleanliness. Fortunately, scientific technology has given us many ways of achieving cleanliness, of keeping our bodies clean. Are our bodies entirely clean?

Are our tongues clean? Is it not true that they speak words which are not clean, but are offensive, words which show malice or envy, or which indicate a hostile attitude to the progress of others? It is obvious that our tongues need to be cleaned. The Great Lent is an opportunity for cleansing ourselves with silence, so that we stop saying unjust, false and offensive words against our brethren.

Do we have clean eyes? Christ told us that when the eyes are clean, then the whole body is radiant. Do we really regard others with contempt and envy and only find fault with them and not virtue? Are our eyes clean? The Great Lent gives us the opportunity to cleanse our eyes, so that we can discover in other people not their mistakes, but goodness and love and other qualities which adorn the image of God i.e. the image of God in each person.

Do we have clean ears? Do we listen attentively to idle gossip about our friends and neighbors? If so, the Great Lent gives us a chance to cleanse our hearing so that we may ignore rumors which are repeatedly circulated against other people. We know that there are people who hear exactly what they want to hear, and gossip about other people adding their own malicious condemnations. But whatever they hear and say is nothing but falsehood and idle gossip. They speak against the church, against Christ, His Bishops and priests, and lay leaders. Do our ears need cleansing? If so, Clean Monday gives us a chance to cleanse our hearing from all the vicious attacks which we hear against other people.

Additionally, our hands and feet and the other members of our bodies need the same cleansing, not only with soap, but also with honesty. Our feet must not take us to places where the enemies of our churches congregate, and our hands must not move us against justice and dignity and against the property of others. The Great Lent invites us to cleanse our ears, our hands, our feet and our eyes, but most of all, our hearts.

In the book of Psalms we read: "Create in me a clean heart, 0 God." These words, from the 50th Psalm, contain a special significance for our repentance, which we begin on Clean Monday and continue throughout the period of Great Lent. Repentance means the cleansing of our feelings, our thoughts our intentions, and our hearts. It is redirecting our minds towards the mind of Christ. As Saint Paul says "Acquire the mind of Christ".

During Great Lent, our Church guides us to the cleanliness of our eyes and tongues, of our ears and hands, our feet, our hearts and minds, that is to say, to our whole being. Our church prepares us to approach the Cross and receive His Precious Body and Blood.

Kali Tessarakoste.
The following article was included in the March 2009 Bulletin. Hopefully, it will again be edifying as we read it anew.

Recently in our adult religious education sessions, I spoke about the liturgical book which the Holy Church uses during the three preparatory weeks prior to Lent, the 40 days of Great Lent, and Holy Week, known as the Triodion. This particular liturgical book is replete with moving and soul-stirring hymnology, which seeks to touch us in the deepest part of our soul. In fact, Great Lent is the season that we want to expose our soul before God more than any other time of year. I would like to share some beautiful examples of Lenten hymns from various services of the season.

The very first service in the Triodion, is that of vespers for the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee. One particular hymn shows the centrality of the theme of tears in our Lenten journey of repentance:

Almighty Lord, I know how great is the power of tears. For they led up Hezekiah from the gates of death; they delivered the sinful woman from the transgressions of many years; they justified the Publican above the Pharisee. And with them I also pray: Have mercy upon me.

Another moving hymn comes from the Saturday evening vespers for the Sunday of Forgiveness (Cheesefare), during which we commemorate the expulsion of Adam from Paradise because of his transgression. On the following day we begin Great Lent, uniting ourselves with Adam as a lost soul seeking to regain Paradise:

Adam sat before Paradise and, lamenting his nakedness, he wept: “Woe is me! By evil deceit was I persuaded and led astray, and now I am an exile from glory. Woe is me! In my simplicity I was stripped naked, and now I am in want. O Paradise, no more shall I take pleasure in thy joy; no more shall I look upon the Lord my God and Maker, for I shall return to the earth whence I was taken. O merciful and compassionate Lord, to Thee I cry aloud: I am fallen, have mercy upon me.

Great Lent technically begins on the evening of the Sunday of Forgiveness. The following hymn from the Sunday Vespers of Forgiveness summarizes the whole Lenten journey and its purpose:

Let us set out with joy upon the season of the Fast, and prepare ourselves for spiritual combat. Let us purify our soul and cleanse our flesh; and as we fast from food, let us abstain also from every passion. Rejoicing in the virtues of the Spirit may we persevere with love, and so be counted worthy to see the solemn Passion of Christ our God, and with great spiritual gladness to behold His holy Passover.

