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The deadline for the February bulletin is January 15th!

Church Services

Saturdays
Great Vespers 6:00 pm

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

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

Saturday
Μεγάς Εσπερινός 6:00 μμ

Sunday
Ορθρός 8:45 πμ
Θεία Λειτουργία 10:00 πμ

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Other Ministries

The Nativity of Jesus Christ
# 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@annunciationbrockton.org
Demetra Orfanos, *Office Mgr.*........office@annunciationbrockton.org

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**Sunday School**

- Tina Boutas
- Dina Coon
- Rhoda Economos

**Greek School**

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- Konstantinia Goudanias

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**Jr. GOYA**

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**JOY & HOPE**

- Irena Mroz
- Paula Tsitsopoulos

**Adult Greek Classes**

- Arthur Krikis

**Koliva**

- Ladies Philoptochos

**Coffee Hour**

- Tina Boutas

**Shut-In Visitations**

- Ladies Philoptochos

**Basketball**

- Stephen Passias

**Dance Group**

- Jon & Penny Buterbaugh

**Junior Choir**

- Corinne & Heidi Mason

**Oratorical Festival**

- Rhoda Economos

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With the feast of the Nativity of Christ just a few weeks away, let us all begin looking inward in order to assess our spiritual readiness for the indescribable miracle of God becoming man. With the various distractions that surround us at this time of year, we can easily lose the proper focus that we should have. Obviously however, we cannot ignore everything that is happening around us. The true Orthodox approach to dealing with the world is not to hide from it, but to learn to be spiritually disciplined so that we can live and function in the world, without embracing its secularism and its false idols. The time of Advent (i.e. the Nativity fast) is a most appropriate time for working on spiritual discipline and growth. It is a period of preparation and expectation, during which we should be focusing on the upcoming feast of the birth of our Lord in the flesh. The feast of the Nativity is replete with numerous spiritual virtues toward which we could aspire for our spiritual growth, if we are spiritually prepared to accept these God-given gifts.

Exactly what are these virtues that are fruits of the celebration of the Nativity of Christ? One important virtue for an Orthodox Christian found in this feast, is that of obedience. Joseph and Mary continually exemplify this virtue, starting with the acceptance by Mary of the good news of the Archangel Gabriel at the Annunciation, the obedience of Joseph as a result of the angelic dream guiding him toward God’s will, the couple’s obedience to the Roman authorities by participating in the census under great hardship, and also through their voluntary exile from their homeland due to the angelic warning of impending danger.

Another obvious virtue encountered in the feast is humility. Joseph, a humble carpenter is betrothed to a young virgin who has nothing, having been reared in the Temple of God. Unlike the wealthy, they travel to Bethlehem in total simplicity, not by riding in a caravan attended by multiple servants. Upon finding the inn full, they humbly accept to give birth in a cave and then lodge with animals in a manger. The King of Glory does not lie in a proper crib within the walls of an earthly palace, but instead, the God-man is wrapped in swaddling clothes and sleeps in the company of animals which, ironically, He created eons before through His spoken word.

A third virtue we encounter in the feast of the Nativity is chastity. It is important to remember that the Orthodox Church clearly teaches and upholds the ever-virginity of the Theotokos. In the Church’s veneration of Mary, we remember that she was a virgin before her betrothal to Joseph, and at the time she was impregnated by the Holy Spirit, and that she remained a virgin during and after childbirth. In addition, this teaching of the Church obviously demonstrates the voluntary chastity of Joseph, which he offered as an act of spiritual sacrifice, thus honoring the unique role of the Theotokos in salvation history.

It is important to note here, that the upholding of the virginity of the Mother of God and the chastity of Joseph during their marriage, is not because God frowns upon human sexuality. On the contrary, God blesses the union of man and woman, clearly demonstrated through Christ’s presence at the wedding in Cana, where He chose to perform His first public miracle. In the case of the Theotokos, she is clearly seen as a consecrated vessel espoused by the Holy Spirit Itself, chosen by God to serve a particular role in the history of mankind. It is only logical that she remain pure and undefiled, since she is a holy temple which contained the uncontainable God in her womb.

The final and greatest virtue found in the Nativity of Christ that I would like to illustrate, is love. It is because of her profound love for God that Mary willingly accepts the miracle of the conception of Christ, and all the hardships that follow. Joseph and Mary’s love and respect for each other keep them united as obedient servants of God on a divine mission. However, the true source of love is God Himself, who gave His Son to the world because of His great love for us. “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16).”

