MARCH 2014

The deadline for the April bulletin is March 10th!
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

OTHER MINISTRIES

Sunday School
Tina Boutas Dina Coon
Rhoda Economos
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Tina Boutas
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Jr. GOYA
Suzanne Barrus
JOY & HOPE
Irena Mroz
Paula Tsitsopoulos
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
Corinne & Heidi Mason
Oratorical Festival
Rhoda Economos
Bookstore
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Stephen Savas Chris Kotsiopoulos
Webmaster
George Theodossiou
helpdesk@annunciationbrockton.org
Following is an article I had written for the Newport Daily News, “Clergy Corner,” in January, 2004, when I was with St. Spyridon Church in Newport, RI. Sometimes we Orthodox Christians take our faith for granted, and even admit that we know very little about our Church and its Holy Tradition. Even though the following was written for the general public, I think many of us will find this edifying.

ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY
“The Best Kept Secret in America”

Many Christians in the United States have referred to the Orthodox Church as the “best kept secret in America.” Those familiar with Orthodox Christianity know that in the United States we have historically been a church of immigrants, coming from places such as Greece, Russia, Bulgaria, Serbia, Romania, and the Middle East. Many Americans are also realizing that the Orthodox Church is a growing, dynamic Church to which many converts have flocked from other Christian denominations, and even other faith traditions. Demographically speaking, many Orthodox churches throughout the nation are an amalgam of immigrants and their offspring, non-ethnic spouses who have married into such families, and converts to the faith. In all cases, the faith that these Orthodox Christians are following is at the same time ancient, traditional and relevant to today’s world.

We refer to our faith tradition as ancient because the Orthodox Church is ancient. Our faith is apostolic, because we believe that the Orthodox Church was founded on the day of Pentecost – the day on which the Holy Spirit came in its fullness upon the holy Apostles, thus giving birth to the Church. Because of these ancient apostolic roots, Orthodox Christianity has a continuous history and life-experience, which is referred to as Holy Tradition. Everything done in the Orthodox Church is a part of Holy Tradition. Whether we are speaking of icons (holy images of Christ, biblical scenes or saints), liturgical worship, interpretation of Holy Scripture, hymnography, or the veneration of the God-manifested saints – in all cases, these things exist and are validated through Holy Tradition. What we do today in the Orthodox Church has been done for centuries virtually unchanged, simply because these things are rooted and authenticated in the ancient Church.

This unchanging character of Orthodox Christianity is what appeals most to converts. Orthodoxy never seeks to re-create an image of God to fit into today’s world. The purpose in life for the Orthodox Christian is seeking to do the will of God – not the other way around. In order to do God’s will, the Orthodox Church continues to offer its members the Apostolic teachings of the Church, as handed down throughout the ages. We Orthodox clearly see our Church as a solid rock – a foundation which will remain unshaken until the end of time, which has passed down Orthodox Christian theology intact and unaltered. We consider the ancient teachings of the Church completely valid and applicable for our times, simply because they are timeless, and without need of re-interpretation by those who seek to make religion serve the mores and whims of modern society.

What is it though, that makes us so sure of the correctness of our faith? It is simply our trust in God’s promise of divine guidance by the Holy Spirit, which has continuously defended Orthodox Christianity against heresy time after time. Because the Orthodox faith has been so scrupulously transferred from generation to generation, it is clear to us that the teachings of Christ and His Apostles have been preserved in their fullness in the Orthodox Church.

Another item of great appeal to many converts is the sense of true worship of God found in Orthodox services. Orthodox worship involves the total person, both body and soul. Expressing faith through worship is not an intellectual exercise for us – it is experiential. The externals of worship aid us into bringing us into communion with the living God. Orthodox worship is never meant to entertain crowds, but rather, remains focused on God. In other words, Orthodox Christians do not (and should not) seek to “get something out of worship.” The correct approach to Orthodox services is to worship the living God and participate in the holy sacraments as a united Christian family, which has been the obligation of Christians from the very beginning.