Each Monday evening of Great Lent, we conduct the service of the Great Compline, which is basically a service offered after the evening meal, preparing us for bodily slumber, and spiritual vigilance. Following is a very short, but very popular and moving hymn of the Lenten season, both in its melody and words:

Lord of the Powers be with us, for in times of distress we have no other help but You. Lord of the Powers have mercy on us.

One of the crowning jewels of Great Lent is the Canon of St. Andrew of Crete, sung in sections during the first four days of Lent, and in its entirety on Thursday of the fifth week. This canon, or sacred poem, is a personal meditation of repentance, with constant referrals to examples of sin and repentance from Scripture. Here are some samples of this beautiful and spiritually rich work:

Where shall I begin to weep for the actions of my wretched life? What first-fruit shall I offer, O Christ, in this my lamentation? But in Thy compassion grant me forgiveness of sins.

Adam once joined sin to sin, adding murder to fornication; yet then he showed at once a twofold repentance. But thou, my soul, hast done worse things than he, yet thou has not repented before God.

O my soul, do as the woman who was bowed down to the ground. Fall at the feet of Jesus, that he may make thee straight again; and thou shalt walk upright upon the paths of the Lord.

As a final hymn, I offer one from the vespers of St. Mary of Egypt, commemorated on the fifth Sunday of the Fast. St. Mary is a model of repentance, being a former harlot who was converted to Christ through a miraculous sign performed at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem, during the feast of the Holy Cross:

Beloved in Christ, make it a point to come to as many Lenten services as possible, so that you may hear these and other meaningful hymns in their proper context. Nothing can replace the Lenten atmosphere of “bright sadness,” or “joyful sorrow” that we experience during the Lenten services. Remember, Lent is not meant to be a morbid exercise in self pity; rather, it is a time of great joy as we liberate ourselves from the passions and from sin, always keeping the light of the Resurrection as our ultimate goal. My beloved spiritual children, may all of you have a most blessed and fruitful Lenten experience.

In Christ’s love, Fr. Anthony
SPIRITUAL WISDOM

Fasting Guidelines of Great Lent

Since many of our brethren seek to follow the fast of Great Lent to the best of their ability, we offer the following traditional and widely accepted guidelines (also illustrated on your Archdiocesan calendars). Not everyone can follow such a fast, especially people with certain health concerns, growing children, expectant and nursing mothers, etc. In all cases, our fasting should include intensified prayer, increased church attendance, and almsgiving and other charitable works. In order to celebrate Holy Pascha with a pure and cleansed heart and soul, our Lenten ascetic struggle should also lead us to repentance and Holy Confession.

- **Weekdays of Lent:** Strict fast from all animal products (including fish), all alcoholic beverages, and olive oil (vegetable oil may be substituted if desired).
- **Weekends of Lent:** Wine and olive oil are permitted. **Exceptions:** Fish is also permitted on Palm Sunday—4/28. In addition, Holy Saturday is treated as a weekday of Lent—strict fast all day.

The following is taken from the book *The Lenten Triodion* by Bishop Kallistos Ware of Diokleia in Great Britain (St. Tikhon’s Seminary Press, 1999), a well-loved and respected hierarch and theologian of the Orthodox Church.

**The True Nature of Fasting**

...What do we find, then, in this book of preparation that we term the Lenten Triodion? It can most briefly be described as the ‘book of the fast.’ Just as the children of Israel ate the ‘bread of affliction’; (Deut. 16:3) in preparation for the Passover, so Christians prepare themselves for the celebration of the New Passover by observing a fast. But what is meant by this word ‘fast’ (‘nisteia’)? Here the utmost care is needed, so as to preserve a proper balance between the outward and the inward. On the outward level fasting involves physical abstinence from food and drink, and without such exterior abstinence a full and true fast cannot be kept; yet the rules about eating and drinking must never be treated as an end in themselves, for ascetic fasting has always an inward and unseen purpose. Man is a unity of body and soul, ‘a living creature fashioned from natures visible and invisible,’ in the words of the Triodion; and our ascetic fasting should therefore involve both these natures at once. The tendency to over-emphasize external rules about food in a legalistic way, and the opposite tendency to scorn these rules as outdated and unnecessary, are both alike to be deplored as a betrayal of true Orthodoxy. In both cases the proper balance between the outward and inward has been impaired...