Now, regarding our self-assessment during Advent, let us ask ourselves the following: Am I obedient to Christ and His holy Church, which exists for my salvation? Do I consistently embrace humility in my life, turning to God to help my ego die away? For those of us who are single, we should also ask ourselves: Do I attempt to maintain a chaste lifestyle while awaiting a blessed union with a spouse, if this is God’s will, or even if it’s not? And the final question for all of us: Do I love God with all my heart, soul, and mind, and my neighbor as myself?

Beloved in Christ, remember that God accepts and loves us with all our shortcomings and faults. The period of Advent is a time to be introspective in order to come to terms with our true selves and our relationship with God. This month, as we become involved with decorating trees, hanging lights, and other such Christmas-related activities, may we remember our need for spiritual preparation, with the goal of receiving the newborn Christ with a clean heart and soul. There is no greater gift given by God than that of His Son becoming one of us, in order to save us from death and corruption. Let us be worthy of this greatest of all gifts!

In the love of the Incarnate Lord,

+Fr. Anthony
FROM FATHER ANTHONY

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a most blessed celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and a most healthy and happy New Year.

May our Lord grant all of you good health, and every good thing according to His will.

In the Newborn Christ,

+Fr. Anthony

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 for the Nativity fast are also illustrated on your 2013 church calendar produced by our holy Archdiocese.

- Fish, wine & olive oil permitted daily, except for Wednesdays & Fridays 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.
- There are some exceptions allowing wine & oil on strict fast days – please see calendar.

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 to 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.
REFLECTIONS ON THE NATIVITY AND THEOPHANY
(The following is taken from The Living God, Vol. 1; St. Vladimir’s Seminary Press, 1989)

If we truly understand the message of Christmas, which teaches us to love and serve the poor, let us first of all turn to Christ. Only He can teach us how to really love the poor, not for our own glory – not even for a social ideal – but for the love of man as He Himself has loved us. Jesus Christ is the first among the poor; no one has so totally impoverished himself as He did. And, moreover, He did so voluntarily. For let us never forget that He is the second Person of the Trinity, the Son of God, and that He has lowered Himself to the point of becoming a defenseless child, lying in straw at the feet of animals...

Christmas is also a message of peace. Even for those who have forgotten Christ, or have never known Him, Christmas is a symbol of peace on earth and love among men, if only for twenty-four hours or for a single night (as in, for example, truces during wars, cease-fires, or messages of peace from all the governments of the world). This is appropriate, for Christ is the God of Mercy, the Prince of Peace, “and of his peace there will be no end” (Is 9:6).

The peace of this world is often only a period of calm between two wars. Jesus is the Prince of Peace, a peace without end. His Kingdom will not fall like all other kingdoms, reigns, governments, and dictatorships. The peace of Jesus Christ allows us to participate now in His Kingdom which is to come. Let us learn how to carry this peace of Christ within us from this moment on. Let us, like the shepherds, hear the exclamation of the angels during Christmas night: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men” (Lk 2:14). Let us be witnesses of this marvelous reconciliation between heaven and earth, between God and man!

We shall never exhaust the Nativity message, its beauty and its mystery. We have spoken of peace and poverty. It is through Jesus that we can understand these two aspects: He is peace, and He is the poorest among the poor…

When Adam was created, he was formed out of the earth; today the second Adam, Christ, recreates man in His person. The Son of God at the mouth of the cave has taken our human condition upon Himself; He is born of the earth and will return to the earth at the time of His burial. “The first man was from earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven… Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven” (1 Cor 15:47,49)…

The Manifestation of the Trinity

The baptism of Jesus is not only His epiphany or manifestation to the world as Christ. It also manifests Him as the Son of God. As such He is the “theophany,” the manifestation of God, for He reveals to us the great mystery of God as Holy Trinity.

John saw the Holy Spirit descend upon Jesus in the form of a dove and remain upon Him. The word “remain” expresses the idea that, from all eternity, the Holy Spirit dwells in Him of whom the heavenly voice said, “This is My beloved Son.”

Accordingly, St. Cyril of Jerusalem tells us that in manifesting Jesus as Christ, the baptism of Jesus reveals to us at the same time the mystery of the divine Trinity. Indeed, for there to be a Christ, an anointed Son, there must be One who anoints Him, that is, the Father; and One who is the unction, that is, the Holy Spirit who remains on Him. Therefore we cannot think of Christ without thinking at the same time of the Father and the Holy Spirit. Without Them the word “Christ” would have no meaning. We cannot confess Jesus as Christ without confessing the one God as God in three persons.

