APRIL 2014

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The Resurrection

The deadline for the May bulletin is April 10th!
### PARISH COUNCIL

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- Theodoros Ntakoulas, *Vice President—House & Grounds*
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**Sunday School**
- Tina Boutas
- Dina Coon
- Rhoda Economos

**Greek School**
- Tina Boutas
- Konstantinia Goudanias

**GOYA**
- Jon Buterbaugh

**Jr. GOYA**
- Suzanne Barra

**JOY & HOPE**
- Irena Mroz
- Paula Tsitsopoulous

**Adult Greek Classes**
- Arthur Krikis

**OPA! Group**
- Pegi Ciulla

**Koliva**
- Ladies Philoptochos

**Coffee Hour**
- Tina Boutas

**Shut-In Visitations**
- Ladies Philoptochos

**Basketball**
- Stephen Passias

**Dance Group**
- Jon & Penny Buterbaugh

**Junior Choir**
- Corrine & Heidi Mason

**Oratorical Festival**
- Rhoda Economos

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

**Webmaster**
- George Theodosiou

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**EMAILS**

Father Anthony: priest@annunciationbrockton.org

Demetra Orfanos, Office Mgr: office@annunciationbrockton.org
I would like to offer an account of a miraculous event that occurs each year in Jerusalem, which is largely unknown to the majority of Christians, including Orthodox Christians. In fact, many have referred to it as the “greatest of all Christian miracles.” This miracle is known as the Holy Light (usually translated as the Holy Fire), which occurs in the tomb of Christ at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem, during the celebration of Orthodox Pascha.

Each year in the afternoon of Orthodox Holy Saturday, the Patriarch of Jerusalem enters the tomb of Christ, a marble structure which sits under the large dome of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. All vigil lamps and burning candles within the tomb and throughout the church have been extinguished. After offering a lengthy prayer, the main vigil lamp in the tomb is miraculously lit from a mysterious light which appears within the chamber. Then the Patriarch exits the tomb and distributes the flame to the anxiously awaiting faithful throughout the church.

This Holy Fire is understood as the light of the resurrected Christ, which is very central in the Orthodox celebration of Holy Pascha. As we know, this ritual is reenacted (less the miracle), in every Orthodox church at midnight of the Sunday of Pascha. The church is completely darkened and all vigil lamps are extinguished. The priest then exits through the previously closed altar doors and distributes the light of the Resurrection to the faithful. Even though the flame offered in Orthodox churches is not the Holy Fire of Jerusalem, we nonetheless are clearly reminded of the Resurrection of our Lord, thus rekindling our faith each year.

Getting back to the miracle of the Holy Fire, unfortunately, there will always be those who doubt the various miracles and signs so prevalent in Orthodox Christianity, perhaps because of a serious lack of faith. In order to appease the skeptics, the Patriarchate of Jerusalem allows a thorough search of both the tomb of Christ and the Patriarch himself, for matches, lighters, etc. prior to the ritual taking place. These searches are conducted by Muslim guards and by a city official, along with the Israeli chief of police of Jerusalem. These persons are obviously completely unbiased regarding the entire event. After the search of the tomb, the doors are closed and tied together with a white ribbon, over which is placed a seal of pure beeswax. Just prior to entering the tomb for the ritual of the light, the public search of the Patriarch takes place.

After the Patriarch enters and the doors are again closed, he proceeds into the inner chamber of the Holy Sepulcher – the actual tomb of Christ. As he recites a lengthy prayer, many of the faithful witness various amazing things taking place outside of the tomb. Some see a bluish light moving wildly around the large dome of the church, which then directly hits the dome of the Holy Sepulcher below. This light many times branches off and literally jumps toward and lights various vigil lamps around the church complex, as well as the candles of some of the expectant faithful. Probably the most mysterious aspect of this event, is the fact that the flame presented by the Patriarch to the faithful does not possess the normal properties of fire; in other words, it neither produces burning heat nor consumes anything it touches. This phenomenon apparently lasts for several minutes after the Holy Fire’s appearance.

Certainly, there are many who will assume that all this is some type of clever hoax. Others will be truly amazed and spiritually uplifted in knowing this miracle takes place each year. I, personally, have visited the Holy Land (not during Pascha), and heard multiple accounts of this miracle. I have spoken both with clergy and laymen from America who have witnessed this miracle in person. The Orthodox Church can only explain this annual event as a very real sign from God which confirms the greatest event that has occurred in the history of mankind – the true death and resurrection of God Himself in the person of His Son Jesus Christ. May the reader open his/her heart to what this miraculous event is clearly revealing to us.

