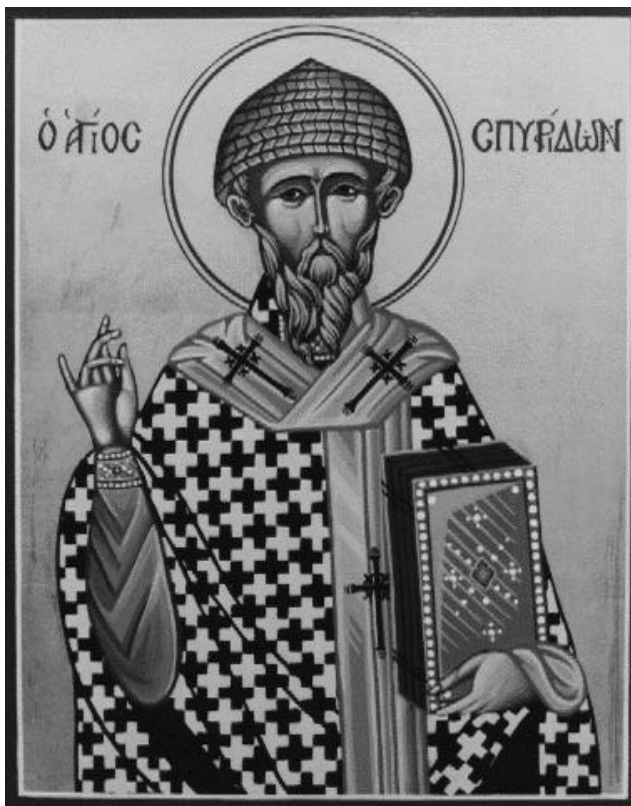

THE SAINT SPYRIDON VOICE
DECEMBER 2005



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: Zoe Adamedes

Philoptochos President: Zinovia Canale

Acolytes: Team A– Nick Mellekas

Team B– James Mellekas

GOYA President: Nick 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:

Ellen Anagnostos

Island of Skiathos Organization:

Christina Rua

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

Another calendar year has come and gone. Again, we find ourselves preparing for the celebration of the birth of our Lord, wondering where the time has gone. As we anticipate Christ being born anew in our hearts, let us reflect on some of the familiar images of this holy season. Whether you are viewing an Orthodox icon of the Nativity or a Christmas card scene of the same, you typically would see similar things...the manger, the animals, shepherds, angels, the star, the wisemen, the holy parents Joseph and Mary, and of course, our Lord, the Christ child. There is such serenity in this scene; such humility and innocence; an awesome mystery-taking place that will affect all of humanity. Sadly, the world in which we live does not, for the most part, portray scenes of serenity, innocence and humility. For many Christians, Christ is not the primary focus in their life, but has been replaced with obstacles that keep Him far away.

When Christ is not the focus of our life, then we cannot expect to live as God wants us to. For example, in the Orthodox Church we look to the Theotokos and the saints as our primary examples of living a Christ-centered life. Our Church extols the ever-virginity of Mary, the Theotokos. She is the supreme example to all who are unmarried, of innocence, chastity and obedience to God. In today's society, however, these are not virtues which the majority of single people seek to emulate. The basic passions for food, drink, physical pleasure, etc., take "center stage." Today, many engaged couples live together before marriage, because there is no sense of accountability to God.

In today's world, we don't always have a sense of peace and serenity. Violent crimes seem to be escalating. Global conflicts continue to rage. People in general, many times treat each other with great disrespect, using foul language, hand gestures, etc. As Christians, we should obviously see how ungodly these behaviors truly are.

Humility, these days, also seems to be a disappearing virtue. Extreme materialism dominates many people's lives. Human egos sometimes become bigger than life itself, becoming the source of many negative conflicts in human relations. A humanistic approach to life, definitely leaves God out of the picture completely.

Now, we must realize that much of what I just described is not unique to this day and age alone. Human behavior repeats itself over the ages. Knowing this, we should clearly see how Christ through His Gospel, speaks to *all people at all times*. It is up to each one of us to accept the message of salvation through the Gospel, and to repel the ungodly ways of the world. All the god-like virtues truly are attainable by man, as we see in the lives of the saints. Those who have lived before us and excelled in the faith, prove to us that through Christ, *everything* is possible.

Let us all strive this year, to place ourselves in the scene depicted in the icon of the Nativity. Let us follow the blessed star that brings us to Christ the true light. Let us gaze upon the heavenly host in awe, which directs us to glorify Christ and rejoice in Him. Let us seek Christ the King of our lives as the wisemen from the East. Let us run to Christ as the shepherds, since we are all in need of *His* shepherding, in order to protect us from the wolf of souls – the Devil. In truth, we are *all* part of that blessed scene, because through God’s love, Christ came to save each and every one of us. It is up to us to accept and follow Him toward the promise of eternal life and salvation.

Christ is born, glorify Him!

