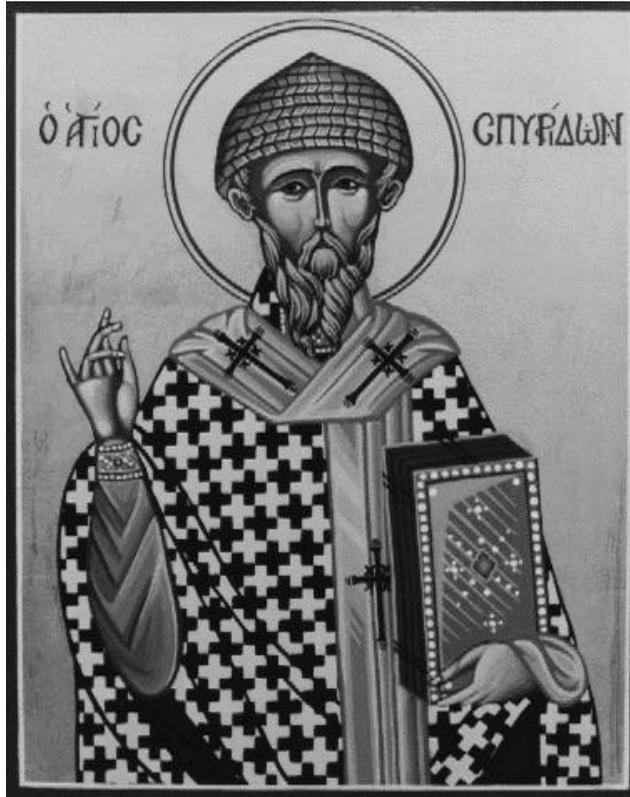

THE SAINT SPYRIDON VOICE
AUGUST 2004



Saint Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church
PO Box 427
Newport, RI 02840
tel: (401) 846-0555, fax: (401) 841-0960
www.stspyridonchurch.org



SAINT SPYRIDON GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
www.stspyridonchurch.org

Reverend Presbyter Anthony Evangelatos
franthy@stspyridonchurch.org

Office Hours

Priest: Tuesday– Friday, 9 am– 3 pm

Church secretary, Ellen Anagnostos: Tuesday & Thursday, 9 am– 1 pm

Parish Council President: Steven Mellekas

Chanters: George Spiratos
 Basile Panoutsopoulos

Choir Director: Paul Cotsoridis

Organist: Jane Iandolo

Religious Education : Marianne Menas

Stewardship: Parish Council

Philoptochos President: Zinovia Canale

Acolytes: Team A– James Mellekas
 Team B– James Canale

GOYA President: James Mellekas

JOY Advisor: Sandy Giannopoulos

AHEPA President: Basile Panoutsopoulos

Greek School:

Loula Eliopoulos

Basile Panoutsopoulos (adult classes)

Daughters of Penelope President:

Stella Volpicelli

Island of Skiathos Organization:

John Michael

Bulletin: Aliko Cooper (alikooper@yahoo.com)

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday Summer Hours Orthros 7:45 am Divine Liturgy 9 am

Wednesdays Vespers (or Small Paraklesis on
 last Wednesday of month) 7 pm*

Saturdays Great Vespers 6 pm*

Festal celebrations in the week:

Vespers– 7 pm*

Orthros– 9 am

Divine Liturgy– 10 am

* Note: Holy Confession is available each Saturday after vespers, after Wednesday or other evening services (when there are no adult classes), and during office hours by appointment.

FROM THE DESK OF FATHER ANTHONY

In our holy Orthodox Church, we have many titles for the Theotokos, all of which seek to describe her unique role as the Mother of God, her intercessory power, as well as her relationship to mankind. One title that could also be ascribed to her is, “*First of All God’s Stewards.*” I say this, because if we were to contemplate her role in general, we would see how she truly fulfills the role of God’s chief steward in the most exemplary way. We on earth should therefore see her as our prime example in the execution of our own stewardship role in creation, and in God’s holy Church.

In order to understand the Theotokos’ stewardship role fully, we must clearly define the word “*steward*” in terms of the Church’s understanding. A steward is one who is in charge of what God has given him, i.e. a *custodian or manager*. In the life of the holy Theotokos, she obviously became the earthly steward of what God gave to her, and through her, to all mankind – His only-begotten Son. She became the steward of Life Himself, since she carried the Creator in her womb, and then raised Him as her own son.

During the earthly life of Christ, His holy Mother continued her stewardship role by being a faithful follower of her son through the end of His earthly existence. The tradition of the Church tells us that the loving Mother of the “God-Man,” kept vigil with Him at the Cross and ministered at His burial. She lovingly accepted the beloved Disciple John as a son, as instructed by the Lord Himself from the Cross. We are told that she ministered to all His Disciples after His Resurrection, seeing herself as a steward of those who were an extension of her son. Holy Tradition also teaches that she was with them in the upper room, when the Holy Spirit descended upon them on the day of Pentecost.