I would like to wish each one of you a most blessed Holy Week and Holy Pascha. May each one of us be spiritually renewed by the Holy Light of the Resurrection of our Lord this Holy Pascha.

In the Crucified and Risen Christ,

+Fr. Anthony
GREAT LENT CONTINUES

The spiritually beautiful and uplifting journey to Holy Pascha continues through Holy Week, which begins on Palm Sunday, 4/13. This season of joyful sorrow is replete with church services, to be complemented by each person’s own prayer life, fasting, repentance, and good works. Please refer to the April calendar for the listing of services, which are offered for the spiritual benefit of all. In addition, please note that due to the vast amount of services during Holy Week, a special schedule will be mailed separately.

Again, we offer the following lenten fasting guidelines for everyone’s spiritual benefit…

Fasting Guidelines of Great Lent & Holy Week

- **Weekdays of Lent**: Strict fast from all animal products (including fish), all alcoholic beverages, and olive oil (vegetable oil may be substituted if desired).
  **Exception**: Fish, wine and olive oil are permitted on Palm Sunday, 4/13.

- **Weekends of Lent**: Wine (all alcoholic beverages) and olive oil are permitted. **Exception**: Holy Saturday is a strict fast day.

- **Holy Week (Holy Monday-Holy Saturday)**: Same as weekdays of Lent, as stated above.

Note: Throughout the Fast, shellfish is permitted daily.

If we’re not able to fully follow the fast as prescribed by the Church, there are always alternative approaches. Please consult with your spiritual father for guidance.

PREPARING FOR PRESANCTIFIED LITURGIES

Because of the heightened spiritual focus during Great Lent, many of the faithful choose to receive Holy Communion at the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts. For those who plan on receiving at the Wednesday evening liturgies, it is permissible to have breakfast and a light noontime meal, and then fast from all food and drink until the liturgy. For growing children, it may be necessary to offer a lenten snack after school to hold them (nuts, peanut butter, fruit, etc.). The Church allows this through compassion for those who work or study during the week. Needless to say, whether one is fasting strictly or not during Lent, any meals taken on the day one will commune at a Presanctified Liturgy should be strictly lenten. For more detailed information on the Lenten fast, please see the specific bulletin entry in this edition.

MEETINGS & EVENTS DURING LENT

For planning purposes, we would like to again offer the following reminder regarding the remaining weeks of Great Lent. Meetings and activities may only take place on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, due to the regularly scheduled Lenten services each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday of the Fast. Obviously, it goes without saying that there can be no meetings of any kind during Holy Week.

LENTEN REFLECTIONS

While doing Wednesday Small Vespers a few months ago, I came across the following two hymns which are very lenten in nature. I wanted to share them as we all work toward repentance and confession, during this holy season of the Fast…

I alone am caught in sin above all children of Adam; I alone, the miserable, have committed wicked deeds all unspeakable, wholly unbearable to be heard or uttered; but I pray thee, pure one, pardon me; Lady, forgive me all, granting me repentance before the end, and grant confession unto me. Grant me heartfelt groaning and steams of tears, that ever afflicting my heart, I thus might cry out: I have sinned, O I have sinned; be compassionate, save me in thy sympathy.

I have promised ten thousand times to repent of my wicked deeds, yet my wretched habit of sin doth hinder me. O all-immaculate Lady, for this cause, I cry out to thee, falling down before thee now, and entreating thee earnestly: Do thou now thyself pluck me out of this tyranny and guide me unto better things, possessing hope of salvation, O Bride of God.

CONFESSION SCHEDULE – LENT & HOLY WEEK

Fr. Anthony will be available for confessions as follows:

- **During Lent, after each weekday evening service, except Wednesday Presanctified Liturgies.**
- **After Saturday evening Vespers (year-round).**
- **During office hours by appointment (year-round).**
- **During Holy Week, after each evening service up to Great Thursday.**
FROM THE HOLY FATHERS

Sinful habits and passions do not give way to healing without confession. Without confession, every healing will be incomplete and insufficient; but with confession, the sins will be uprooted in due order. It is always necessary to pay special attention to confession – to always prepare for it carefully, and sincerely confess all of your sins.

