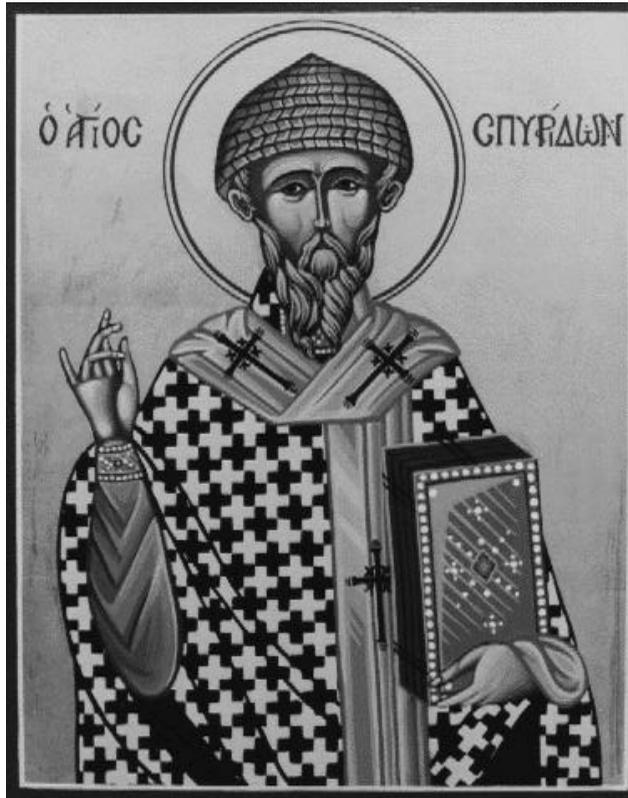

THE SAINT SPYRIDON VOICE
JANUARY 2004



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

Reverend Presbyter Anthony Evangelatos
 franthony@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

Ron Delarose

Choir Director: Paul Cotsoridis

Organist: Jane Iandolo

Religious Education : Marianne Menas

Stewardship: Ron Delarose

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

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday Winter Hours Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10 am

Wednesdays Vespers (or Small Paraklesis on
 last Wednesday of month) 7 pm* Festal celebrations in the week:
 Vespers– 7 pm*

Saturdays Great Vespers 6 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

Beloved in Christ, as we prepare to celebrate our Lord Jesus Christ's baptism and His manifestation to the world as God in Trinity, along with the Father and the Holy Spirit, we should be reminded of our own baptism – both its significance and its meaning for our lives today.

Those of us who are “cradle” Orthodox, obviously remember nothing of our baptism because of being infants at the time. (With the exception of those unfortunate situations where some parents wait so long to baptize a child, that there *is* a recollection!) Adult converts who join the Orthodox Church through baptism (because of never having been baptized), are fortunate in that they are active participants in their baptism; they can comprehend the prayers and petitions, and understand the deep significance of the various symbolic rituals, especially because of having gone through catechetical training with their priest.

At the baptisms of children, we usually get caught up with the “cuteness” of it all. Our focus is totally on the child – whether he was quiet or noisy throughout the service; whether he hated or loved the emersion into the water; whether a noisy child stopped crying abruptly upon tasting the Holy Communion; interest in how lovely the baptismal garment is, etc., etc.. What we tend to forget, is the awesome mystery that is taking place before our eyes – the exorcism of demonic forces, the spiritual death and rebirth of the one baptized, the entering of the Holy Spirit into the child through Holy Chrismation, and the climax of physical union with Christ upon receiving His spotless Body and Blood at the end of the service.