The primary aim of fasting is to make us conscious of our dependence upon God. If practiced seriously, the Lenten abstinence from food – particularly in the opening days – involves a considerable measure of real hunger, and also a feeling of tiredness and physical exhaustion. The purpose of this is to lead us in turn to a sense of inward brokenness and contrition; to bring us, that is, to the point where we appreciate the full force of Christ’s statement, ‘Without Me you can do nothing’ (John 15:5)...Such is the function of the hunger and the tiredness: to make us ‘poor in spirit,’ aware of our helplessness and of our dependence on God’s aid.

Yet it would be misleading to speak only of this element of weariness and hunger. Abstinence leads, not merely to this, but also to a sense of lightness, wakefulness, freedom and joy. Even if the fast proves debilitating at first, afterwards we find that it enables us to sleep less, to think more clearly, and to work more decisively. As many doctors acknowledge, periodic fasts contribute to bodily hygiene. While involving genuine self-denial, fasting does not seek to do violence to our body but rather to restore it to health and equilibrium. Most of us in the Western world habitually eat more than we need. Fasting liberates our body from the burden of excessive weight and makes it a willing partner in the task of prayer, alert and responsive to the voice of the Spirit...

If it is important not to overlook the physical requirements of fasting, it is even more important not to overlook its inward significance. Fasting is not a mere matter of diet. It is moral as well as physical. True fasting is to be converted in heart and will; it is to return to God, to come home like the Prodigal to our Father’s house. In the words of St. John Chrysostom, it means ‘abstinence not only from food but from sins.’ ‘The fast,’ he insists, ‘should be kept not by the mouth alone but also by the eye, the ear, the feet, the hands and all the members of the body’...It is useless to fast from food, protests St. Basil, and yet to indulge in cruel criticism and slander: ‘You do not eat meat, but you devour your brother’...

The inner significance of fasting is best summed up in the triad: prayer, fasting, almsgiving. Divorced from prayer and from the reception of the holy sacraments, unaccompanied by acts of compassion, our fasting becomes pharisaical or even demonic. It leads not to contrition and joyfulness, but to pride, inward tension and irritation...

Always in our acts of abstinence we should keep in mind St. Paul’s admonition not to condemn others who fast less strictly: ‘Let not him who abstains pass judgement on him who eats’ (Rom. 14:3). Equally, we remember Christ’s condemnation of outward display in prayer, fasting or almsgiving (Matt. 6:1-18). Both these Scriptural passages are often recalled in the Triodion:

Consider well, my soul: dost thou fast? Then despise not thy neighbour.

Dost thou abstain from food? Condemn not thy brother. Come, let us cleanse ourselves by almsgiving and acts of mercy to the poor, not sounding a trumpet or making a show of our charity.

Let not our left hand know what our right hand is doing; Let not vainglory scatter the fruit of our almsgiving; but in secret let us call on Him that knows all secrets:

Father, forgive us our trespasses, for Thou lovest mankind...
Floral Needs for 2013

This year we will solicit icon decoration for major feast days through the Bulletin instead of announcements in church, in order to avoid confusion and duplications. Please note that the decoration of an icon will cost $60, unless otherwise indicated. Floral needs for Great Lent, Holy Week and Pascha are included in this announcement.

If you would like to make any of these donations, please call the church office at 508-559-0910 and coordinate with our Office Manager Demetra Orfanos.

Feasts of Christ & the Theotokos ($60)

- 6/13 – Ascension
- 6/23 – Pentecost
- 8/6 – Transfiguration
- 8/15 – Dormition of the Theotokos (taken)
- 9/8 – Nativity of Theotokos
- 9/14 – Elevation of the Holy Cross (taken)
- 11/21 – Entrance of the Theotokos
- 12/25 – Nativity of Our Lord
- 1/6/2014 – Holy Theophany

Great Lent, Holy Week, & Pascha

- Salutations to the Theotokos: 3rd & 4th Fridays, and Akathist Hymn – $50 each
- Veneration of the Holy Cross, 4/7 – $650
- Palm strips for palm crosses – $125
- Palm arrangements for Soleas - $50 each
- Palm arrangements for Royal Gate - $40 each
- Bay laurel leaves for Palm Sunday & Holy Saturday - $150
- Icon of the Nymphios - $90
- Icon of the Mystical Supper - $25
- Wreath for Holy Cross – (taken)
- Icon of Resurrection - (taken)
- Banner (lavaron) of the Resurrection - $100