Hopefully this short description of the Orthodox Christian faith has clarified the mystery for those who know nothing about us. Please know that our churches are open to all who are interested in worshiping with us, however, we must note that the sacrament of Holy Communion may only be received by Orthodox Christians since the Eucharist is the highest expression of one’s membership in the Orthodox Church. Please join us as our guests at any time.
GREAT LENT BEGINS 3/3
The spiritually beautiful and uplifting journey to Holy Pascha begins on Clean Monday, March 3rd. This season of joyful sorrow will be replete with church services, to be complemented by each person’s own prayer life, fasting, repentance, and good works. Please refer to the March calendar for the listing of services, which are offered for the spiritual benefit of all.

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.

Fasting Guidelines of Great Lent

- **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 the Feast of the Annunciation – 3/25.
- **Weekends of Lent**: Wine (all alcoholic beverages) and olive oil are permitted.

**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 noon-time 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.

LENTEN SUPPERS
As mentioned in the February bulletin, we are soliciting hosts for the Lenten suppers after each Wednesday afternoon Presanctified Liturgy, which will also include a short video presentation during the supper. So far, the Youth Ministry Team will host the first Wednesday of Lent on 3/5, the Sunday & Greek Schools on 3/12, the Parish Council on 3/19, and the Choir on 4/9. The other dates that need a host are as follows: 3/26, and 4/2.

We would like to invite our Philoptochos and one other parish ministry, to participate as in the past. This needs to be coordinated through the church office, so please call office manager Demetra Orfanos with the desired date.

All that’s needed are Lenten food and dessert items containing no animal products, and non-alcoholic beverages. Please refer to the entry in this edition regarding Lenten fasting guidelines, for more information.

MEETINGS & EVENTS DURING LENT
For planning purposes, we would like to again offer the following reminder regarding the first week of Great Lent, which is from March 3rd through March 8th. Because of the particular solemnity of the first week of Great Lent, there can be no meetings or activities of any kind during the day or in the evening. As we do each year, there will be daily services, mainly in the evening, during the first week of Great Lent. His Eminence has always made this request to his clergy, so as to encourage participation of the faithful as we embark on the soul-saving Lenten journey.

On the subsequent 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.

CONFESION SCHEDULE DURING LENT
Fr. Anthony will be available for confessions during Great Lent as follows:
- After each weekday evening service, except Wednesday Presanctified Liturgies.
- After Saturday evening Vespers (year-round).
- During office hours by appointment (year-round).

*If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins,*
He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. (1st Epistle of John 1:8-10)

LENTEN REFLECTIONS
(The following is taken from The Complete Book of Orthodoxy, by George W. Grube, Regina Orthodox Press, 2001)

Great Lent - the 40 day season of penance and preparation which precedes the Holy Feast of Pascha. It begins on Clean Monday and ends on the sixth Friday before Lazarus Saturday and the Feast of the Entrance of Our Lord into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday). Holy Week is so sacred it is in a special sense a part of the Great Fast and yet, apart from it.

'The Fast of Lent has no advantage to us unless it brings about our spiritual renewal. It is necessary while fasting to change our whole life and practice virtue. Turning away from all wickedness means keeping our tongue in check, restraining our anger, avoiding all gossip, lying and swearing. To abstain from these three things, herein is the true value of the Fast’ (St. John Chrysostom).

Fasts/Fasting – in the Orthodox Church fasts are a way of increasing one’s spiritual growth by attacking the desires for physical pleasures. The early church practiced fasting as a response to Christ’s example and teaching. The earliest fasts were held on Wednesdays and Fridays, and occasionally on Saturday. The Eastern Church observes fasting periods based on the writings of Isaiah 58:6-7, I Corinthians 7:5, St. Matthew 17:21 and Joel 2:12. Fasting should be from food and iniquities. Rules are guideposts by which we are to judge our own fasting practices, and we are continually reminded not to hold our Lenten enterprise over the heads of others as a means of pride, or to flaunt our ‘good works’ in order to extol our own supposed virtue.