The most serious battles are with thoughts of lust and despair. One must humble himself. Humility attracts the help of God. The corrupting effect of lustful thoughts comes from enjoying them, and as a result, divine grace withdraws for a long time. One can attract it back again, only through sincere repentance and the rejection of these thoughts.

(St. Nicon, +1931)

Do not be surprised that thoughts arise during the time of services: when you take up arms – i.e., prayer – against the enemies, then they arm themselves against you more forcefully with provocative thoughts. Flee to the Lord with prayer against them and do not become confused – they will vanish. When you become confused, seeing that they (the thoughts) do not leave you, they (the demons) arm themselves even more against you; but when you chant unto God with humility, then you will be at peace.

(St. Macarius, +1860)

2014 FLORAL NEEDS

Again this year, we would like to solicit donations for the decoration of the icons for all major feast days of Christ and the Theotokos. This is a blessed way to participate in these major feasts of the Church for the health and well-being of your families, or in blessed memory of a loved one.

Please note that the cost of decorating an icon is $60. To sponsor the decoration of one or more of these festal icons, please contact the office manager, Demetra Orfanos, directly during the week between 9am-3pm. This cannot be handled on Sundays since the office manager alone will be overseeing these donations. Following is the list of remaining icons for the year, as well as items needed for Great Lent, Holy Week, and Pascha:

--- Feasts of Christ & the Theotokos ---

5/29 – Ascension
6/8 – Pentecost
8/6 – Transfiguration
11/21 – Entrance of the Theotokos

--- Great Lent, Holy Week, & Pascha ---

Palm strips for palm crosses – $130
Palm arrangements for Royal Gate – $45 each
Palm arrangements for Soleas – $55 each
Bay laurel leaves for Palm Sunday & Holy Saturday – $130
Icon of Nymphios – $90
Icon of Mystical Supper – $25

We thank all our donors in advance, and ask God’s blessings upon them. Please note that as usual, donors will be acknowledged in the bulletin at the appropriate time.

MYRRHBEARERS FOR HOLY FRIDAY

Again this year, we are asking girls to participate as Myrrh-bearers on Holy Friday. We will use Myrrh-bearers both at the 3 pm burial service, and at the lamentation service at 7 pm. For any girls who are interested, we ask that a parent please contact the church office as soon as possible. For those girls who are very young, parents may want to consider having them only participate in the 3 pm Vespers service. This service is shorter than the evening service, and is conducted entirely inside the church. In all cases, girls must be old enough to follow directions and be well-behaved.

BLESSING OF FOOD BASKETS ON PASCHA

As many of you know, there is a pan-Orthodox tradition of blessing baskets with the various foods with which we will break the fast after the Resurrection. This traditionally is done after the liturgy of Holy Pascha. If you wish to bring a basket to the Resurrection at midnight, please place it in on the steps of the soleas. The baskets will be blessed along with the red eggs after the liturgy. For those with children who might not be able to come at midnight, you may bring your basket to the Agape Vespers on the Sunday morning of Pascha to be blessed.
APRIL 2014

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Please see your illustrated Archdiocesan calendar for daily Scripture readings and fasting guidelines.

Also, please refer to the bulletin entry regarding Great Lent for further guidance on the Fast.

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Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt

Της Οσιας Μαριας της Αιγυπτιας

Boston Parade

Fr. Anthony on pilgrimage through 4/8
(no services)

(For Holy Week services, please refer to the program sent by mail or check the website.)

Palm Sunday Των Βαιων

Holy & Great Monday

Holy & Great Tuesday

Holy & Great Wednesday

Holy & Great Thursday

Holy & Great Friday

Holy & Great Saturday

HOLY PASCHA ΤΟ ΑΓΙΟΝ ΠΑΣΧΑ

Renewal Monday

Renewal Tuesday

Renewal Wednesday

Renewal Thursday

Renewal Friday

Renewal Saturday

Sunday of Thomas Του Θωµα (Αντιπασχα)

Small Vespers 7 pm followed by Adult Religious Education

9th Hour 5:15 pm, Presanctified Lit. 5:30 pm followed by Lenten Supper

9th Hr. 9:45 am, Presanctified Liturgy 10 am

Akathist Hymn to theTheotokos 7 pm

9th Hour 9:45 am, Presanctified Liturgy 10 am

Parish Council 6 pm

GOYA Retreat & Lock-in

Saturday of Lazarus Orthros & Lit.