We thank all our donors in advance and ask God’s blessings upon them. Donors will be acknowledged in the Bulletin at the appropriate time.
# April 2013

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<th>Sun</th>
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<tr>
<td>Please see your illustrated Archdiocesan Calendar for daily Scripture readings and fasting guidelines.</td>
<td>1 Great Compline 7 pm</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3 9th Hour-5:15 pm, Presanctified Lit. 5:30 pm, followed by Lenten supper</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5 9th Hr. 9:45 am Presanctified Liturgy 10 am</td>
<td>6 Great Vespers 6 pm</td>
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<td>7 Sunday of the Veneration of the Holy Cross Της Σταυροποιόσκυψης</td>
<td>8 Great Compline 7 pm</td>
<td>9 Parish Council 6 pm</td>
<td>10 9th Hour-5:15 pm, Presanctified Lit. 5:30 pm, followed by Lenten supper</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12 9th Hr. 9:45 am Presanctified Liturgy 10 am</td>
<td>13 Great Vespers 6 pm</td>
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<td>14 Sunday of St. John Climacus Του Αγ. Ιωάννου της Κλήμακος</td>
<td>15 Great Compline 7 pm</td>
<td>16 OPA Gathering 2-4 pm</td>
<td>17 9th Hour-5:15 pm, Presanctified Lit. 5:30 pm, followed by Lenten supper</td>
<td>18 Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete at St. Gregory the Theologian, Mansfield 6 pm</td>
<td>19 9th Hr. 9:45 am Presanctified Liturgy 10 am</td>
<td>20 Great Vespers 6 pm</td>
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<td>21 Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt Της Οσίας Μαρίας της Αιγυπτίας</td>
<td>22 (Fr. Anthony away on pilgrimage through 4/23; no services)</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24 9th Hour-5:15 pm, Presanctified Lit. 5:30 pm, followed by Lenten supper</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26 9th Hr. 9:45 am Presanctified Liturgy 10 am</td>
<td>27 Saturday of Lazarus Orthros &amp; Lit. Great Vespers of Palm Sunday 6 pm</td>
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<td>28 Palm Sunday Τον Βασίλειο (For Holy Week services, please refer to program sent by mail or on website.)</td>
<td>29 Holy &amp; Great Monday (Για τις ακολουθείς της Μεγ. Εβδομάδος, βλέπε το ειδικό δελτίο που λαβατε ταξιδιομαρτυρίως.)</td>
<td>30 Holy &amp; Great Tuesday</td>
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For Holy Week services, please refer to program sent by mail or on website.
SACRAMENTS, DONATIONS

BAPTISMS
3/3 Marcos, son of Keith and Frances Stearns; godparents, Kyriakos and Georgia Petroulas
3/10 Alexandra, daughter of Steve and Nicole Lainas; godparents, George and Gina Arvanitidis
3/17 Markos, son of John and Angela Palamaris; godparent, Margarita Palamaris

FUNERALS
3/26 Maria Fitopoulos

DONATIONS
- Decoration of Icon of Panayia, 2nd Salutations: Heidi Mason IMO of James and Katherine Papalambros
- Floral decoration of Iconostasis and processional icons of the Annunciation, and Narthex Icons for Parish Feast Day – Prof. and Mrs. Peter Karavites. All arrangements done by George Theodossiou.
- Four hydrangea plants for the celebration of the Annunciation – Mrs. Fotini Boutas

MEMORIAL DONATIONS
- Nikoletta & Maria Kallis, $20, in memory of Demetrios Antonopoulos
- Andrew & Bessie Passias, $30, in memory of James Antonopoulos
- Melanie Navolio, $50, in memory of Ourania Sarantos
- Helen Gatsonis, $100, in memory of Michael Dalkouras
- Friend Wyler, $125, in memory of Marie Mihos
- Spyros & Ethel Savas, $25, in memory of Christos Tsaganis
- Pauline Pappas, $50, in memory of Christos Tsaganis
- William M. Callahan, $50, in memory of Christos Tsaganis
- Kennedy Community School, $50, Bessie Tsaganis Scholarship Fund, in memory of Christos Tsaganis
- James & Linda Mihos, $200, in memory of Christos Tsaganis
- The James C. Mihos Family, $500, in memory of Christos Tsaganis
- Mrs. Penny Papadopoulos & Family, $100, in memory of Elias Papadopoulos