'There are three things, my brethren, by which faith stands firm, devotion remains constant and virtue endures. They are prayer, fasting and mercy. Prayer knocks at the door, fasting obtains, mercy receives. Prayer, fasting and mercy; these three things are one, and they give life to one another’ (St. Peter Chrysologus, Fifth century).

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**
- Salutations to the Theotokos: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Fridays, and Akathist Hymn – $50 each
- Veneration of the Holy Cross – approximately 500 stems (price to be determined)
- Palm strips for palm crosses – $130
- Palm Arrangements for Royal Gate (price to be determined)
- Palm Arrangements for Soleas (price to be determined)
- Bay laurel leaves for Palm Sunday & Holy Saturday (price to be determined)
- Icon of Nymphios—$90
- Icon of Mystical Supper—$25
- Wreath for Holy Cross—$150
- Icon of Resurrection—$80
- Banner (lavaron) of the Resurrection—$100

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.

IN APPRECIATION
We would like to express our gratitude to our JOY+HOPE advisors, Irene Mroz and Paula Tsitsopoulos, and the many other volunteers, donors, and sponsors, for all the planning, and coordinating of this year’s Have-A-Heart Luncheon. We would also especially like to thank the children who helped with the serving and other related tasks, and our dance group which again performed so beautifully (as always). May God bless all of you for this annual philanthropic endeavor to benefit the Hellenic Cardiac Fund.
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<th>Sun</th>
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</table>
| **Sunday of Forgiveness**  
**Της Τυρινης**  
Vespers of Forgiveness  
5 pm | CLEAN MONDAY  
(LENT BEGINS)  
Orthros 10 am  
Great Compline  
w/1st part of  
Gr. Canon 7 pm  
Καθαρα Δευτερα | Great Compline  
w/2nd part of  
Great Canon  
7 pm | 9th Hour  
5:15 pm, Pre-  
sanctified Lit.  
5:30 pm followed by  
Lenten Supper  
3rd Part of Great  
Canon after  
supper | Great Compline  
w/4th part of  
Great Canon  
7 pm | 9th Hr. 9:45 am,  
Presanctified  
Liturgy 10 am  
Salutations to the  
Theotokos 7 pm | St. Theodore of Tyre  
(remembrance  
of the miracle  
of kollyva)  
Orthros & Lit.  
Του Αγ. Θεοδωρου  
Gr. Vespers 6 pm |
| 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  |
| **Sunday of Orthodoxy**  
**Της Ορθοδοξιας**  
———  
Lenten Luncheon | Great Compline  
7 pm | Parish Council  
6 pm | 9th Hour  
5:15 pm, Pre-  
sanctified Lit.  
5:30 pm followed by  
Lenten Supper | 9th Hr. 9:45 am,  
Presanctified  
Liturgy 10 am  
Salutations to the  
Theotokos 7 pm | Gr. Vespers  
6 pm |
| 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  |
| **Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas**  
**Του Αγ. Γρηγοριου  
του Παλαµα** | Great Compline  
7 pm | OPA  
Gathering  
2-4 pm | 9th Hour  
5:15 pm, Pre-  
sanctified Lit.  
5:30 pm followed by  
Lenten Supper | 9th Hr. 9:45 am,  
Presanctified  
Liturgy 10 am  
Salutations to the  
Theotokos 7 pm | Gr. Vespers  
6 pm |
| 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  |
| **Sunday of the Veneration of the Holy Cross**  
**Της Σταυρο−  
προσκυνησιως** | Great Vespers  
of the  
Annunciation  
7 pm | Annunciation of the Theotokos  
Orthros & Lit.  
Του Ευαγγελισµου  
PARISH FEAST | 9th Hour  
5:15 pm, Pre-  
sanctified Lit.  
5:30 pm followed by  
Lenten Supper | 9th Hr. 9:45 am,  
Presanctified  
Liturgy 10 am  
Salutations to the  
Theotokos 7 pm | Gr. Vespers  
6 pm |
| 30  | 31  | ——  | ——  | ——  | ——  | ——  |
| **Sunday of St. John Climacus**  
**Του Αγ. Ιωαννου  
της Κλιµακος**  
———  
Oratorical Fest. | Great Compline  
7 pm | ——  | ——  | ——  | ——  | ——  |

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.