People frequently have a false idea of God: they sometimes think of the Father as the God of the Old Testament; of Jesus the Son as coming in the time of the New Testament to replace the Father; while the present time of the Church is seen as the age of the Holy Spirit. We know this scheme is wrong; according to it, the life of Jesus would have meaning only as a past, historical event. But it is very difficult to picture three Persons in one God, acting in the world through a single will. How then should we approach the mystery of the Holy Trinity?

Let us return to the baptism of Jesus, to the moment when He comes up out of the water. We have already described how John the Baptist sees the Christ upon whom the Spirit remains, and hears the voice of the Father call Jesus His beloved Son. John recognizes one God in three Persons. At the Jordan the Trinity is manifested for the first time. The Church describes this manifestation to us through the icon and the troparion of the feast of the Epiphany (or Theophany)…
# DECEMBER 2013

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<td>Κυρ. 14η Λουκα</td>
<td>Κυρ. 10η Λουκα</td>
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<td>Αγ. Νικόλαος του Θαυματουργού</td>
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<tr>
<td>10th Sunday of Luke</td>
<td>Conception of St. Anna Orthros &amp; Lit.</td>
<td>Parish Council</td>
<td>Great Vespers of St. Spyridon @ Newport, RI 7 pm</td>
<td>St. Spyridon the Wonder-worker Orthros &amp; Lit.</td>
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<td>Great Vespers 6 pm</td>
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<td>Κυρ. 10η Λουκα</td>
<td>Η Συλληψις της Αγίας Άννης</td>
<td>6:30 pm</td>
<td>Μεγ. Εσπερινός Αγ. Σπυρίδωνος στο Νουπορτ, Ροντ Αιλαντ</td>
<td>Του Αγίου Σπυρίδωνος του Θαυματουργού</td>
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<td>11th Sunday of Luke</td>
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<td>OPA! Outing</td>
<td>Small Vespers 7 pm followed by Adult Relig. Educ.</td>
<td>Fr. Anthony away on pilgrimage through 12/20</td>
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<td>Greek School Christmas Program/Party 11:30 am to 1:00 pm</td>
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<td>Κυρ. 11η Λουκα</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday Before The Nativity</td>
<td>Nativity Eve Great Hours of the Nativity 10 am Vesperal Div. Liturgy-5 pm (Holy Communion)</td>
<td>Holy Nativity of Our Lord in the Flesh Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10 am</td>
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<td>Fr. Anthony on vacation through 12/31 (no fasting through 1/4)</td>
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<td>No Vespers</td>
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<td>Κυρ. Προ της Γεννήσεως</td>
<td>Great Hours of the Nativity 10 am</td>
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<td>Sunday School Pageant</td>
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<td>Please see your illustrated Archdiocesan calendar for daily Scripture readings and fasting guidelines.</td>
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<td>Κυρ. Μετά την Γεννήσιν</td>
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Please see your illustrated Archdiocesan calendar for daily Scripture readings and fasting guidelines.
(as well as bulletin entry re: Nativity fast)
## JANUARY 2014

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<tr>
<td>Please see your illustrated Archdiocesan calendar for daily Scripture readings and fasting guidelines. (There is no fasting through 1/4.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 Circumcision of Our Lord &amp; Feast of St. Basil the Great Orthros &amp; Lit. Περιτοµη του Κυριου και Μνηµη Αγιου</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3 The Great Hours of Theophany 10 am Αι Μεγ. Ωραι Θεοφανειαν</td>
<td>4 Great Vespers 6 pm</td>
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<td>5 Sunday before Holy Theophany 1st Blessing of Water Πρωτος Αγιασµος</td>
<td>6 Holy Theophany Great Blessing of Water Ορθρος 8:45 am, Div. Lit. 10:00 am Τα Άγια Θεοφανεια Μεγας Αγιασµος</td>
<td>7 Synaxis of St. John the Forerunner Orthros &amp; Lit. Η Συναξις του Τιµιου Προδροµου και Βαπτιστου Ιωαννου</td>
<td>8 No services or class</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11 Great Vespers 6 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Sunday After Theophany Κυρ. Μετα τα Φωτα</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15 Small Vespers 7 pm followed by Adult Relig. Educ.</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17 St. Anthony the Great Orthros &amp; Lit. Του Αγιου Αντωνιου Gr. Vespers @ Arlington-7 pm</td>
<td>18 Great Vespers 6 pm</td>
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<td>19 12th Sunday of Luke Κυρ. 12η Λουκα</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>22 Small Vespers 7 pm followed by Adult Relig. Educ.</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24 Great Vespers of St. Gregory the Theologian @ Mansfield 7 pm</td>
<td>25 Great Vespers 6 pm</td>
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<td>26 15th Sunday of Luke Κυρ. 15η Λουκα</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29 Gr. Vespers of the Three Hierarchs 7 pm followed by Adult Relig. Educ.</td>
<td>30 The Three Great Hierarchs Orthros &amp; Lit. Των Τριων Ιεραρχων</td>
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ΙΕΡΕΣ ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΕΣ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΘΕΟΦΑΝΕΙΩΝ