ROOF REPAIR DONATIONS
- Mr. Steve Siogras, $200, in memory of Effie Siogras
- Mr. & Mrs. John Juris, $1,000

From +Fr. Anthony

The following hymn is from vespers of November 29, which I came across during one of my Wednesday evening vespers and religious education class. It is such an appropriate message for Great Lent, that I wanted to share it in the bulletin during this holy time of fasting and repentance…

My wicked deeds I, the sorry wretch, conceal not; for I have made mine all that is hateful unto God. I have polluted my flesh, my mind, my soul and spirit with filthy speech, lawless deeds, and godless thoughts. I see others sinning and condemn them with my tongue, yet I myself do things worse than they. O Theotokos, grant the correction of all these things to me, that in recovering from my wicked ways, for the rest of my life in sobriety I may fall down and shed tears over all the evils I have done.
ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΙΕΡΩΝ ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΩΝ
ΜΕΓΑΛΗΣ ΤΕΣΣΑΡΑΚΟΣΤΗΣ

Λευτερα: Μεγα Αποδεπτιν - 7:00 μμ (εκτός 25/3 και 22/4)
Τετάρτη: 9η Όρα - 5:15 μμ, Προηγματισμένη Λειτουργία - 5:30 μμ (ακολουθεί δείπνο)
Παρασκευή: 9η Όρα - 9:45 πμ, Προηγματισμένη Λειτουργία - 10:00 πμ
Χαιρετισμός της Θεοτοκού - 7:00 μμ (μεχρι 19/4)
Σαββάτο: Μεγας Εσπερινος - 6:00 μμ

ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΕΞΩΜΟΛΟΓΗΣΕΩΣ

- Καθε Λευτερα μετα το Αποδεπτιν
- Καθε Παρασκευη μετα τους Χαιρετισμους
- Καθε Σαββατο μετα τον Εσπερινον (ισχευ ολο το χρονο)
- Όρες γραφειου με ραντεβου (ισχευ ολο το χρονο)
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 2013, 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: $_________

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To pledge by credit card, or to sign up for our "Auto Recurring Stewardship Program" Please visit our website at

http://www.AnnunciationBrockton.org
FROM THE PRESIDENT

On behalf of Father Antho-ny and the Parish Council, we wish all of you a blessed beginning to Lent. This is a very busy time of the year for our parish so I ask all of you to take a moment to review our bulletin’s information. Many parishioners have put their heart and soul into our monthly bulletin to share with you information on the upcoming months.

Congratulations are in order to the JOY and HOPE children and ministry leaders for another successful Have a Heart Luncheon fundraiser that was held on March 3rd. A special thank you to Irene Mroz and Paula Tsistopoulos for their time and dedication year in and year out.

Please mark your calendar for Sunday, April 14 for our Spring General Assembly. The parish council is looking forward to reporting to you our 2012 financials as well as providing an update on the roof project.

On Sunday, April 7, we will be joining the surrounding churches and other Greek American organizations for the annual Greek Independence Day Parade in Boston. All children and families are welcome to march! A letter was sent to the Greek School, Sunday School and Dance Group children with more information. We have two buses this year and we look forward to your attendance. We want to thank the AHEPANS and Pan Macedonian Society for their donation of the buses. Anyone interested in attending or looking for more information, please contact the office.

Also, please see your parish council members for tickets to our Annual Hungry Friends dinner on May 9 and don’t forget our Spring Food Festival May 18 and 19 held by Philoptochos.

Warmest Regards,

John Karolemeas
John Karolemeas

2013 Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Greek Independence Day Parade</td>
<td>April 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring General Assembly</td>
<td>Sun, April 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>169 Hungry Friends Dinner</td>
<td>Thurs, May 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philoptochos Food Festival</td>
<td>Sat-Sun, May 18-19</td>
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<td>Sunday School Graduation</td>
<td>Sun, May 19</td>
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<td>Greek School Graduation</td>
<td>Sun, June 2</td>
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<td>Golf Tournament</td>
<td>Mon, July 8</td>
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<td>Summer Picnic</td>
<td>Sun, Aug 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Food Festival</td>
<td>Thurs-Sun, Sep 19-22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall General Assembly</td>
<td>Sun, Nov 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parish Council Elections</td>
<td>Sun, Dec 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parish Council Oath of Office, Election of Officers</td>
<td>Sun, Dec 22</td>
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Parish Council Meeting Schedule for 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 9</td>
<td>September 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 14</td>
<td>October 8</td>
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<td>June 11</td>
<td>November 12</td>
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<td>July (no meeting)</td>
<td>December 10</td>
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<td>August 13</td>
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New! Parishioners can now make donations using our website!