1 Memory of the Ascetic Saints  
Orthros & Lit.  
Μνηµη των Ψυχων  
tων εν Ασκησει  
Λαµψαντων  
Gr. Vespers 6 pm
Ενθουσιώδης Υποδοχή του Αρχιεπισκόπου Αναστάσιο στην Ιερά Αρχιεπισκοπή Αμερικής

ΝΕΑ ΥΟΡΚΗ – Η Ιερά Αρχιεπισκοπή Αμερικής υποδέχθηκε σήμερα με ενθουσιασμό και ιδιαίτερη αγάπη τον Μακαριώτατο Αρχιεπίσκοπο Τιράνων, Δυρράχιου και πάσης Αλβανίας κ. Αναστάσιο.

Ο Σεβασμιώτατος Αρχιεπίσκοπος Αμερικής κ. Δημήτριος παρέθεσε γεύμα προς τιμήν του Αρχιεπισκόπου Αναστασίου στην έδρα της Ι. Αρχιεπισκοπής, στο οποίο παρακάθισαν ο Ρωμαιοκαθολικός Αρχιεπίσκοπος της Νέας Υόρκης Καρδινάλιος Τίμοθι Ντόλαν, άλλοι θρησκευτικοί ηγέτες, διπλωμάτες και εκπροσώποι της λαϊκής ηγεσίας της Αρχιεπισκοπής Αμερικής.

Τον Μακαριώτατο Αρχιεπίσκοπο Αναστάσιο υποδέχθηκαν κατά την άφιξή του ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Αμερικής κ. Δημήτριος, ο Μητροπολίτης Νέας Ιερσέης κ. Ευάγγελος και κληρικοί και λαϊκοί, μέλη του προσωπικού της Αρχιεπισκοπής.

Ο Μακαριώτατος εξέφρασε την ευγνωμοσύνη για την υποδοχή και τη μεγάλη χαρά του για την ευκαιρία της επισκέψεώς του.

Κατά τη διάρκεια του γεύματος ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος παρουσίασε τον υψηλό προσκεκλημένο του στους συνδαιτυμόνες και μίλησε με λίγα και μεστά λόγια για το μακρύ ιεραποστολικό έργο του και για το «θαύμα» της αναστάσεως και προόδου της Αυτοκεφάλου Ορθοδόξου Εκκλησίας της Αλβανίας. Στη συνέχεια ο Μακαριώτατος, ανταποκρινόμενος σε αίτημα του Αρχιεπισκόπου Δημητρίου, παρουσίασε από την πολυετή ιεραποστολική εμπειρία του, λίγες σκέψεις του για το πως βλέπει το μέλλον των διαθρησκειακών σχέσεων γενικότερα, την συμβίωση με άλλες θρησκευτικές κοινότητες και τον σεβασμό για τον «άλλο».