Του Λαζαρου

Great Vespers 6 pm

Των Βαιων

(Για τις ακολουθιες της Μεγαλης Εβδο−μας, βλεπετε το δελτιο που λαβ−βατε ταχυδροµικως.)

Του Αγ. Γεωργιου του Τροπαιοφορου

Της Ζωοδοχου Πηγης

ΤΟ ΑΓΙΟΝ ΠΑΣΧΑ

Renewal Monday

Renewal Tuesday

Renewal Wednesday

Renewal Thursday

Renewal Friday

Renewal Saturday

Great Vespers 6 pm

Small Vespers 7 pm followed by Adult Religious Education

Please see your illustrated Archdiocesan calendar for daily Scripture readings and fasting guidelines.

Also, please refer to the bulletin entry regarding Great Lent for further guidance on the Fast.
Αγία και Μεγάλη Τεσσαρακοστή

Εν ἐμοί, ο Θεός, πάσαν δεικνύς ἀγαθωσύνην (Ορθόδοξη της Κυριακής του Ἀσώτου)

Προσφυλείς Αδελφοί καὶ Ἀδελφές ἐν Χριστῷ,

Καθώς εἰσερχόμεθα στὴν περίοδο τῆς Ἀγίας καὶ Μεγάλης Τεσσαρακοστῆς, εἰσερχόμεθα μὲ μετάνοια καὶ προσευχῆ, σκέπτομεν τῇ σχέσει μας μὲ τὸν Θεὸ καὶ τὴν κατάστασιν τῆς ψυχῆς μας. Σκεφτοῦμε μιὰ ἐντατικὴ περίοδο λατρείας καὶ περιστολῆς, ἀναζητῶντας τὶς εὐλογίες καὶ τὴν χάρη τοῦ Δημιουργοῦ καὶ Λυτρωτοῦ μας. Αφιερώνουμε τὸν χρόνο μας, τὴν καρδιά μας καὶ τὸν νου μας σ’ ἕνα ταξίδι τὸ ὅπως θὰ δυναμώσῃ τὴν πίστη μας καὶ θὰ μᾶς ὀδηγήσῃ στὴν ἀφόσια καὶ αἰώνια ζωή.

Στὸ ταξίδι αὐτὸ οἱ προσευχὲς καὶ ἀκολουθίες τῆς Ἐκκλησίας μᾶς ὀδηγοῦν στὸ νὰ σκεφθοῦμε τοὺς ἀγώνιους καὶ τὶς πνευματικὲς προκλήσεις. Καλοῦμεθα στὴν βίωσιν τῆς αγίωτητος τῆς λατρείας καὶ αἰσθησικὴ τῆς παρουσίας τοῦ Θεοῦ, ὅστε νὰ μποροῦμε νὰ δούμε τὶς αὐξήσεις καὶ τὶς πτυχὲς ἐκείνες τῆς ζωῆς μας οὓς ὁ Θεός εἶναι ἀντιθέτες μὲ τὴν μνήμη καὶ τὴν λαμπρότητα τῆς σωματικῆς ζωῆς. Μεγαλείη Ἐβδομάδα

Καθὼς εἰσερχόμεθα στὴν περίοδο τῆς Ἁγίας καὶ Μεγάλης Τεσσαρακοστῆς, εἰσερχόμεθα μὲ μετάνοια καὶ προσευχή, σκέπτομεν τὴν σχέση μας μὲ τὸν Θεὸ καὶ τὴν κατάστασιν τῆς ψυχῆς μας. Σκεφτοῦμε μιὰ ἐντατικὴ περίοδο λατρείας καὶ περιστολῆς, ἀναζητῶντας τὶς εὐλογίες καὶ τὴν χάρη τοῦ Δημιουργοῦ καὶ Λυτρωτοῦ μας. Αφιερώνουμε τὸν χρόνο μας, τὴν καρδιά μας καὶ τὸν νου μας σ’ ἕνα ταξίδι τὸ ὅπως θὰ δυναμώσῃ τὴν πίστη μας καὶ θὰ μᾶς ὀδηγήσῃ στὴν ἀφόσια καὶ αἰώνια ζωή. Η Τεσσαρακοστὴ εἶναι ἐντατικὴ περίοδος ἀπογονήσεως, ἀπογόνωσι τῆς ἀγάπης καὶ ἡττας. Εἶναι περίοδος χάριτος.