Τρίτη, 24/12: Αι Μεγαλαι Ωραι Χριστουγεννων – 10:00 πμ
Μεγας Εσπερινος Χριστουγεννων με Θεια Λειτουργια – 5 μμ
(Θεια Κοινωνια)

Τεταρτη, 25/12: Η Κατα Σαρκα Γεννησις του Κυριου Ημων Ιησου Χριστου
Ορθρος – 8:45 πμ, Θεια Λειτουργια – 10:00 πμ
(ανευ νηστεια μεχρι της 4/1 – καταλυσις εις παντα καθηµερινως)

Τεταρτη, 1/1: Περιτοµη του Κυριου και Μνηµη του Αγιου Βασιλειου
Ορθρος – 9:00 πμ, Θεια Λειτουργια – 10:00 πμ
(ανευ νηστεια οινου και ελαιου)

Παρασκευη, 3/1: Αι Μεγαλαι Ωραι Θεοφανειων – 10:00 πμ

Κυριακη, 5/1: Κυριακη Προ των Φωτων & Πρωτος Αγιασµος
Ορθρος – 8:45 πμ, Θεια Λειτουργια – 10:00 πμ
(νηστεια – καταλυσις οινου και ελαιου)

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

Τριτη, 7/1: Η Συναξις του Τιµιου Προδροµου και Βαπτιστου Ιωαννου
Ορθρος 9:00 πμ, Θεια Λειτουργια 10:00 πμ

ΙΕΡΑ ΕΞΟΜΟΛΟΓΗΣΗΣ

• Καθε Σαββατο µετα απο τον Εσπερινο
• Ωρες γραφειου µε ραντεβου

ΚΑΛΑ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΑ ΚΑΙ ΚΑΛΗ ΧΡΟΝΙΑ
Εθνικό Ιερό Προσκύνημα θα είναι ο Ναός του Αγίου Νικολάου στο Ground Zero του Διεθνούς Εμπορικού Κέντρου

NEA YORKH – Η γενική συνέλευση των μελών του Ιερού Ναού του Αγίου Νικολάου του Ground Zero, η οποία συνεδρίασε την Κυριακή 10 Νοεμβρίου 2013, αποφάσισε ομόφωνα την ανακήρυξη της κοινότητος του Αγίου Νικολάου ως Εθνικό Ιερό Προσκύνημα του Αγίου Νικολάου το οποίο θα αποτελεί ιδρυμα της Ιεράς Αρχιεπισκοπής Αμερικής. Η ιστορική αυτή απόφαση ελήφθη υπό την ηγεσία της Εκκλησιαστικής Επιτροπής κ. Δημήτριου και με την αμέριστη υποστήριξη του ιερέα της κοινότητος πατρός Ιωάννη Ρώμα αλλά και του Διοικητικού Συμβουλίου της κοινότητος.

Η αλλαγή αυτή του χαρακτήρα του Ναού του Αγίου Νικολάου, ο οποίος ήταν ο μόνος χώρος λατρείας που κατεστράφη από τις τρομοκρατικές επιθέσεις της 11ης Σεπτεμβρίου 2001, είναι μεγάλης σημασίας για την κοινότητα, στο άμεσο αλλά και στο απώτερο μέλλον.

Η ομόφωνη απόφαση προβλέπει ότι η ενορία, η οποία ήτο έως τώρα γνωστή ως Ελληνορθόδοξο Ιερός Ναός του Αγίου Νικολάου στο Ground Zero θα γίνει Εθνικό Ιερό Προσκύνημα της Ιεράς Αρχιεπισκοπής Αμερικής, ενώ παράλληλα θα διατηρήσει και την ιδιότητα και λειτουργία της ως ενορία της Αρχιεπισκοπής Αμερικής.

