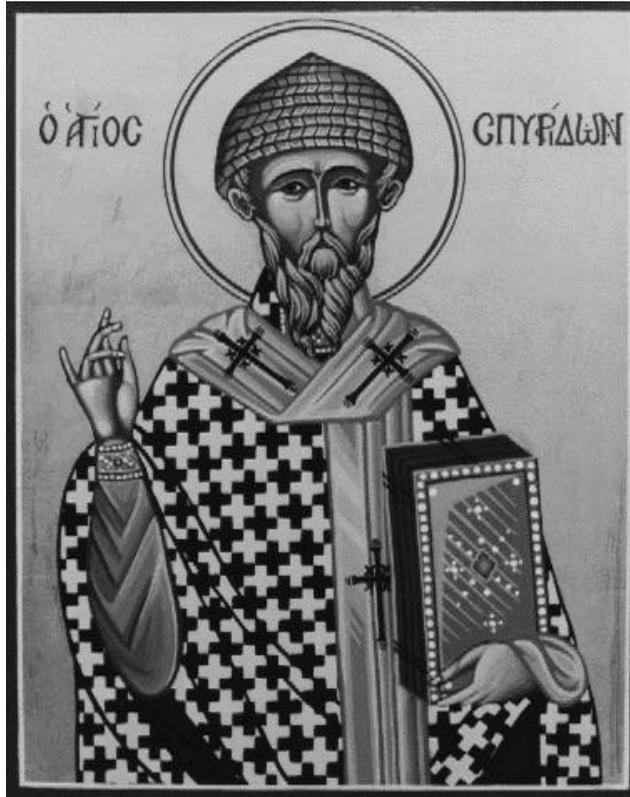

THE SAINT SPYRIDON VOICE
SEPTEMBER 2004



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– Nick Mellekas

Team B– James Canale

GOYA President: James Mellekas

JOY Advisor: Sandy Giannopoulos

Greek School:

Loula Eliopoulos

Basile Panoutsopoulos (adult classes)

Bulletin: Aliko Cooper (alikooper@yahoo.com)

Affiliated Organizations

AHEPA President: Basile Panoutsopoulos

Daughters of Penelope President:

Stella Volpicelli

Island of Skiathos Organization:

John Michael

SERVICE TIMES

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

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

Each September we make mention, in one way or another, of the beginning of the new ecclesiastical year on September 1st – the Church’s “New Year’s Day,” if you will. Many parish priests use this opportunity to remind their flock of the importance of centering one’s life around the Church; in other words, making *Christ* central in our lives. Priests will speak of the importance of *regular* church attendance – not the “hit or miss” approach. We will also bring to mind the importance and great blessing of celebrating the great feast days of the Church – the feasts of our Lord and the Theotokos, as well as the feasts of many great saints and martyrs of our Church celebrated throughout the liturgical year. Yes, perhaps it is getting old and tiresome for some of us to hear these reminders. However, it really is no different than our physicians constantly reminding us of importance issues concerning our health and well-being...loosing weight, watching our fat intake, exercising more, eating nutritious and balanced meals, stopping smoking, drinking in moderation, etc., etc.. They tell us these things because they *truly care* about seeing us be healthy. How much more then, does the hospital of the soul – the Church of Christ – care about our *complete* well being, starting with the soul?

Let us all try this new ecclesiastical year to become healthier in the soul through the life of the Church. To do this, we must first of all prioritize the health of the soul *over* the body. Those who are body work-out fanatics wouldn’t even consider missing a day at the gym, unless it was beyond their control. **This is the approach an Orthodox Christian should have toward church attendance on all Sundays and the major feast days.** Before we react to the statement regarding attending the major feast days because of work, school, etc., let us remember that we always celebrate the vespers of the feast on the prior evening, thereby giving students and workers the opportunity to participate in each feast to some extent.

Speaking of work, some of us have clearly stated that we cannot come to church on Sundays because we work. Some work every Sunday, so again, I suggest to those who do, to attend Saturday evening vespers in order not to live completely devoid of the liturgical life. These folks could also watch the calendar closely for weekday liturgies on their days off that they could attend, as well as regular Wednesday evening services and other festal vespers held periodically. Some tell us that they work every other Sunday; so the question must be asked: where are we on the Sundays we *don’t* work?