After her own dormition and assumption into heaven, she continues to be a faithful steward of her son’s inheritance – the human race. Being the Mother of God, by extension she is also the Mother of all mankind, since we were given life by her son and our God. In this role, she continuously cares for, and protects all of us who call upon her in fervent prayer, constantly interceding before the throne of God on our behalf. Countless miracles occur throughout the Orthodox world, as the Theotokos comes to our aid in times of illness, and in all types of danger.

Thus, we clearly see how our Panagia continues to be God’s greatest steward. Now, let us look at ourselves in terms of our own stewardship role in creation. How do we manage the life that God has given us? Are we thankful every day through prayer for being alive and enjoying good health? Do we seek to care for those around us as needed, since we are all children of the same God? Do we respect and care for the environment as stewards of the world that God created for us?

As stewards of His holy Church, do we seek to give back to God from the gifts He

has given us? Our time, talents, and treasure are all aspects of the gift of life which we enjoy each day. Since God always comes first in our lives, it is only logical and appropriate that we consider His holy Church on earth as the center of our life. As faithful stewards, let us not neglect the Church through our absence at worship services, through our unwillingness to assist in any way we can, and through the neglect of our financial obligation to keep our local parish *viable*. Many of us *are* regular contributors, however, let us examine whether our gift is truly realistic and generous, and not just a token contribution as if we were paying “membership dues” to a club, as opposed to a *gift of love*. After all, *this* is what stewardship is all about – lovingly taking care of, and giving back to God what He lovingly provides to us. We can only understand this when we have deep faith and trust in God.

When the Archangel Gabriel announced to the Theotokos that the Son of God would be conceived in her womb, she did not run away in fear, or say, “let me think about it.” Due to her own faith and trust in God, she was immediately *decisive*, ignoring any of the possible consequences by her acceptance of the heavenly message. Her response was based on *spirituality* and not *worldliness*. Let us take from her holy example and be guided *spiritually* in everything we do. May we all be blessed and made worthy to hear the following words from our Lord when we leave this world: “*Well done good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord.*” (Mt 25:21).

In Christ’s love,
+Fr. Anthony

DONATIONS OF ALTAR SUPPLIES

In the life of a parish, it is customary for the faithful to offer items needed in the sanctuary. This is both a blessing for the person and his/her family, and a meaningful way of responding to the on-going needs of our church. There is one such need at the present time:

- **Olive oil for the *kandilia* of the Holy Table & Prothesis**

You may bring olive oil in person from Tuesday through Friday, 9am – 1pm, or on Sundays. Or, if you wish, send a check toward the purchase of oil (**suggested donation: \$10**) to the office, payable to *St. Spyridon Church*. Please *do not* purchase vegetable oil, or blends of olive and vegetable oil; these do not burn cleanly and tend to spatter. Thank you in advance to all who plan on responding to this need. May the Lord bless you!

IN APPRECIATION

Beloved parishioners, your many efforts surrounding the success of Hellenic Fest '04 are greatly appreciated! First of all, we would like to thank Arthur Stefanopoulos whose leadership role each year is *instrumental* in every aspect of the festival. In addition, we thank everyone involved with advertising, raffle ticket sales, the set-up and break-down, and of course, the festival committee, the kitchen staff, and the booth chairmen and their volunteers, who all together kept everything going during the festival. Let us not forget, of course, those wonderful chairpersons and volunteers who did much cooking, baking and preparation of foods and pastries prior to the event. Also, a special "thank you" goes to Vangeli and Xanthoula Giannopoulos for their tremendous effort in teaching our young "St. Spyridon Greek Dancers" the folk dances that they performed. Please know that *every* festival is a success, regardless of how we do financially. The fellowship and unity felt during those days is what is truly important and fulfilling. God bless all of you!

Greatly appreciated again this year, are all the efforts of Michael Sisak in the planning and execution of the annual *St. Spyridon Orthodox Christian Film Festival*. As many of you know, Michael financially underwrites the film festival cash prizes, many other additional expenses, and the hiring of the sailboat for the pleasure of all festival participants and their families. Thank you once again, Michael!

A big "thank you" goes to the anonymous gardener, who donated and planted seasonal flowers in the two large cement urns in front of the church doors. Whoever you are, we appreciate your response to this obvious need, toward the beautification of God's temple!

+Fr. Anthony

FAST OF THE THEOTOKOS

The "Pascha of summer" is upon us. This holy season in honor of the holy Mother of God, is a time for spiritual renewal through prayer, strict fasting, charitable acts, frequent church attendance, and receipt of the holy mysteries of confession and holy communion.