Απὸ τὴν ἀρχή τοῦ Τριωδίου, μὲ τὴν Κυριακὴ τοῦ Τελώνου καὶ τοῦ Φαρισαίου, ἐχεῖ τὴν κυριώτητα τῆς, τὴν Μεγάλη Εβδομάδα, ἢ περίοδος αὐτὴ ἐπιβεβαιώνει τὴν μεγάλη αγάπη τοῦ Θεοῦ γιὰ μᾶς. Ὁι σωματικοὶ, ὦνοι καὶ προσευχὲς ὀδηγοῦν σύνεχους τὴν καρδιά καὶ τὴν διάνοια μᾶς στὴν συγχώρηση καὶ τὸ ἔλεος τοῦ Θεοῦ πρὸς ἡμᾶς. Ἐλπιδοῦμε τὴν καθημερινή τὴν αγάπη τοῦ Θεοῦ, ὡστε νὰ μποροῦμε νὰ δούμε τὶς αὐξήσεις καὶ τὶς πτυχὲς ἐκείνες τῆς ζωῆς μας οὓς ὁ Θεός εἶναι ἀντιθέτες μὲ τὴν μνήμη καὶ τὴν λαμπρότητα τῆς σωματικῆς ζωῆς. Μεγαλείη Ἐβδομάδα

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ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΕΞΟΜΟΛΟΓΗΣΕΩΣ

- Καθ’ ἀνωτέρω μετὰ τὸ Πολικείο
- Καθ’ Παρασκευῆ μετὰ τοὺς Χαιρετισμοὺς
- Καθ’ Σαββάτου μετὰ τὸν Ἐσπερινὸν (ἰσχύει ὁλοτὸ ἔτος)
- Ὁρες γραφείου με ραντεβού (ἰσχύει ὁλοτὸ ἔτος)

ΣΑΒΒΑΤΟ: Μεγάλη Εβδομάδα - 6:00 μ.μ.
ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΕΒΔΟΜΑΔΑ: Βλέπετε το εἰδικὸ δελτίο.
Message from the President

As we continue during this period of Great Lent in preparation to celebrate Holy Pascha please refer to your weekly and monthly bulletin for the listing of church services and also information on upcoming events.

On behalf of the Parish Council I wish to thank the donors for their generosity and support for our Annual Lenten Luncheon enabling us to incur no expenses for the meal, our volunteer Sunday school teachers, Choir members, Philoptochos and all the other volunteers who oversee and serve on our parish ministry’s for their dedication, untiring effort and hard work. Also we congratulate all of the 2014 scholarship recipients and wish them success in their future endeavors.

Please mark and save the date on your calendar for Sunday, May 4th, for our Spring General Assembly. Come join us as we report on the 2013 financials and provide updates on recently completed and pending projects along with ideas for future events and projects to help benefit the needs of our church.

We continue our effort to reduce our loan with the Roof Replacement Fund. Thank you to the stewards who responded with their donations. We ask those who have not yet contributed to consider making a monetary donation at this time.

Sincerely,

George Alexis
Parish Council President

2014 Calendar of Events

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<td>Independence Day Parade</td>
<td>Sun, Apr. 6</td>
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<td>Spring General Assembly</td>
<td>Sun, May 4</td>
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<td>182 Hungry Friends Dinner</td>
<td>Thu, May 8</td>
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<td>Philoptochos Food Festival</td>
<td>Sat, May 17  &amp; Sun, May 18</td>
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<td>Sunday School Graduation</td>
<td>Sun, May 18</td>
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<td>Greek Musical Concert</td>
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<td>Greek School Graduation</td>
<td>Sun, Jun. 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Golf Tournament</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Food Festival</td>
<td>Thu, Sep. 18 through Sun, Sep. 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall General Assembly</td>
<td>Sun, Nov. 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parish Council Elections</td>
<td>Sun, Dec. 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parish Council Oath of Office &amp; Election of Officers</td>
<td>Sun, Dec. 21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2014 Parish Council Meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>July (no meeting)</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 9</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

PARISHIONERS CAN MAKE DONATIONS USING OUR WEBSITE!