Regarding our children involved with sports on Sunday mornings...here it is the parents responsibility to set priorities in the home. Now many will remark, “so what’s so wrong with sports?” The point is that there is nothing wrong with healthy competition and

exercise of the body through sports. The problem is that the world at large does not consider people's faith convictions and their Sunday obligations. Why aren't we guiding our children to sporting activities that only occur on Saturday, or at least Sunday afternoons? Why do we give in to our children's requests that interfere with Sunday church attendance? Remember, when we are raising children, it is *not* all about pleasing them 100% of the time. Consider this: when our children become adults and perhaps married and raising their own children, having played sports on Sunday *will not* have been that which shaped them into Christ-centered human beings, who will definitely raise their children in the Church. If we *consistently* bring them to church and keep the faith alive *in the home*, then we will have planted the correct seeds that will remain in them throughout their lives.

Regarding sporadic or almost non-existent church attendance in general, many will say that even though they don't come to church often, they "haven't forgotten about God;" that they "can pray to God anytime and anywhere;" that they "don't need to come to church to be close to God," among many other justifications. Here we must remind ourselves that we are *Orthodox Christians* – not *Protestants* who espouse *individualism* and personalized theology with no accountability to the Body of Christ – the Church. Even though personal prayer throughout each day is an *integral* part of our spiritual lives, it cannot replace the liturgical worship experience. Our obligation as members of the Body of Christ, is to gather in worship of the living God on all Sundays (with the exception of illness, mandatory work, and other such hardships), as well as major feast days, as much as possible. We should seek *sanctification* and *unity* with God and one another, through frequent receipt of the holy mystery of the Eucharist, which is only possible by being part of the worshipping community of believers gathered in church.

In his book, *Liturgy and Life*, by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann of blessed memory (Orthodox Church in America, 1983), he says the following regarding Orthodox worship:

"The Church as life and grace is realized through her worship. The Greek word for worship – leiturgia – means more than common prayer: it means corporate action, in which every one takes an active part, is a participant and not only an 'attendant.' The nature of this action is both corporate and personal. It is corporate because through the unity and faith of its participants it realizes and fulfills the reality of Church, i.e. the presence of Christ among those who believe in Him. It is personal because this reality is every time conveyed to me, given me for my personal edification, for my own growth in grace. Thus in worship I am both an active 'builder' of the Church – and to be this is my

Christian duty –and I am also its ‘beneficiary’ –for the whole of the Church’s treasure is offered to me, is a Divine gift to me.”

Beloved in Christ, please accept all of the above as a loving invitation into the life of grace and spiritual fulfillment in Christ, and not as an admonition. We can leave our doctor’s office upset after hearing his words of warning, but the reality is that the future health of our body remains questionable at best. May we begin the new ecclesiastical year on a *positive* note by being honest with ourselves and seeking to change and grow in Christ. With our eternal destiny directly affected by our life in the Church, one should clearly see the extreme urgency and clear priority of the matter at hand!

In Christ’s love,

+Fr. Anthony

IN APPRECIATION

We express our extreme gratitude to **Greg Borodemos** and his company, *Astro Construction*, for so generously offering to refinish all the exterior doors of the church, both in front and in the alley. In addition to the doors, the wood trim of the windows above the front doors was also painted. All the materials and labor were completely donated. The staining and varnishing was done in an appropriate fashion to guard against the elements, so that the doors may look beautiful for many years. May this be a blessing to Greg and all his family!

We also thank **Barbara Parkos** for coming forward as the donor of communion wine. We now have a one-year supply on hand, thanks to Barbara’s generosity. May the Lord bless her and her family for supplying the fruit of the vine to become His holy Blood.

Thank you also to **Chris Stefanopoulos** who donated his \$500 Hellenic Fest raffle winnings back to the festival in order to maximize the festival profit for St. Spyridon.

SEPTEMBER 2004

Sunday Winter F

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Th
			1 The Indication (New Ecclesiastical Year, Orthros & Liturgy Small Vespers 7 pm <i>(fast day)</i>)	2
5 14th Sunday of Matthew Altar Team B	6	7 Vespers of the Nativity of the Theotokos 7 pm	8 Nativity of the Theotokos, Orthros & Liturgy Small Vespers 7 pm <i>(fast day)</i>	9
12 Sunday Before the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Winter Hours Begin) Altar Team A	13 Vespers of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross 7 pm	14 The Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Orthros & Liturgy <i>(strict fast)</i>	15 Small Vespers 7 pm <i>(fast day)</i>	16 Vesper Her D: Elpis &
19 Sunday After the Exaltation of the Holy Cross Altar Team B	20	21	22 No Vespers <i>(fast day)</i>	23
			<i>Father Anthony on va</i>	
26 The Apostle & Evangelist John the Theologian; Visiting Priest Altar Team A	27	28	29 No Paraklesis <i>(fast day)</i>	30
<i>Father Anthony on vacation</i>				

Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10 am

Fri

Sat

3

4

Great Vespers 6 pm

(fast day)

10

11

Great Vespers 6 pm

(fast day)

17

18

Great Vespers 6 pm

St. Sophia & Her
Daughters, Orthros &
Liturgy
' pm

(fast day)

24

25

No Vespers

(fast day)

Upcoming Events

September 9– Parish Council Meeting,
7 pm

September 12– Religious Education
Registration following Liturgy

September 14– Retirees Luncheon &
Presentation after Liturgy

September 15– Philoptochos Meeting,
6:30 pm, Church Hall

September 19– Religious Education
Classes Resume

September 19– Festival Wrap-Up
Meeting following Liturgy

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

SWEET BASIL FOR THE HOLY CROSS

In early summer, some of you took home basil plants donated to us by the parents of Meli Kyriakides from New York. It was requested that those who took the plants were to grow them for the purpose of decorating the Holy Cross on September 14th. If you had success growing the basil, **please bring your cuttings to church on Sunday, 9/12.** Please do not bring your basil on the 14th during the services. May all who grew basil be blessed by the power of the Precious and Life-giving Cross!

HELLENIC FEST WRAP-UP

There will be a Hellenic Fest wrap-up meeting held on Sunday, September 19th after the coffee hour.

RETIREES LUNCHEONS & PRESENTATIONS RESUME

We begin a new series of retirees gatherings on **Tuesday, 9/14, after the liturgy of the Holy Cross.** Please join us for lunch and a very informative and *important* presentation on prostate cancer. Men, this is a must for all ages to hear!

SUNDAY WINTER HOURS

A reminder that we will return to Sunday winter hours on Sunday, September 12th. Orthros will begin at 8:45 and Liturgy at 10 am.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Hello Families,

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer season! September is upon us and now Religious Education classes are ready to begin. Registration will take place in the hall, after church, on September 12th. Look for me, or another staff member, for a form. Also, classes will begin on September 19th.

Teachers this year will be the same as last year. Marianne Menas will be teaching grades PreK-K, Chrissy Rua will be teaching grades 1-2, Sandy Giannopoulos will be teaching grades 3-6, and Michael Sisak will be teaching grades 7-12. Also, those children in Sandy's and Michael's classes will be changing classrooms this year. Due to a large number in Sandy's class, Sandy will be having classes in the Greek School room. Michael will be having his class in the conference room, next to the office.

See everyone in September!

Marianne Menas

Director of Religious Education

METROPOLIS CAMP/RETREAT CENTER OPEN HOUSE

The third annual open house celebration for the Metropolis Camp and Retreat Center in Contoocook, NH will take place on **Sunday, September 12th**. The day begins with Orthros at 8:30 am, and Divine Liturgy at 9:45 am, to be followed by the blessing of the waters at the lake and retrieval of the Holy Cross from the water. Metropolitan Methodios will preside, assisted by area priests. The rest of the day will be comprised of a family picnic and multiple activities for all. Please make it a point to visit this wonderful asset of our Metropolis if you haven't yet. For directions, call the Camp at (603) 746-2132, or see the Metropolis website: www.boston.goarch.org.

IN OUR PARISH

Baptisms: *Amalia (Emily) McDonald*, daughter of Steven & Nicole McDonald, was baptized on 8/8. Her sponsor was George Lambrenos of Natick, MA. May God grant her many years!

Birth: A baby girl, *Maria Sophia Johnson*, was born to the proud parents, Maria Stefanopoulos-Johnson & John Johnson on August 13th. Congratulations also to parishioners Christos & Sofia Stefanopoulos, proud grandparents. May she live many years!

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

A new year is upon us! Before getting to current matters- The Philoptochos with great pleasure announces its 2004 Scholarship recipient:

James Steven Mellekas

James will be attending Assumption College this fall and we wish him all the best. Congratulations!

Remember applications for the Philoptochos Scholarship are distributed in early winter among the local high schools. You may also request an application from the Board members who will gladly assist you in obtaining a form.

The Philoptochos Calendar is ready. Please make note of the meeting dates and make every effort to attend. September 15th is our first meeting with Kathy Carbone as a guest presenter, 6:30 at the Church Hall.

The Penny Social is on November 4 at the Knights of Columbus and of course we look forward to everyone's support of this major fund raiser. If you would like to contribute gifts or gift certificates, please contact Bunny Snapp at 846-6341.

Remember, newlyweds are automatic members for the first year so join us! New members are always encouraged to participate. We look forward to a healthy and fulfilling year.

<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: 849-3356 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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