The general guidelines of the Church for this fast season are identical to those of Great Lent. On the weekdays we fast from all animal products, including fish, as well as wine (all alcoholic beverages) and olive oil (some include all oil, but many substitute vegetable oil). The one exception is the feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord on August 6th, on which we are permitted fish, wine and olive oil. On Saturday and Sunday, August 7th and 8th, and Saturday, August 14th, we are permitted wine and olive oil.

Let us all take up our spiritual armor and prepare for this great feast of the Theotokos!

AUGUST 2004

Sunday Summer

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Th
1 9th Sunday of Matthew, Procession of the Holy Cross Altar Team A Paraklesis 7 pm	2 Paraklesis 7 pm	3 Paraklesis 7 pm	4 Paraklesis 7 pm	5 Vesper Transf Lord w
<i>Fast of the Theotokos—strict fast (see bulletin entry for g</i>				
8 10th Sunday of Matthew Altar Team B Paraklesis 7 pm	9 Paraklesis 7 pm	10 Paraklesis 7 pm	11 Paraklesis 7 pm	12 Parakle
<i>Fast of the Theotokos—strict fast (see bulletin entry for g</i>				
15 Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos Altar Team A	16	17	18 Small Vespers 7 pm	19
<i>(fast day)</i>				
22 12th Sunday of Matthew Altar Team B	23	24	25 Small Vespers 7 pm	26
<i>(fast day)</i>				
29 Feast of the Beheading of St. John the Forerunner Altar Team A <i>(strict fast; wine & olive oil permitted)</i>	30	31		

s Orthros 7:45 am Divine Liturgy 9 am

Fri

Sat

6 Feast of the
Transfiguration—
of Our Orthros & Lit; Parklesis 7
'asia 7 pm ;*(fish, wine & olive oil
permitted)*

7
Great Vespers 6 pm

13
Paraklesis 7 pm

14
Great Vespers at Church
of the Assumption in
PAWTUCKET 7 pm

20

21
Great Vespers 6 pm

(fast day)

27

28
Great Vespers 6 pm

(fast day)

Upcoming Events

August 3— Parish Council Meeting as follows: Attendance at Paraklesis, 7 pm to be followed by meeting

Regular Events

Children's Greek School— Tuesdays 4— 6 pm, Wednesdays 4— 6 pm (is currently on break for the summer)

Adult Greek School— Wednesdays 5— 6 pm (is currently on break for the summer)

Religious Education— Sundays, immediately after Holy Communion (is currently on break for the summer)

Holy Confession— available after Saturday Vespers or other evening services and during office hours by appointment

HELLENIC FEST 2004**THANK YOU** for your love and support!

We would like to thank all those who helped during this year's Hellenic Fest. Thanks to our Festival Committee for their many hours of planning and preparing. Watch for the September bulletin for a complete festival wrap up.

SPIRITUAL WISDOMSayings from Papa Dimitris Gagastathis (1902-1975)*On Fasting*

“Fasting is a great thing. Adam was expelled (from Paradise) for not keeping it. We must love fasting, because through it the passions go away, the heart and body are purified, and once we are made thus free, we can pray better. Our fasting must be accompanied with a lot of obedience and humility. We must do whatever God wants. We must have a lot of humility. We are nothing in the sea of God’s love and goodness. What does God say? ‘Upon whom shall I look, except the meek and the humble and the one who fears my words?’”

Daily Life Problems

“I never worried anxiously about anything. I cared for my children without weariness and anxiety. God, who gave them to me, also took care of everything.”

(someone speaking about him...) “‘For whatever I want,’ he used to say, ‘I put on the stole first, and then take up the prayer rope.’ Anxiety was foreign to him, as were also doubtfulness, insecurity, and hesitation.”

Sickness and Suffering

“We patch up the body. But what is more important and we should always keep healthy is the soul. As we run to doctors and to spas and spend a lot of money for the body, so also we must turn to the spiritual father for the soul – which, moreover, is free of charge.”

Monasticism

“Monasticism is Christ’s arm and Satan’s enemy. The monasteries are the outposts of the Church. Without outposts, the enemy will capture us. Prayer in monasteries reaches God like a bullet. As a foreign army fears the aircraft and hides, so also Satan fears the prayer of the monastics and goes away.”

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 3, 2004 following a Paraklesis Service that evening which starts at 7 pm. Items discussed at the July meeting:

- a. The Hellenic Fest (preparation)
- b. Maintenance of the Church - Cross on the roof, gutters, and final installation of the air condition.
- c. Budget items pertaining to the assessment of the Archdiocese.
- d. The transfer of the Protulis Fund in the amount of 1,037,354.23 to the St. Spyridon's Endowment Committee

Thanks to all the parishioners who placed great effort to make our Hellenic Fest a success. Please contact anyone on the council for any concerns for St. Spyridon.