Η Ιερά Αρχιεπισκοπή και η ενορία του Αγίου Νικολάου θεώρησαν ότι το επόμενο λογικό βήμα ήταν η ανακήρυξη της ιστορικής αυτής κοινότητος του Μανχάταν ως Εθνικό Ιερό Προσκύνημα, καθώς η περιοχή του ναού, όπως είπε ο Σεβασμιώτατος Αρχιεπίσκοπος κ. Δημήτριος, θα αποτελεί πανεθνικό εγχείρημα με ευθύνη και οικονομικό κόστος αναλόγου μεγέθους. Ο Σεβασμιώτατος είπε χαρακτηριστικά:

«Αυτός ο ναός δεν θα είναι απλώς ιερό προσκύνημα εθνικής εμβέλειας αλλά διεθνούς εμβέλειας. Θα είναι σύμβολο της θέλησης των ανθρώπων για ανοικοδόμηση και ανάσταση από τις στάχτες της 11ης Σεπτεμβρίου. Ο ναός θα αποτελεί ένα καταφύγιο για να τα αγαπημένα πρόσωπα που χάθηκαν την 11η Σεπτεμβρίου, ένα Ελληνορθόδοξο Ιερό Προσκύνημα σε χώρο εξαγιασμένο και ιερό». Τα μέλη της ενορίας εξέφρασαν την μεγάλη ικανοποίησή τους και την ανακούφισή τους για τις εξελίξεις και για την εξαγιαστική ηγεσία του Αρχιεπισκόπου Δημήτριου που οδηγεί στην ανοικοδόμηση του ναού, η οποία αναμένεται να ολοκληρωθεί το 2014.
A Note of Thanks

We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to John Karolemeas for his dedicated service as Parish Council President this past year. Through his leadership, our Parish Council had another productive year serving the needs of our parish.

In addition, we would like to thank all of our outgoing council members for their dedication and hard work during their terms. Their dedicated work on our parish’s various committees produced much fruit.

Our parish looks forward to welcoming the new council members who will soon be voted into the open positions.

May God bless all of these dedicated servants of the Lord who serve His Holy Church!

2013 Calendar of Events

Parish Council Elections          Sun, Dec. 8
Parish Council Oath of Office, Election of Officers  Sun, Dec. 22

Final Parish Council Meeting
For 2013
December 10

PARISHIONERS CAN NOW MAKE DONATIONS USING OUR WEBSITE!

Our Online Bill Pay option works like this:

- Go to our church website at http://www.annunciationbrookton.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 call the Church Office for assistance.
**SACRAMENTS & DONATIONS**

**BAPTISMS**
- 10/27 – Georgios, son of Emmanuel & Crystal Lambrakis; sponsors, John & Lorina Binieris
- 11/3 – John (Taggart) Whowell, son of Frederick & Sarah Whowell; sponsor, Kathryn Goodine
- 11/10 – Sotirios (Matthew), son of Scott & Vicky Dutkiewicz; sponsor, John Badavas
- 11/24 – Dimitrios Petros, son of Peter & Irene Anastasiou; sponsors, Kleomanis & Ourania Makkas

**WEDDINGS**
- 11/9 – Kevin Howard & Caitlin Hasouris; sponsor, Sarah Aponte

**FUNERALS**
- 11/1 – John Fotopoulos (Jacksonville, FL)
- 11/2 – Erifili Tsitsos
- 11/8 – George Capernaros
- 11/22 – Evripidis Dalkouras

**DONATIONS**
- Decoration of Icon of the Nativity of Christ – Anonymous
- Decoration of Icon of Holy Theophany – Gigi Tsaganis
- Holy Water Bottles for Theophany – IMO John Nasios by his family
  - Peter Panagopoulos, $50

**MEMORIAL DONATIONS**
- In memory of Victoria Hatsiopoulos, $140
- In memory of Soultana Kotsiopoulos, $1,290
  - In memory of Erifili Tsitsos, $685
  - In memory of George Capernaros, $235
  - In memory of John Nasios, $45
- George Theodossiou, $100, in memory of Anastasia Theodossiou
- George Panagoulopoulos, $200, in memory of Stavroula Panagoulopoulos & Victoria Hatsiopoulos
- PanMacedonian Ladies Society, $50, in memory of Soultana Kotsiopoulos & Victoria Hatsiopoulos

**ROOF DONATIONS**
- Linda Sakelaris, $100
- Evangeline Liapis, $50
- Stavroula Cariofiles, $100
- Vanessa Sharkey, $100
- Bertha & Merri Weinberg, $100
- George Theodossiou, $100
- Mrs. Eugenia Georges, $100
- Mr. & Mrs. Charles Efremidis, $100
- Louise Joseph, $100
- Mr. Nick Anastos, $100
- Joseph & Nancy Krowski, $300
- Tom Korbas, $100, in memory of Effie Korbas
- In loving memory of Nicholas J. Antoniou, $100, by his family
- Nick & Laurie Giannaros, $500, in memory of Erifili Tsitsos
COMMUNITY NEWS

Technology (IT) News
Weekly Newsletter
To receive our eNewsletter, you will need to subscribe to our Parish Listserv, which is easy to do! Type the following link into your internet browser and hit enter:
http://www.goarch.org/listssubscribe?l=BROCKTON
You will then be prompted to enter your First Name, Last Name, and your email address. If you prefer, you can send an email to helpdesk@annunciationbrockton.org along with your first and last name, and request to be added.