Στο γεύμα παρακάθισαν, εκτός των προαναφερθέντων και Ιεράρχες μέλη της Συνελεύσεως Κανονικών Ορθοδόξων Επισκόπων στην Αμερική, όπως ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Ιουστινιανός, ο οποίος εκπροσωπεί το Πατριαρχείο Μόσχας στη Νέα Υόρκη, ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Νίκων της Αλβανικής Αρχιεπισκοπής (OCA), ο Μητροπολίτης Ιωσήφ της Ορθοδόξου Βουλγαρικής Επισκοπής, ο Επίσκοπος Νικόλαος της Αντιοχειανής Αρχιεπισκοπής και ο Επίσκοπος Ζήλων Σεβαστιανός,

Αύριο, Τρίτη 28 Ιανουαρίου, ο Μακαριώτατος Αρχιεπίσκοπος Αλβανίας κ. Αναστάσιος, στα πλαίσια της σειράς διαλέξεων του Πανεπιστημίου Fordham «Η Ορθοδοξία στην Αμερική» θα μιλήσει για τη διάδοση του Ευαγγελίου σε μια πολυ-θρησκευτική χώρα. Παράλληλα το Πανεπιστήμιο Fordham θα ανακηρύξει τον Μακαριώτατο επίτιμο διδάκτορα ανθρωπιστικών σπουδών κατά τη διάρκεια ειδικής τελετής. Την Πέμπτη 30 Ιανουαρίου, ημέρα της Εορτής των Τριών Ιεραρχών και των Ελληνικών Γραμμάτων ο κ. Αναστάσιος θα συμμετάσχει στις εκδηλώσεις, θα μιλήσει στα παιδιά κατά τον πρωινό εκκλησιασμό για τα Ελληνοαμερικανικά Σχολεία στον Καθεδρικό Ναό της Αγίας Τριάδος και το βράδυ θα είναι ο κύριος ομιλητής σε εορταστική εκδήλωση στο Μετροπόλιταν Κλαμπ της Νέας Υόρκης.
**Message from the President**

This year will be both exciting and challenging. Exciting because we are starting to formulate ideas and establish a committee to prepare for our church’s 100 year anniversary celebration in 2016.

Also as you can see from our monthly bulletin our established parish ministries and committees are busy with their ongoing efforts to support our church and youth. Any parishioners interested in helping are most welcome! We encourage you to consider joining by contacting the church office.

Our challenge will be to increase our income while not exceeding our projected expenses. We are considering some additional fundraisers for this year and continue to explore methods using energy efficient technology to help reduce costs and preserve the environment.

Although the new roof is completed, we are continuing our effort with the roof replacement fund to help reduce our current loan. We thank all of our 2013 donors and ask those that have not yet contributed to please consider making a monetary donation at this time.

Sincerely,

George Alexis
*Parish Council President*

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**2014 Calendar of Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lenten Luncheon</td>
<td>Sun, Mar. 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annunciation Vespers &amp; Philoptochos Reception</td>
<td>Mon, Mar. 24</td>
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<tr>
<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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<tr>
<td>182 Hungry Friends Dinner</td>
<td>Thu, May 8</td>
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<tr>
<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>
<td>Sat, May 31</td>
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<td>Greek School Graduation</td>
<td>Sun, Jun. 1</td>
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<td>Golf Tournament</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<td>Annual Food Festival</td>
<td>Thu, Sep. 18</td>
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<td>through Sun, Sep. 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall General Assembly</td>
<td>Sun, Nov. 16</td>
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<td>Parish Council Elections</td>
<td>Sun, Dec. 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parish Council Oath of Office &amp; Election of Officers</td>
<td>Sun, Dec. 21</td>
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**2014 Parish Council Meetings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>March 11</td>
<td>August 12</td>
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<td>April 8</td>
<td>September 9</td>
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<td>May 13</td>
<td>October 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 10</td>
<td>November 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>July (no meeting)</td>
<td>December 9</td>
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</tbody>
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**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](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

BAPTISM
2/23 – Matthew, son of Jason & Katherine Joyce; Sponsors, Nicholas & Sefany Stellakis

FUNERALS
1/31 – Per (Panayiotis) Hall
2/7 – Dafni Adams
2/20 – Michael Babanikas
2/21 – Aglaia Chrysikos