Thank you,

Steven J. Mellekas, Council President

2004 BIG MONEY RAFFLE WINNERS

The following are the Big Money Raffle winners from this year's Hellenic Fest:

- 1st Prize - \$10,000 - Terry Mitchell, Niantic, CT - Ticket No. 237
- 2nd Prize - \$2,000 - Catherine Violet, Newport, RI - Ticket No. 91
- 3rd Prize - \$500 - Christos Stefanopoulos, Portsmouth, RI - Ticket No. 186
- 4th Prize - \$500 - JoAnn Manouelian, Portsmouth, RI - Ticket No. 173
- 5th Prize - \$250 - Danny Sarris, Newport, RI - Ticket No. 111
- 6th Prize - \$250 - Don Lee, Newport, RI - Ticket No. 10

Congratulations to the winners and thank you to everyone who helped with the raffle!

AIR CONDITIONING INSTALLED

FINALLY, after many years of research, discussion and the like, air conditioning is up and running inside the church! Many thanks to Tom Adamedes for the countless hours he spent interviewing air conditioning companies, and all the time spent with the company we used. The units are quite effective and quiet, providing dehumidification and cooling, which helps keep the church comfortable and fresh-smelling during the hot and humid summers. If you've been staying away from church during the summer because of the heat and humidity, that's now behind us, so please join us in comfort!

IN OUR PARISH

Anniversary: *Michael and Mary Janaros* celebrated another milestone – 65 years of marriage on 6/18. Along with their loving family, we also congratulate them, and look forward to their 70th anniversary!

Birth: *Sofia Athanasia Stefanopoulos* was born on 7/20 to the proud parents, Athanasios & Ourania Stefanopoulos. Congratulations also to parishioners Christos & Sofia Stefanopoulos, proud grandparents. May she live many years!

Baptism: *Thomas (Kyle Thompson) Kinsella*, son of Kenneth and Maria (Fowler) Kinsella, was baptized on 7/11. His sponsor is Marisa Cadenazzi. May God grant him many years!

Death: *Mary Spiratos* fell asleep in the Lord on 7/7 and was buried on 7/10. We express our condolences to Mary's son George and his family. May her memory be eternal!

Graduation: *Matthew Diomandes* graduated from Middletown High School. He is currently exploring options for attendance at a junior college. We wish him well and apologize for omitting him in the June listing of graduates.

GREEK SCHOOL NEWS

The Greek School has completed a successful year, and the children are now enjoying their summer break. Class will start again in September. Look for details in the September bulletin. In order to help us with planning for the upcoming year, please call Evangelos Giannopoulos at 782-9457 and let him know about your plans. We are especially interested to find out about our new students.

<p><i>In loving memory of</i> <i>Gredo Vincent Volpicelli</i></p>	<p>Order of AHEPA Maud Howe Elliott Chapter No. 245</p> <p>Daughters of Penelope Ares Chapter Number 49</p>	<p>Mel's Cafenio 25 Broadway Newport 849-6420</p>
<p><i>With compliments of...</i> Dr. Joanne and Mr. C. Gus Hologgitas</p>	<p>Aquidneck Pizza Breakfast ? Lunch ? Dinner 27 Aquidneck Avenue Middletown Take out orders: 849-3356 Daily 7am-12am, Fri & Sat 7am-2am</p>	<p><i>✍</i> Tommy's <i>✍</i> Deluxe Diner 159 East Main Road Middletown 847-9834 Established in 1936</p>
<p>Nikolas Pizza 38 Memorial Blvd West Newport 849-6611</p>	<p>Astro Construction Inc. PO Box 522 Portsmouth, RI (401) 683-9120 Established 1954</p>	<p>CODDINGTON BREWING COMPANY 210 Coddington Highway Middletown 847-6690</p>
<p>Compliments of the ATLANTIC BEACH CLUB 53 Purgatory Road Middletown 847-2750</p>	<p>A-1 Pizza 306 Broadway Newport Free Delivery 849-2213</p>	<p>Rhea's Bed & Breakfast <i>Accommodations with jacuzzi's available!</i> 120 West Main Road Middletown 841-5560</p>
<p><i>Compliments of</i> Island of Skiathos Organization Established 1967</p>	<p>Flo's Drive-In <i>Portsmouth</i> Flo's Clam Shack <i>Over Flo's</i> <i>Middletown</i> <i>Voted Best in Rhode Island!</i></p>	<p>The Mainstay Inn 151 Admiral Kalbfus Road Newport 849-9880</p>
<p>ELLAS Greek and American music We play all types of functions. Call Andy. (978) 532-0771</p>	<p><i>Compliments of</i> C.H. Charles 5 & 10¢ Stores 233 Broadway 94 Williams Street Newport</p>	<p>Sandwich Board Deli 397 Thames St. Newport, RI 849-5358</p>



Saint Spyridon
Greek Orthodox Church
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