Monthly Bulletin
If you haven’t heard, we can provide you with immediate access to our Parish Monthly Bulletin before it goes out in the mail. We can save on the cost of printing if you decide that receiving the bulletin through email works for you. Just send an email back to us and request to be taken off of the bulletin mailing list.

STEWARSHIP
Christian Stewardship is all about becoming good caretakers of all that God has given us. Think about all that God has given us—our health, our families, our opportunities in life, our intelligence and our talents. God has given each of us a special and unique gift, and through Holy Scripture He teaches us all that we have is a loan. He lends everything to us, and reminds us that one day He will ask us to give a detailed accounting of what we have done with the gifts He has given us.

How have we used our time, our talents, and our treasure?
The Stewardship Committee of our Church invites all Parishioners to join our growing number of Stewards. The Sunday School Stewardship program has been very successful. The children are giving of their time, talent, and treasure, becoming true Stewards of our Holy Church. Now we invite all adults of our community to follow their lead by helping in any way that your time will allow.

Please review our list of committees and see which would fit your area of time and talents.

With Christ,
The Stewardship Committee

- Parish Council
- Long-Term Planning
- GOYA
- Chanter
- Landscaping
- OPA! Senior Group
- Greek School
- Food Festival
- HOPE + JOY
- Choir
- Dance Group
- Stewardship
- Sunday School
- 100 Year Anniversary
- Philoptochos
- Junior Choir
- IT
- Carpentry
- Finance
- Bookstore
- Kitchen Help
- Playground
- Community Outreach
- House & Grounds

Please mail your name and phone number to the Church along with the group that you would like to serve on.
Congratulations

Eleni Stamboulides, 1st Vice President of our own Ladies Philoptochos, was recently elected to the Metropolis Philoptochos Board as 2nd Vice President.

PHILOPTOCHOS

KOLIVA
If you are planning a memorial service and would like to order koliva, please call the Church office at 508-559-0910 at least one week in advance of the memorial service. 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 contact Tina Boutas at 508-588-8891 or call the Church office at 508-559-0910.

SHUT-IN VISITATIONS
Anyone who would like a visit from the Ladies Philoptochos, please contact the Church office at 508-559-0910.

MEMBERSHIP
Please remember to send in your Philoptochos membership ($25.00) for 2013.
Thank you!

The Kotsiopoulos family would like to thank all those who donated generously in memory of their departed mother Soultana, with special thanks to the Ladies Philoptochos for sponsoring her memorial koliva and coffee hour.

Interested in becoming a member of the Annunciation Ladies Philoptochos?

We’d love to have you! Please come to an event or meeting and join us! All ladies are welcome. For more information, contact the Church Office.
Housewarming Baskets for Homeless Veterans

The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Boston is undertaking a mission to assist homeless veterans who transition to independent living in coordination with the Department of Veterans Affairs, New England Healthcare System.

The items listed below represent the homeless veteran’s needs list as identified by the homeless veterans in order to establish their home in the community. Please provide any of the listed items in the available bin below.

NOTE: Monetary contributions or gift cards in lieu of the listed items are also welcome. The funds will be used by the Metropolis to purchase the items listed for the veterans. Please make checks payable to: Metropolis Philoptochos of Boston

HOMELESS VETERANS WISH LIST – ALL NEW- NO USED ITEMS PLEASE

The High Priority Items listed below complete one housewarming basket

- □ Broom/Dustpan
- □ Bucket
- □ Shower curtain
- □ Dishpan
- □ Dish Cloth/Towel
- □ Flashlight/Batteries
- □ Dish soap
- □ Bar soap (pkg of 4)
- □ Toilet paper (pkg of 4)
- □ Bath towel/wash cloths (2 to start)
- □ Small bathroom trash container

- □ Mop
- □ Toilet brush & holder
- □ Shower rings
- □ Dish rack/tray
- □ Cleaning sponge
- □ All-purpose cleaner
- □ Toothpaste
- □ Liquid hand soap
- □ Paper towels (pkg of 4)
- □ Trash container/bags
- □ Laundry detergent