DONATIONS
Chris Kotsiopoulos – Combination VCR/DVD Player, IMO Soultana Kotsiopoulos
Peter Pappas, $5,000, for the Peter & Ernestine Pappas Scholarship Fund
Georgia Tasho, $500, for the Paul Tasho Scholarship Fund
John Kolentsas, $50, for the Church

MEMORIAL DONATIONS
In memory of Dafni Adams, $770
In memory of Michael Babanikas, $690
In memory of Aglaia Chrysikos, $375
Thomas Kennedy, $50, in memory of Ambrosios Lymberopoulos
Diane Tsionis Agostino, $75, in memory of Christos Tsaganis
Peter & Christine Karavites, $50, in memory of Evripidis Dalkouras
Baios Antonopoulos, $100, in memory of Dimitrios Antonopoulos
Tom, Fotini, & Theodora Psilekaris, $200, in memory of Demetrios & Ourania Psilekaris

ROOF DONATIONS
In loving memory of John Nasios, $100, from his family
Georgia Petropoulos, $100, in memory of Theocritos Petropoulos
COMMUNITY NEWS

We would like to take this opportunity to apologize for a telephone problem that we were unaware of for some time. Apparently, our former carrier, Verizon, had not completely “shut-down” some aspects of our service when we switched carriers. This caused many of our callers to not be able to get into voicemail when they called, but instead got a continuous ring.

The problem has been addressed, and it seems that all calls are coming in without a problem. As always, please do not hesitate to bring such issues to our attention, so that they may be addressed accordingly.

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 decide on which Orthodox charity that the money collected will be given to. 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, March 13th, 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!

Welcome to our new Stewardship team member, Athena Giannaros!!!
ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH, BROCKTON, MA

2013 STEWARDS

Adamopoulos, Mr. Arthur
Adamopoulos, Mr. B. Mrs. James
Aftonomos, Mrs. Anastasia
Aftonomos, Mr. Michael
Agastina, Mrs. Diane (Tzianis)
Alexiou, Mr. Alexander
Alexiou, Mr. B. Mrs. Nicholas
Alexis, M. Mr. George
Alexopoulos, Mr. B. Mrs. Christina
Anastasiou, Mr. & Mrs. Peter
Anastasiou, Mrs. Nicholas
Anthony, Mr. & Mrs. Ernest
Antoniou, Anastasia
Antoniou, Mr. Fotios
Antoniou, Mr. & Mrs. George
Antoniou, Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas
Antounopoulos, Mr. Vaioes
Apostolou, Mr. & Mrs. Sarah
Apostolopoulos, Mr. Theodore*
Argyropoulos, Mrs. Bessie
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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

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Philoptochos Lenten Retreat
March 14-15, 2014
*Details coming soon!*

Annunciation Great Vespers & Reception
March 24, 2014 7:00 PM

MEMBERSHIP
Please remember to send in your Philoptochos membership ($25.00 annually) for 2013 & 2014!

Thank you!
Metropolis of Boston Philoptochos
Fourth Annual
Lenten Retreat for Women
Sisters, Mothers, Aunts, Daughters and of course Friends!

Friday, March 14 – Saturday, March 15, 2014
St. Methodios Retreat House
Contoocook, NH

Elizabeth Metallinos-Katsaras PhD RD,
Dept. of Nutrition, Simmons College, Boston

Women’s Health and Nutrition-- How can the
Traditional Greek Diet Keep us Healthy

Come enjoy the grounds of the lovely retreat center, experience the retreat,
share a meal and make some new friends

Please Join Us!!

Suggested Donation $50
Includes: One night lodging in the Retreat House, Three meals,
and Retreat program

Arrive Friday Afternoon between 4 & 6 p.m.
Depart Saturday Afternoon
Get Togethers:

Gathering Dates:

Tuesday, March 18, 2014
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.
We have what you need for **Great Lent**

When a man leaves on a journey, he must know where he is going. Thus with Lent...Lent is a spiritual journey and its destination is Easter. -Alexander Schmemann, “Great Lent”

Repentance is the beginning and the condition of a truly Christian life. But what is repentance? In the rush of our daily life, we have no time to think about it. Why do we need it? How do we practice it?