Let us look at excerpts from some of the prayers of the baptismal rite, which demonstrate the awesomeness of the holy mystery taking place before us. During the prayers of exorcism we hear the following: “*The Lord rebukes you O Devil, for He came into the world and dwelt among men in order to shatter your tyranny and free mankind; hanging on the Cross, He triumphed over all the hostile powers...He destroyed death by death, and conquered you O Devil, who had the power of death...Have fear, come out and depart from this human being, and never return nor hide in him, neither meet nor act upon him, not by night or by day, not at dawn or at noontime, but depart to your own darkness until the appointed great day of judgment.*” From another prayer we hear, “*Therefore I adjure you, most wicked, impure, abominable, loathsome and alien spirit; come out of the man and never again enter into him. Depart; admit the vanity of your power which could not even control the swine.*” We see with both these prayers, that the Church takes Satan head on prior to baptizing one of God's children. The priest prays to God to drive all the disgusting demons out of His holy temple; everyone breathes and spits upon Satan and his demons out of disgust, and they then turn their back on them in order to face and acknowledge Jesus Christ as the living God.

Upon blessing the baptismal waters the priest says, “*Manifest Yourself O Lord, in this water, and grant that he who is baptized in it may be transformed so as to put away the old nature that is corrupted by deceitful desires, and to put on the new nature that is renewed in the image of God the Creator; so that united with You in the likeness of Your burial through baptism, he may also become a partaker of Your resurrection*”... So here we clearly see that baptism renews and transforms our corrupt, fallen nature, by sharing in the Lord's death and resurrection. Baptism is the door through which we enter into eternal life, having mystically been joined to the body of Christ.

Before anointing the newly baptized with the chrism of the Holy Spirit, the priest prays as follows: “*Blessed are You O Lord God Almighty, the source of all blessings, the sun of righteousness who shone with the light of salvation on those in darkness through the manifestation of Your only-begotten Son and our God; and You gave to us, unworthy though we be, blessed cleansing through Holy Baptism and divine sanctification through life-giving Chrismation; who now also have been well-pleased to regenerate Your newly-illuminated servant by water and the Spirit, granting to him the remission of all his sins both voluntary and involuntary.*” We see here that we are not only re-born in Christ through baptism, but also

cleansed of all sin. Furthermore, we are sanctified and regenerated through the gift of the Holy Spirit. Baptism is not truly complete without Holy Chrismation.

As we reflect upon our own baptism, we should be awestruck to know that we have been set aside from the world and delivered from the power of the Devil; that we have been born anew by sharing in Christ's death and resurrection through the baptismal waters; and that we have been sealed with the Holy Spirit, thus fully belonging to God as a creature who has been virtually *re-created*. From that point on, it is up to us to strive to *live* this way, so that our baptism does not become meaningless and trivialized.

May God bless all of you as we celebrate Holy Theophany; as we all pray for spiritual renewal through this holy feast of light – the transforming light of God that shines through all darkness and evil.

In Christ's love, +Fr. Anthony

REQUEST FROM METROPOLITAN METHODIOS

Dear brethren,

I am sure you would agree that the greatest treasure of our Church is our young people. They are our pride and joy to whom we will entrust the future of our Greek Orthodox Faith and Tradition in America. Thanks to your help, our Metropolis of Boston has reached out with various ministries to embrace our youth and young adults. One of the Programs we have organized is a yearly Dance Festival which attracts young adults from throughout New England. In addition to learning our Traditional Greek Dances, they meet other Greek Orthodox young people and enjoy fellowship.

Our young people have been invited by Metropolitan Tarasios of Buenos Aires to participate in an International Youth Dance Festival in South America. Several youth groups from our Archdiocese (Atlanta, Los Angeles, and Chicago) will be participating. A Dance Group representing our Metropolis has expressed a desire to participate as well. Traveling to Uruguay will be an experience that they will remember for the rest of their lives.

The cost to underwrite the 15 dancers and supervisors will be \$20,000. I reach out to you with the sincere hope that you will be willing to help sponsor this program.

With gratitude, Metropolitan Methodios of Boston

SERVICE CANCELLATIONS

With winter upon us, be sure to check the church's voice mail for service cancellations on bad weather days. Call the church, listen to the prompts and select option #4 – "Additional Services for the Current Week." Any notice of cancellation will be posted there, including Saturday vespers and regular Sunday services. This can be checked any time of day or night. Rotary dial phones cannot access the system, so have a friend check for you.