Our Online Bill Pay option 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 call the Church Office for assistance.
**SACRAMENTS & DONATIONS**

**FUNERALS**
3/17—Petros Plessas  
3/22—Aristidis (Steve) Serevetas

**MEMORIAL DONATIONS**
Three Year Remembrance for Elias Papadopoulos, 
by Panagiota, Andrea, Maria, Steve & Kathy Papadopoulos, $300  
Fotis & Phyllis Pouliopoulos, $100, in memory of their parents  
Annette Reynolds & Claudine Richardson, $100, in memory of Dafni Adams  
Arthur Adamopoulos & Melissa Leonard, Paul & Melissa Adamopoulos,  
and Costa & Christina Efremidis, $100, in memory of Dafni Adams

**ROOF DONATIONS**
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Sedell, $10,000  
Dr. George Mitchell, $1,000  
Mr. & Mrs. George Costas, $400  
Mr. & Mrs. George Spyropoulos, $250, in memory of their parents

**FLORAL DONATIONS**
Mr. & Mrs. Athanasios Karaliolios, $50, 1st Salutation to the Theotokos,  
in loving memory of Stella Bokas  
Ms. Heidi Mason, $50, 2nd Salutation to the Theotokos  
Mr. & Mrs. Athanasios Karaliolios, $50, 3rd Salutation to the Theotokos,  
in loving memory of Andreas & Kalliope Karaliolios and Giorgos & Olympia Bokas  
Mr. Chris Kotsiopoulos, $50, 4th Salutation to the Theotokos  
Mr. & Mrs. Athanasios Karaliolios, $50, Akathist Hymn, in memory of Dafni Adams  
Mr. & Mrs. Spiros Giannaros, $200, for the Veneration of the Holy Cross  
Mr. & Mrs. Tony Karantonakis, $200, for the Veneration of the Holy Cross,  
in memory of Zacharias & Vasiliki Karantonakis  
Dino & Julia Constantinou, $200, for the Veneration of the Holy Cross  
Patricia Zeimbekis, $50, for the Veneration of the Holy Cross  
Decoration of Iconostasis icon and processional icon of the Annunciation, plus Narthex icons  
for parish feast - Professor & Mrs. Peter Karavites; all arrangements of these icons  
plus decoration of the Holy Cross on 3/23, were done by George Theodossiou.

**Corrections...**

The following Stewards were accidentally left off of the Membership List:  
**Mr. & Mrs. John Zachos, Mrs. Ruth Capernaros, and Mrs. Bertha Weinberg**  
Please accept our apologies for the inadvertent omission!

**Mrs. Panagiota Papadopoulos** is a 2013 Steward who’s name was listed  
incorrectly in the March issue. Our heartfelt apologies to her.
**Remember Your Pledge for 2014!**

*Please do not forget to submit your 2014 Stewardship obligation.*

Stewardships are the greatest source of income for our Church. Please feel free to contact the Church Office with any questions.

Thank you kindly!

**Υπενθύμιση για το 2014!**

*Αγαπητοί Ενορίτες, Σας παρακαλούμε μη ξεχάσετε να αποτείλετε την ετήσια προσφορά σας για το παρόν (τούτο) το έτος 2014.*

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

Σας ευχαριστούμε θερμά.

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**Stewardship Committee News**

The Sunday School Stewardship program is going well. Students are giving of their time, talents and good deeds as well as their treasures. In May, the teachers will be donating the money collected by the students to the IOCC. Students and parents should be proud of this act of being a Steward of God.

One of the ideas we are working on right now is a Community Service Project involving a local charity in the Brockton area.

There has been an interest in forming a Book Club and we need someone to take charge. It is a great way to get together with others who share a love for reading. If you are interested in either joining or being in charge, call the Church office and leave your name!

The 2014 pledge cards have gone out to all parishioners and as always the church depends on your commitment to satisfy the needs of our Holy Church.

We thank you for your support in the past.

Our next Stewardship Committee meeting will be on Thursday, April 3, at 6 p.m. Our meetings generally run an hour. We are always looking for new/fresh ideas for our church. Please find time to join us and bring a friend along!
182 Hungry Friends

Join us for our annual Dinner and Raffle!

THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2014

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 and details!
COMMUNITY NEWS

SERVICE CANCELLATIONS

For those of you who are not on the church’s listserv to receive automatic e-mail announcements, please remember that you can check for service cancellations using the church’s voicemail system. If you call outside of office hours, please listen to the menu and select #5 for the listing of church services for the current week. This message will always be updated regarding cancellations. Please note that a decision may not be made until late afternoon for an evening service, or early morning for a morning service, so please double-check before preparing to leave for church.