**From our collection**

**Chickpea Patties**

2 cans (15.5 oz) chickpeas
1/4 c water
1 clove garlic, minced
1/2 c chopped green onion
1-2 t ground cumin
1 T chopped fresh parsley
3 T flour
1/2 t salt, also some pepper
3-4 T oil

Process chickpeas and water in food processor until almost pureed. Add garlic, green onions, cumin and parsley and pulse slightly.

Put mixture in a bowl and stir in flour, salt and pepper, mixing until well combined. Chill 15 min.

With floured hands, shape mixture into about 12 patties. Dredge in flour. Heat oil in skillet then sauté the patties until crisp and golden. Turn gently as patties are soft. Drain on paper towels.

Serve with salsa or rolled in a pita with lettuce, tomato or with other vegetables or sauces.

*From "When You Fast: Recipes for Lenten Seasons" by Catherine Mandell*

**The Lenten Spring**

By Thomas Hopko

Cast off the Gloom & Doom approach to Lent! Offers simple meditations to open your heart and soul to the season.

**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.

**Book Club is Forming**

A book club is forming to read and discuss books in our collection or from elsewhere. Volunteer to lead the group!

**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.

**Story of Easter unfolds for little ones.**
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 are currently working 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 planning a 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/

Lastly, we are looking forward to our Lenten Lock-In, which will take place the weekend before Easter.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

March
2
9 Sunday of Orthodoxy—classes start at 10:15
16
23 Sunday of the Cross—classes start at 10:15
30
April
6
13 Palm Sunday
20 Holy Pascha
27

On March 9, the Sunday of Orthodoxy, children may bring an icon from home to use in the Procession of Icons. Please mark the back of the icon with your name and phone number in the event the icon is misplaced. Icons will be provided for those that do not bring their own.

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

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
Local—March
District—April
Metropolis—May
Nationals—June

Please see Rhoda Economos, Oratorical Festival Coordinator, for 2014 Festival topics. (Grade 8 Sunday School Teacher)
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 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.
LENT

Join us for our
Annual Lenten Luncheon
Sunday, March 9, 2014
immediately following
the Divine Liturgy

Shrimp Dinner $20
Pizza Dinner $8

For tickets, please see a Parish Council Member,
Or contact the Church Office at 508-559-0910.
Brockton Mayor Bill Carpenter invites you to a ceremony in honor of

**Greek Independence Day**
At City Hall Plaza
On Tuesday, March 25 at 3:45 p.m.
*All Children Are Welcome!*

Mayor’s Office, 508-580-7123
45 School Street, Brockton, MA

...and Save the Date:

**Annual Greek Independence Day Parade**

Sunday, April 6 at 1 p.m. in Boston
2014 Approved Budget
Stewardship %

If everyone increases their Stewardship by $10 per month it will cover 24% of our operating budget

Our church is our spiritual home and just like the homes that each of us live in, it requires routine maintenance and repairs to keep it in working condition. Our stewardship pledges pay the maintenance and utilities that allows us to have Church Services, Sunday School, Greek School, Dance Group practices, all youth and adult groups. It enables us to have fundraisers, events, and more for all the members of our Spiritual House.

We hope that when you make your 2014 Stewardship Pledge you will consider all that our church home has to offer.
March 2014
5 Pre-sanctified Liturgy/YMT sponsored Lenten Supper
9 SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY—CLASSES START AT 10:15
16 GOYA Meeting & Philoxenia House Visit
23 SUNDAY OF THE CROSS—CLASSES 10:15
Greek Independence Day Program
30 Oratorical Festival
Dance Group Pascha Candle Sale

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**

Some of our own GOYANs attending the MBC’s Winter GOYA Camp!
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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Wills & Trusts - Product Liability - Real Estate Law