CHILD & FAMILY SERVICE GIVING TREE

Thank you everyone! Through your generosity, St. Spyridon Church provided Christmas gifts and holiday meals for 2 adopted families. We supplied an additional 8 families with grocery gift cards for holiday dinners. A special thanks to Zinovia Canale for wrapping and delivering our purchases. The kindness you've all shown has brightened the Christmas season for these families. May God bless you in the new year!

Pres. Themmi

FROM THE WRITINGS OF THE SAINTS

(The following passages are taken from the book, *Spiritual Counsels* (St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1989), which are selected passages from the book, *My Life in Christ*, by St. John of Kronstadt, a priest and great spiritual elder of nineteenth century Russia.)

THE HELP OF THE CHURCH ON EARTH

The Church of God

“Your soul seeks true life and its natural food. The food of the mind is truth; the food of the heart is peace and blessedness; the food of the will is lawfulness. Go to the Church; she will give you all this in plenty, for she possesses it superabundantly. She is the pillar and ground of the truth, because in her is the Word of God, manifesting the origin of all things... She affords us peace and blessedness through her divine service, above all through the sacraments... She teaches us the true way which leads to eternal life – the way of God’s commandments.”

“We ought greatly to honour the Church, venerate her holiness, her antiquity, her unshaken firmness, her divinely enlightened wisdom and spiritual experience, her soul-saving commandments and ordinances, her divine services, sacraments and rites...”

The House of God

“The Church, through the ordering of the church building and her divine service, acts upon the whole man, educates him wholly: acts upon his sight, hearing, smelling, feeling, taste, imagining, mind and will...”

“The source of every true joy, of all true calm and peace of conscience, of cleansing, of spiritual and bodily healing, the source of spiritual power and boldness, flows in the church – theatres and other worldly distractions and consolations can never replace that which a true Christian receives in the church, where God himself comforts the souls of those who believe, and whose hearts are turned to him, as a mother comforts her child...”

“Truly the church is heaven upon earth; for where the throne of God is, where the awful sacraments are celebrated, where the angels serve together with men, ceaselessly glorifying the Almighty, there is truly heaven...”

“How ardently we should love the house of God, how we should adorn it!... The adornment of holy things elevates our souls to God, and is therefore not merely not wrong, but positively holy and edifying, as also are sacred music, the fragrance of incense, the magnificence and splendour of the ornaments of the church building and its vessels. All these, destined to glorify God and to arouse devout feelings, are not sinful, but holy.”

RETIREE’S LUNCHEON

The next luncheon and presentation for our retirees is scheduled for **Thursday, January 22nd at 12:00 noon**. We are looking for a form of entertainment – either a performance or artistic presentation– for this event. If anyone has ideas, we are open to suggestions. We are also looking for another restaurant to sponsor the meal. For those planning to attend, please remember to call the office by Tuesday, January 20th, so we know for how many to prepare.

JANUARY 2004

Sunday Winter F

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Th
				1 Circun St. Bas Orthrc am <input type="text"/>
4 Sunday before Theophany Altar Team A	5 Eve of Theophany, Great Hours 10 am Vesperal Divine Lit. of Theophany; 1st blessing of water-5 pm <i>(strict fast)</i>	6 Holy Theophany Great Blessing of Water, Orthros 9 am and Lit. 10 am Vespers of St. John, 7 pm	7 Synaxis of St. John the Forerunner, Orthros 9 am and Lit. 10 am Vespers, 7 pm <i>(fast day)</i>	8
<input type="text"/> No fasting				
11 Sunday after Theophany Altar Team B	12	13	14 Vespers, 7 pm <i>(fast day)</i>	15
18 Twelfth Sunday of Luke St. Athanasios the Great Altar Team A	19	20	21 Vespers, 7 pm <i>(fast day)</i>	22
25 Sunday of Zaccheus St. Gregory the Theologian Altar Team B	26	27	28 Paraklesis, 7 pm <i>(fast day)</i>	29 Vesper Hierar

Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10 am

Fri

Sat

2

3

Christ/
at,
and Lit. 10

Great Vespers, 6 pm

No fasting

9

10

Great Vespers, 6 pm

(fast day)