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 also send an email to our Webmaster, George Theodossiou, at 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.

PHILOPTOCHOS

UPCOMING EVENTS

Membership Meeting
April 1, 2014 7:00 PM

Palm Cross Making
April 11, 2014 6:00 PM

Palm Sunday Bake Sale
April 13, 2014 during coffee hour

Dyeing of the Eggs
April 17, 2014

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 annually) for 2013 & 2014!

Thank you!
We have what you need for **Great Lent**

**Service books in Greek & English**

- We have the Classic *Holy Week* book
- The *Akathist Hymn*, Celebrated the 5 Fridays of Lent
- The Divine Liturgy of the *Presanctified Gifts*, Wed eve and Friday mornings
- The *Great Compline*, for Monday evenings during Lent.

Fasting and prayer is an exercise, a way to modify our behavior to bring it in line with the spiritual life...in the manner that an athlete exercises to prepare for a race. The athlete does not resent his hard work because he knows he is doing it for a good reason. We are all "in training" spiritually.

*From Bread & Water, Wine & Oil by Archimandrite Meletios Webber*

**Bean Burgers**

- 1 15.5 oz. can pinto beans
- 1/4 c chopped onion
- 1/4 c fine dry bread crumbs or oatmeal
- 2 T ketchup or tomato paste or other liquid
- 1/2 t chili powder or other seasonings such as oregano, mint & garlic.

Drain and rinse beans, then mash well with fork or masher. Mix in remaining ingredients and form into 4 burgers.

Cook burgers on hot grill, pan or broiler, about 3-5 minutes per side. Serve with pita bread or in buns.

*From "When You Fast: Recipes for Lenten Seasons" by Catherine Mandell. Photo from Carrieonvegan.*
Dear Parishioners,

The choir is looking for new people to join in singing with us. I invite our youth as well as adults to join the choir and be a part of singing our church’s beautiful hymns.

For those not fluent in Greek, we have many hymns that have English phonetics and also we sing many hymns in English. Please feel free to speak to me at any time.

Yours in Christ,

Heidi Mason, Choir Director
Get Togethers:
Gathering Dates:

Tuesday, May 20, 2014

Please join us
for an Afternoon of
fun with friends!

We meet every third Tuesday
of the month from 2– 4pm.
YOUTH NEWS

GREETINGS FROM THE AGOC GOYA!

GOYA will begin it’s collection of necessary items for veterans in need. This collection is a new program that will be in collaboration with the Ladies’ Philoptochos. This program recently began through the Metropolis by different branches of the Philoptochos, however Brockton’s GOYA is the first youth group to take part in it!

~~~

GOYANS have worked incredibly hard during their Sunday School class periods to put together their Oratorical Festival speeches. More details will follow, but we plan on sending a few representatives to the regionals in the coming months.

~~~

We are also looking forward to our Lenten Lock-In, the weekend before Easter.

We had a wonderful visit to Philoxenia House on March 16th, to offer support and hospitality to visiting brethren from throughout the world. For those not familiar with Philoxenia House, please go to http://boston.goarch.org/philoxenia_house/

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The GOYA is planning for its’ final trip at the end of the school year! Ideas such as a trip to Six Flags are currently being reviewed.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

April
6
13 Palm Sunday
20 Holy Pascha
27

May
4
11
18—Graduation/Awards ~ classes start at 10:15

The Saint John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival is a series of public speaking programs whose purpose is to give young people an opportunity to learn and speak about their beliefs, their Church, and their heritage. This stimulates enthusiasm and strengthens their understanding and appreciation of their identity of Greek Orthodox Christians.

Divisions
Grades 7-9—Junior Division
Grades 10-12—Senior Division

Festivals
District—April
Metropolis—May
Nationals—June

Please see Rhoda Economos, Oratorical Festival Coordinator, for 2014 Results! (Grade 8 Sunday School Teacher)

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
Pascha Candles Will be ON SALE Sundays, March 30 and April 13th in the lounge following Liturgy!!!