It is our Online Bill Pay option and it works like this:

- Go to our church website at http://www.annunciationbrockton.org
- Scroll down the home page.
- Select (left click) one of the 4 Bill Pay options listed and follow links for more information and options.

You can fulfill your Stewardship or make other payments by credit card, including Roof Donations. If you have any questions, please contact the church office for assistance.
**We have Lenten items**

Lenten service books such as
- Service of the Akathist Hymn,
- Great Compline, and the classic black Holy Week book.

- Great Lent by Alexander Schmemann
- Pamphlet about Confession
- Pocket prayer books, $5
- Easter story cube for preschool children

**New - Just published!**

**Orthodox Christian Parenting**

Cultivating God's Creation

A collection of Orthodox Christian guidelines for raising children within our faith and in the modern world.

*Might be a nice gift.*

**Free Item Basket**

Basket of donated items, service books, prayer books other Orthodox items of interest.

Come and visit our store every Sunday after Church

Annunciationbrockton.bookstore@gmail.com

**Reminder from Father:**

**Restrictions on Meetings & Events During Lent**

Please remember that due to the heightened spiritual focus of Great Lent, and the increased number of weekly services, **there cannot be any meetings or events scheduled on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings, as well as Friday mornings.** Obviously, this applies to each day of Holy Week as well.

**PHILOPTOCHOS**

The Ladies of Philoptochos will be baking sweet bread and cookies during the week of April 21. Specific dates will be available soon.

The Philoptochos **Bake Sale** will be Palm Sunday, April 28, after Divine Liturgy. Everyone is welcome to bring items to contribute.

During Holy Week, the Ladies of Philoptochos will be **coloring eggs** on Holy Thursday and **decorating the Epitaphio** on Holy Friday. Volunteers are welcome. Specific times and details will be available from the Church Office soon.

**Don’t forget your floral donation**, which is used to purchase the flowers to decorate our Church during this Holy season.

**And Save the Date** of May 18-19 for Philoptochos’ annual **Spring Festival**. See you there!

**Koliva**

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

**Coffee Hour**

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

**Shut In Visitations**

Anyone who would like a visit from the ladies of Philoptochos, or knows of someone who would like some company, please contact our chair-lady Soultana Kotsiopoulos at 508-584-8338.
Greek Independence Day Parade  
in Boston  
Sunday, April 7, 2013

Our church is making plans to attend the parade in Boston. We will have school buses available at the Church to transport everyone.

**Contact the office at 508-559-0910 and reserve a seat as soon as possible!**

Come see our GOYA, Greek School, Dance Group and Sunday School groups march in the parade.

_Eleftheria I thanatos!_

Ω Παλαιών Πατρών Γερμανός ευλογεί τη σημαία της Επανάστασης - Θεόδωρος Βρυζάκης.

The Bishop of Old Patras Germanos blesses the Flag of Revolution in this painting by Theodoros Vryzakis.
**Sunday School**

Sunday school classes are held following Holy Communion.

**April:**
- April 7, **classes start at 10:15 a.m.,** Sunday of the Holy Cross
- April 14, family worship
- April 21, regular class schedule
- April 28, **Palm Sunday**/family worship

**May:**
- May 5, **Pascha**/family worship
- May 12, regular class schedule
- May 19, classes 10:15, graduation

On Wednesday, April 10, the Sunday school will host the Lenten dinner after Pre-Sanctified Liturgy. Service starts at 5:30 p.m. and anyone attending is welcome to bring a Lenten dish.

**GOYA Schedule for April**

**Sun** April 14  Monthly Meeting

**Wed** April 17  **Greater Boston Food Bank.** We will need parents/drivers to bring us there and back. Parents please let Jon or Suzanne know of your availability to help.

**Fri. & Sat. April 26 & 27— GOYA Lenten Lock-In/Retreat.** We will have staff members from our MBC Camp assisting us. We had a great time last year and expect the same this year! We will need GOYANs/parents to get back to us as soon as possible to let us know who will be available to participate in the Retreat and also to assist with our Saturday morning breakfast that will follow after church service.