16

Vespers of St. Anthony
the Great, 7 pm

17

St. Anthony the Great,
Orthros 9 am and Lit. 10
am
Great Vespers, 6 pm

(fast day)

23

24

Great Vespers, 7 pm— St.
Gregory, MANSFIELD,
MA

(fast day)

30

Three The 3 Hierarchs, Orthros
9 am and Lit. 10 am

31

Great Vespers, 6 pm

(fast day)

Upcoming Events

January 13— Parish Council Meeting, 7 pm

January 13— Daughters of Penelope general meeting, 7 pm, AHEPA room at the Housing Complex

January 14— Philoptochos General Meeting, 7 pm

January 18— Philoptochos Vasilopeta

January 22— Retiree’s Luncheon, 12 noon

Regular Events

Children’s Greek School— Tuesdays 4– 6 pm, Wednesdays 4– 6 pm

Adult Greek School— Wednesdays 5– 6 pm

Religious Education— Sundays, immediately after Holy Communion

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

WHEN & HOW TO RECEIVE COMMUNION— PART 5

(The following has been taken from the book of the same title by Archimandrite Daniel G. Aerakis of the Church of Greece, St. Nikodemos Publication Society, 1997.)

THEY COMMUNE, BUT UNPREPARED

Impious Scorn

“The method of the Devil, which unfortunately has swayed a multitude of Christians, is this: they commune, but not prepared. Divine Communion is salvation – salvation only for those who approach it after the proper preparation... Those who approach with the necessary preparation, commune ‘unto remission of sins, unto communion with the Holy Spirit, unto inheritance of the kingdom of the heavens.’ Those who approach the dreadful mystery of the Divine Eucharist ‘any old way’ and commune with impiety and rudeness, commune ‘unto judgment and condemnation.’

Regarding the impious approaching and unworthy participation in Divine Communion, the Apostle Paul speaks characteristically in the 11th chapter of the 1st Letter to the Corinthians. Behold his words, which cause fear and dread:

‘Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a man examine himself, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For any one who eats and drinks without discerning the body, eats and drinks judgment upon himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died.’

According to the Apostle Paul, he who scorns the Body and Blood of the Lord and approaches unworthily without any preparation is guilty because he approached without at all examining himself. He approached with an impure heart, the result of scorn. He scorns and disdains the Body and Blood of Christ...

The Responsibility of Those Liturgizing

Impiety, related to the manner in which many people approach Divine Communion, is the result of demonic advice and influence. The devil, who prevents the pious with various excuses from approaching the Cup of Life, pushes the worldly people, the religiously indifferent, the impious to approach on certain days of the year to Divine Communion. Here is what he whispers in their ears:

‘Go, you poor thing, go commune. Why not? Are those who commune better than you anyway? It is not such an important thing. You will run at a certain moment in church...you will open your mouth, you will commune, and then you will quickly leave from inside the church’...

Every pious and God fearing person should ask himself, ‘how can the most reverend fathers impart the Immaculate Mysteries to people who not only do not do any preparation, but even sin offensively even at the time and moment when they are approaching the holy Cup?’... The responsibility of the priests who impart the Immaculate Mysteries to scorners of the sacred and holy things is dreadful... Frightful is the responsibility of the Bishops who should issue strict encyclicals on the topic of Holy Communion... Some priests and hierarchs, so as not to disappoint people, so as not to be characterized as old fashioned, give the holy things to anyone...

For those who approach (impiously)...their relatives also have a great responsibility. Unfortunately, they consider it good and proper to push their relatives on the great feasts to commune ‘for the good of the year’... There are mothers who literally pressure their young sons or their young daughters to commune even though they know very well that in faith they

are shaken, and they are not leading a moral life, and they do not want to have any relationship with the Church!... They pressuringly tell them, 'You will go! You will do me the favor... Otherwise I'll get very upset. I will die from distress.'