**Assorted colors, sizes and designs for boys & girls**

**We are now accepting requests for special orders!**

All proceeds benefit the Annunciation Dance Group

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR DANCERS!
HOLY FRIDAY YOUTH RETREAT

The Annunciation YMT invites all the children of our church to our Holy Friday Youth Retreat. Our children will be attending Holy Friday services, participating in workshops, according to their ages, and will be taking part in a variety of service projects around the church (cleaning, organizing, etc.). Workshops will be run by our own seminarian, Christos Kolentsas, along with MBC staff members, Nikoletta Evangelatos and Dion Buterbaugh.

Our anticipated schedule is as follows:

10:00 AM – Royal Hours
11:30 AM – Introduction w/Fr. Anthony
11:45 AM – Break-out Sessions
  • GOYA will meet in the Church
  • HOPE will meet in the playroom
  • JOY will meet in the Kindergarten Sunday School room
12:45 PM – Lenten Lunch**
1:30 PM – Service Activities
3:00 PM – Holy Friday Vespers

We encourage parents to attend together with their children, and/or to participate in our Lenten Lunch**. Older (GOYA-aged) children may wish to stay after Vespers, and rest and commune with friends until it’s time to attend the Holy Friday evening service. Younger children may remain as well, with a parent present.

In order for group leaders to plan their workshops accordingly, and to ensure there are sufficient craft and other supplies for all participants, please RSVP to Demetra in the Church Office (office@annunciationbrockton.org) or to Penny Buterbaugh (pnasios@nasioslaw.com) if you/your child(ren) plan to attend the Retreat.

**We will have a Pot Luck Lenten Luncheon. If you or your child(ren) will be staying for lunch, please plan to bring a (PEANUT FREE) Lenten meal item to share.
ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF BROCKTON, MASS
PROUDLY PRESENTS A CONCERT FEATURING

THE GREEK MUSIC ENSEMBLE

Saturday, May 31st, 2014
7 pm Cocktail Reception / Light Buffet
complimentary beer/wine/soft drinks during reception and intermission
8 pm - 10 pm Concert

457 Oak Street, Brockton, MA 02301
(508) 559-0910

Tickets $50
Students Free
The 2013 Sunday School Stewardship program is an important and welcomed addition to Sunday School. The program’s focus is to help reinforce the concept of giving and sharing of the student’s 

**Time, Talent and Treasure**

as a true Steward for God.

The students are responding in very impressive ways. They are sharing notes of the “good deeds” they do and understanding that God’s gifts are better shared. The “treasures” they are bringing in are also accumulating. And we are proud to report that **over $300** has been raised and a full contribution will go to the **IOCC**.

We are proud of our students!

Since the International Orthodox Christian Charities — **IOCC**—was established in 1992 as the official international humanitarian organization it has distributed $438 million USD in emergency relief and development assistance to families and communities in more than 50 countries. IOCC has received the highest rating of four stars from Charity Navigator. IOCC is a member of ACT Alliance, a global coalition of more than 130 churches and agencies engaged in development, humanitarian assistance and advocacy, and a member of InterAction, the largest alliance of U.S. based secular and faith-based organizations working to improve the lives of the world’s most poor and vulnerable populations. Please visit their site for more information.

*We would also like to take this opportunity to thank you, the parents, for your enthusiastic support of this project.*

*With Christ,*

*The Sunday School and Stewardship Committees*
April 2014

6 Greek Independence Day Parade
11-12 GOYA Lenten Retreat
13 PALM SUNDAY/family worship
Dance Group Pascha Candle Sale
18 Holy Friday Retreat
19 Holy Saturday, No Greek School
21 April Vacation, no Greek School classes
25 April Vacation, no Greek School classes
Cocoa Key Water Park, Danvers
27 Sunday School Teacher Meeting
GOYA Meeting

May 2014

11 Mothers’ Day
17-18 Food Festival
18 Sunday School Graduation
31 Greek Music Concert

June 2014

1 Greek School Graduation
TBD GOYA End-Of-Year Trip
AGOC Brockton
Cocoa Key Day
Friday, April 25th

Cost: $35 per person, group discount rate**

Where: 50 Ferncroft Rd., Danvers, MA

How: Checks need to be received by the Church Office no later than Friday, April 11th

Everyone will need to provide their own transportation and supervision.

**We need to have a minimum of 10 people in order to receive this group discount**
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church
457 Oak Street
Brockton, MA 02301

Phone - (508) 559-0910
Fax - (508) 584-8679
Email - office@annunciationbrockton.org

We’re on the web!
www.annunciationbrockton.org

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