If you have any questions, or would like more information, please call Eleni Stamboulidis at 508-807-1828. Thank you!
Other Items Needed
Please select from the list below

☐ 1 Inflatable Bed with air pump (Twin)
☐ 1 Twin Size Bed Pillow
☐ 2 Bed Blankets (Twin)
☐ Set of Bath Towels
☐ 1 Cloth (outside) Shower Mat
☐ 1 Set of Silverware (for 4)
☐ 1 Set of Cooking Utensils
☐ Coffee Maker
☐ 1 Set of Twin Size Bed Sheets
☐ 1 Set of Full Size Bed Sheets
☐ 2 Sets of Plastic Dishware & Cups
☐ 1 Set of Silverware (for 4)
☐ Laundry Detergent
☐ Paper Towels

☐ Electric Fan
☐ 1 Set Bed Sheets (Twin)
☐ 1 Twin Size Bed Cover
☐ 1 Non-Slip (inside) Shower Mat
☐ 1 Electric Toaster Oven
☐ 1 Cooking Utensils Container
☐ 1 Set of Pots & Pans
☐ 2 Sets Plastic Dishware & Cups
☐ Manual Can Opener
☐ All purpose cleaner
☐ Sponges

Thank you for your support and generosity

Metropolis Philoptochos of Boston

If you have any questions, or would like more information, please call Eleni Stamboulidis at 508-807-1828. Thank you!
Philoptochos Christmas Party
Please join us for a celebration of the holiday season.
Where? Christo's Restaurant
When? December 3, 2013 6:00 p.m.
R.S.V.P. Lori Stasiewski (774) 240-2867
Penny Kazis (508) 586-7145
by November 30. $30.00 per person
Please choose from the following:
Baked Lamb Greek Style, Roast Rump of Beef au jus, Southern Fried Boneless Breast of Chicken, or Fresh Broiled Schrod
Instead of gift exchange please donate an item for the Housewarming Baskets to help our veterans.
Members and friends are invited.
Gifts for Christmas!
Many items under $20

The Silent Wayseries
About Passions & Stillness

Borrow it!

Sometimes life doesn’t go your way. Things are bothering Peter and he’s angry with everyone. Eleni’s feelings are hurt and it has made her so frustrated! But Papou has a few things to say that helps each of them cope.

Nicholas likes to chatter but angels taught him to sing the Trisagion Hymn. Colorful watercolor illustrations tell this Byzantine story from the 5th century.

Diptych, 2-side and 3-side, wood with gold paint.

Fabulous gift!

Feel restless in church? You are not alone as this new book suggests. There are reasons for coming to worship, reasons why people are not engaged and suggestions on how we can change.

Also in ebook.

We have incense & charcoal

We offer Gift Certificates

Easy Nativity Scene
Figures pull out, illustrated on both sides, to stand up and make a puzzle. 20 images, including stable and animals. Ages 3 and up.

Birth of Jesus story cube for ages 3-6. Colorful pictures that can be folded and unfolded, again and again.

13 Very Cool Stories
And Why Jesus Told Them

Stories of a lost son, a rich fool, unhappy workers, and a good citizen illustrate classic truths for ages 7-10.

The Hidden Garden: A story of the heart
In every heart is a hidden garden. We can let weeds overtake the blooms, or with the help of Christ, we can make it a beautiful place. Charming parable for children or adults.

Doing chores and praying... Lovely illustrated story shows preschool children there is always a time for prayer.

Our Bookstore is open to you.
Please visit our collection, to borrow or purchase. If we are not present, don’t hesitate to email us:
annunciation.bookstore@gmail.com.
Or leave a message at the office, 508-559-0910.
Sunday School Stewardship Program

Our Sunday School has been blessed with such a wonderful response of Time, Talent, and Treasure that our children have given us. We look forward to their continued growth in God’s love and as the future caretakers of our Holy Church. These are the “good deeds” the Sunday School children have shared. We are so proud!

A Treasure Chest of Good Deeds

All of the Treasures (monetary donations) given by our children will be donated to IOCC, the International Orthodox Christian Charities.
YOUTH NEWS

Greetings from the AGOC GOYA!
We would like to thank everyone for your support of our program and hope to keep helping the church and community in any way that we can! Our Harvest Party was a success! Thank you to all who attended - we had a great night! Thank you to everyone who donated food items for our Harvest Party. Also, thanks to everyone who attended the party & donated to our food basket program!