Similar pressures are also exercised by many women towards their husbands. Pious mothers and pious spouses! Your longing to see your husbands and children having contact with the Divine Eucharist is good and holy, but your manner is condemnable. This is a great sin, which possibly now is being committed unconsciously... Divine Communion is not 'for the good of the year.' It is a gift of God to the Christians who believe and struggle."
(to be continued next month)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

The pageant is over and what a success it was! The students had only one Sunday to practice and they did a great job. Thirty nine students stood with their classes and read lines from the Nativity scene or held up pictures to go along with the story. Some students were able to memorize their lines, while others read off of a sheet of paper. The students in grades 1-2, were able to take home their own books of the Nativity scene. Thank you again to the staff, the students and their families, and to Loula Eliopolous. Loula's Greek School students performed Christmas songs and they sang beautifully!

Now it is January and time to look at a New Year! May the cold weather not deter the students from coming to classes.

Marianne Menas, Religious Education Director

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Dear Parishioners,

The next council meeting will take place Tuesday, January 13, 2004 at 7 pm. At the last meeting on December 4:

1. Stewardship was discussed
2. Vote to elect Evangelos Giannopoulos Chairperson of Greek School
3. The need of seven members for council for the year 2004

Please contact Zoe Adamedes or someone on the council if interested to serve.

Thank you, Steven J. Mellekas, Council President

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Our Penny Social was once again a great success. Thank you to all in the community who supported our major fund raiser. Congratulations to the grand prize winners:

First Prize— J. Abbate- \$300

Second Prize— Taylor Cofield-\$200

Third Prize— Mary Snelling-\$100

A reminder about future events and meetings. The next Board Meeting is scheduled for January 7. Our next General Meeting is scheduled for January 14 at the Church Hall at 7:00. The Vasilopita will be held on Sunday January 18.

GREEK SCHOOL NEWS

Multimedia material (for children and adults) including CD-ROMs and workbooks is available, free of charge, for those not able to attend the Greek School classes or who would like to practice outside the classroom. See Basile for details.

IN OUR PARISH

Engagement-Leon Panteleos and Popi Gatos recently announced their engagement. The wedding will take place next September in Greece. May God bless their union in Christ!

Death-Mersina (Merta) Psaras, fell asleep in the Lord on December 7th, and was buried on December 11th. May her memory be eternal!

IN APPRECIATION

New robes for our acolytes have been donated in memory of Fr. Carl Vouros of blessed memory as noted below.

? in loving memory of my brother, Fr. Carl from Marie Vouros Mihos

? in loving memory of our uncle, Fr. Carl by Paul, Marlene (Nula), Michael, Kassandra, Peter and Marlena Bucuvalas

? in loving memory of our uncle, Fr. Carl by Jim (Gee), Linda, Marissa and Peter Mihos

The robes are of a neutral gold and white ecclesiastic fabric with matching belts, including Lenten belts for use in the Presanctified Liturgy and Holy Week services. We sincerely thank the Mihos family for their generosity, and for this special tribute to Fr. Carl.

MISSING FLAG

For some time now, an American flag on a flagpole has been missing. For some reason, it was stored in the small boiler room immediately at the bottom of the stairs going from the hall to the office. It has been missing for months. If anyone has borrowed it, please return it, or if you have any information on where it might be, please let the office know.

DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE

The Daughters of Penelope will be holding a "Flea Market" on Saturday, February 7th in the Church hall. Anyone wishing to bring in their "treasures" please bring them in on Friday, February 6th. Times to be announced in the next bulletin.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 13th at 7 p.m. in the Ahepa room at the Housing Complex. All members are welcome.

<p><i>In loving memory of</i> <i>Gredo Vincent Volpicelli</i></p>	<p>Order of AHEPA Maud Howe Elliott Chapter No. 245 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: 849-3555 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>Sophia's Café 283 Broadway 849.2902</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>RONZIO PIZZA & SUBS FREE DELIVERY 88 Broadway Newport 846-9300</p>	<p><i>Compliments of</i> C.H. Charles 5 & 10¢ Stores 233 Broadway 94 Williams Street Newport</p>	<p>This space is available. Contact church office.</p>



Saint Spyridon
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