**Sun May 12  Monthly Meeting**

**Holy Friday Activities for All Youth**

Children of all ages are welcome to stay in Church all day on Holy Friday, May 3. Father Anthony will provide all with a note for an excused absence.

After the 10:00 am service, we will all enjoy a pot luck lunch. For those who are staying until the evening service, a pot luck supper will also be served. Please remember to bring food that follows the Lenten guidelines and is peanut-free. After lunch, we will work together to clean the church and get it ready for the afternoon and evening services. We will also take time to watch a movie about Jesus.

Parents and children are welcome to spend the day. We will need some parental support for the youth.

**GOYANS in the news…**

We had 4 of our GOYANs participate in the Oratorical Festival: Chris Constantinou, Demetri Evangelatos, Eleni Constantinou, and Perry Sarakiniotes. Good Luck!

Also, we have two sets of sisters who are participating in school plays. Jessica and Julianna Barrus are in the Little Mermaid. Jessica is playing the role of "Grimsby" and Juliana is a sailor/dancer. Our other sister tandem is the Kotsiopoulous girls. Alexis is the lead in her Middle School musical “Thoroughly Modern Milly” - she’s Millie; Korina is in the chorus of the show as well as a back up dancer.
**YOOUTH NEWS**

**Pascha Candles**

On Sale Sundays
April 21 and April 28
In the lounge following Liturgy!

All proceeds benefit the Annunciation Dance Group.

**Please support our Dancers!**

**JOY–HOPE**

April Meeting

The next meeting is Friday, April 26 from 5:00 – 7:00 pm. We will be doing Easter crafts and the children will be helping with the palms to prepare for Palm Sunday services. Please let us know if you can join us by emailing irena.mroz@verizon.net or palatsitsop@comcast.net.

**Have a Heart Luncheon**

We are pleased to announce that this year’s Have a Heart Luncheon raised $9,600 for the Hellenic Cardiac Fund for Children. We thank everyone for their support of this worthy cause. A special thanks to all those who donated the supplies for the event and to all of the volunteers who helped in the kitchen and with the clean-up.
ΟΠΑ! Get Together

Please join us

- OPA is open to the seniors of our community.
- We are organizing times to get together and socialize on a monthly basis. Give your suggestions to create an active agenda.

Next Meeting

Tuesday
April 16, 2013

2:00 - 4:00 pm
Church Lounge

Call the office to be put on the mailing list for this group.

Παρακαλώ ελατε

. . . . . στη συναντηση μας για την εναρξη του ΟΠΑ Συμπλεγμα. Καλοντας τους ηλικιωμενους και ολα τα μελη της κοινοτητας μας να απολαυσουμε μαζι ενα απογευμα.

Θα θελαμε τη βοηθεια σας για να δημιουργησετε αυτο το συλλογο με δραστηριοτητες που σας αρεσουν.
The Metropolis of Boston will be sending a mission team to work on the Navajo Indian reservation in New Mexico.

**July 12-20, 2013**

We will fly as a team from Boston Logan to O'Hare airport in Chicago, IL, then transported by train to Albuquerque. In New Mexico, buses and vans have been arranged to transport us to our dormitory-style housing at Kamp Kiwanis.

At the reservation, we will deliver food, prepare lunches, lead arts & crafts and games with the Navajo children, build handicap ramps at the local schools and add solar panels on homes.

Fundraising goal per student: $1,200  
First payment of $150 due April 8  
Contact YOCAMA

**Mission Trip to Albuquerque, New Mexico for High School Students**

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Fundraising goal per student: $1,200  
First payment of $150 due April 8  
Contact YOCAMA

**Metropolis Basketball Update**

The Metropolis basketball season has come to an end. We would like to thank all the children and parents from St. Catherine's as well as our own Parish for their commitment to this wonderful program.

We had just over 20 children participate and this activity is growing every year. We also want to congratulate the JOY team for making the finals... and making us proud.

Since 2008, YOCAMA has traveled to Native American Indian Reservations to provide social support services to people living in poverty.

Since 2008, YOCAMA has traveled to Native American Indian Reservations to provide social support services to people living in poverty.  

**YOCAMA will also be traveling to the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in Montana July 19-27, 2013.**  
Check the website for details.
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.