Upcoming GOYA meetings/events
Sunday, December 8th - Meeting
We are planning an Ice Skating trip for December. Date and time to be announced.

Sunday, January 12th - Meeting
We are now accepting completed applications for the GOYA Scholarship. Applications can be picked up at the Church Office. We need to receive the application no later than January 31st. A copy of your 1st semester college transcript is required.

Please keep a lookout for upcoming GOYA events and fundraisers. We hope to see everybody there!

Thank you and God bless!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday school has started to collect toys for needy local children. If you are interested in participating, please bring a new unwrapped toy. The receptacle is in the Sunday school hallway, across from the Kindergarten classroom.

December
1 Family Worship/Thanksgiving break
8 Regular Classes / Toy drive ends
15 Regular Classes
22 Christmas Pageant/ Children down to prepare for the pageant
29 Family Worship/Christmas Break

January classes
5
12
19
26

Registration for new students or changes to current students can be made by contacting Dina Coon at 781-871-5343 or by email: coon005@aol.com

GOYA Bottle & Can Brigade

If you have bottles and cans with a 5¢ deposit and are looking to get rid of them, have no fear - the GOYA is here to collect them! We will use the proceeds to help toward our activities and fund raising efforts. Please see a GOYAN and we can either try to make arrangements to do a pick-up at your home/business, or we can set a date/time for you to drop the bottles/cans off at church. Of course, we’ll need them properly boxed or bagged!

JOY & HOPE’s monthly meetings are open to anyone in the church ages 12 and under. We hope to see a strong showing of our church’s youngest members at this year’s events. We ask that you please RSVP if you plan to attend an event to ensure we have enough supplies and attendees.

Fall/Early Winter Schedule
Sunday, December 8 – Wreath Sale
Friday, December 20, 6:00pm – Christmas Celebration
  Please join us for our annual Christmas celebration.
  Santa Claus may make a guest appearance again this year!
  Pizza and cake will be served.

Coats for Kids Drive
We will also be collecting gently used coats for the Coats for Kids program again from now through December. They accept all winter coats – kids, adults and babies – that are warm winter coats in good, wearable condition. Please donate coats you would give a friend to wear. Do not donate coats that have rips/tears, broken zippers and/or permanent stains and please be sure to empty out all pockets. Please bring any coats you would like to donate and place them in the collection box in the lounge area.

We are also looking to add an advisor or two to help plan and organize events. If you are interested in becoming an advisor, or to RSVP to an upcoming event, please email irena.mroz@verizon.net or paulatsitsop@comcast.net
Our dancers have been working hard since the start of new ecclesiastical year, learning new dances and perfecting old ones. We have welcomed several new dancers to the group in recent weeks, and we continue to invite families who are interested to stop by a practice anytime and check us out! There is no fee for instruction – we ask only for a one-time donation per dancer of $65 to assist in our purchase and maintenance of costumes and accessories, and for each family to commit to assist with food preparation for the group once or twice per year.

Our upcoming practices are on Sundays following Divine Liturgy on the following dates:

DECEMBER 8th & 15th
JANUARY 12th, 19th, & 26th

NOTE: on practice dates that coincide with GOYA meetings, dancers attend the GOYA meeting first then come to practice afterward!

COME SUPPORT OUR DANCERS! Paradosi has been invited once again to perform for the residents of the Hellenic Nursing Home, on Sunday, December 15 at 3:00 PM.
Get Together!

CELEBRATED BROCKTON HIGH SCHOOL HOLIDAY CONCERT TO BE HELD DECEMBER 17th & 18th

★

The festive holiday concert features the acclaimed Brockton High School Concert and Jazz Bands and features the award-winning Advanced Concert and Concert Choruses. Tickets are now on sale!

★

Music lovers from across the region will be treated to a toe-tapping variety of festive tunes at the annual Brockton High School Holiday Concert, which will be held December 17th and 18th in the school’s Edwin Nelson Auditorium. Considered one of the best holiday traditions of the South Shore, the concert features a bevy of bands and choruses that present concertgoers with a wide selection of holiday favorites. Proceeds from the concerts will benefit the BHS Music Program and the Children’s Advocacy Center.

★

OPA will be going on Tuesday, December 17th & meet at the door at 7:00 pm. For those that would like to join us, we will be meeting at Bertucci’s at 5:00 pm (on Belmont Street) for dinner prior to the concert.

★

★★

Please contact Pegi at 508-857-9551 to RSVP & reserve your seats.
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
BabaniKas, Ziedman & King, P.C.
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Brockton, MA 02301-4432
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