+*Fr. Anthony*

ST. SPYRIDON FEAST DAY CELEBRATION

Our patronal feast day this year will be celebrated as follows:

- ? **Sunday morning, 12/11: annual pastoral visit of His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios. A fish luncheon to honor His Eminence and our feast day will follow.**
- ? **Sunday evening, 12/11: Great Vespers of St. Spyridon at 7:00 pm, to be followed by Philoptochos sponsored reception.**
- ? **Monday morning, 12/12: Feast day of St. Spyridon – Orthros 9:00 am, Divine Liturgy 10:00 am**

Let us make it a point to attend liturgy Sunday morning, to receive His Eminence’s blessing, as well as the evening vespers with our local priests and visiting brethren in Christ. Regarding Monday morning, all of us who don’t work and are well in health, should make it a point to be in church to honor our patron saint. He blesses and protects us all year; should we not make it a point to be in church for his blessed feast? May St. Spyridon continue to intercede to the Lord on our behalf!

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD

We are again printing a Community Christmas Card. The cost is \$10 per line. Please send you check in to the Church office by December 11th or see Ellen Anagnostos. Sign-up sheets are on the information table in the Church Hall.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Our 8-series class on the Gospel of Mark continues **each Wednesday evening** immediately after small vespers. The service begins at 7 pm, and lasts an 1/2 hour, followed by an 1 hour class. Please join us for spiritual refreshment through the vespers, and the reading and commentary on the Gospel of Mark – the shortest of the holy Gospels.

NEW ICON FOR CHURCH

Another original hand-written icon now adorns our holy temple. Paul Cotsoridis has commissioned an icon of St. John of Dasmascus, one of the great hymnographers of the Orthodox Church, by the nuns of Holy Protection Monastery in Weatherly, PA. The icon adorns the choir loft, along with the icon of St. Romanos the Melodist. He is donating this icon in memory of his beloved parents, Constantine and Maria Cotsoridis. We greatly appreciate Paul's generosity, and we pray that both St. John and St. Romanos will bless and enlighten all of our church musicians toward the glory of God!

ADVENT MINI-RETREAT

A mini-retreat is scheduled for **Saturday, 12/10**. The retreat will be conducted by Fr. Isaac Crowe, presbyter of St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church in Pawtucket. The theme of the retreat is ***“Divine Call and Human Response” – the theological anthropology of St. Isaac the Syrian.*** The church doors will open at 10:30 am, and the retreat will begin promptly at 11:00 am. A Lenten luncheon will be served, and the retreat will end with Great Vespers at 3:00 pm. A nominal donation of \$10 will be collected to help defray some of the costs. Please join us in order to be spiritually enriched during this holy season that prepares us for the birth of our Lord!

COMMUNION WINE NEEDED

We are nearly out of communion wine, and therefore are appealing to someone's generosity to donate one case. \$100 will cover the case, which should last at least one year. Please make your check payable to St. Spyridon Church, and enter “*communion wine*” on the memo line. Fr. Anthony will take care of ordering the wine. Please know that it is an immense blessing to offer this integral element of the Holy Eucharist. May the Lord bless the donor!

REFLECTIONS ON THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

“If we truly understand the message of Christmas, which teaches us to love and serve the poor, let us first of all turn to Christ. Only He can teach us how to really love the poor, not for our own glory – not even for a social ideal – but for the love of man as He Himself has loved us. Jesus Christ is the first among the poor; no one has so totally impoverished himself as He did. And, moreover, He did so voluntarily. For let us never forget that He is the second Person of the Trinity, the Son of God, and that He has lowered Himself to the point of becoming a defenseless child, lying in straw at the feet of animals...

Christmas is also a message of peace. Even for those who have forgotten Christ, or have never known Him, Christmas is a symbol of peace on earth and love among men, if only for twenty-four hours or for a single night (as in, for example, truces during wars, cease-fires, or messages of peace from all the governments of the world). This is appropriate, for Christ is the God of Mercy, the Prince of Peace, ‘and of his peace there will be no end’ (Is 9:6).

The peace of this world is often only a period of calm between two wars. Jesus is the Prince of Peace, a peace without end. His Kingdom will not fall like all other kingdoms, reigns, governments, and dictatorships. The peace of Jesus Christ allows us to participate now in His Kingdom which is to come. Let us learn how to carry this peace of Christ within us from this moment on. Let us, like the shepherds, hear the exclamation of the angels during Christmas night: ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men’ (Lk 2:14). Let us be witnesses of this marvelous reconciliation between heaven and earth, between God and man!

We shall never exhaust the Nativity message, its beauty and its mystery. We have spoken of peace and poverty. It is through Jesus that we can understand these two aspects: He is peace, and He is the poorest among the poor...

...When Adam was created, he was formed out of the earth; today the second Adam, Christ, recreates man in His person. The Son of God at the mouth of the cave has taken our human condition upon Himself; He is born of the earth and will return to the earth at the time of His burial. ‘The first man was from earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven... Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven’ (1 Cor 15:47,49)...”

(taken from The Living God, Vol. 1; St. Vladimir’s Seminary Press, 1989)

SOUP KITCHEN

We served a traditional Thanksgiving meal to over 60 guests at our November Soup Kitchen. Thanks to everyone who helped! Our next soup kitchen will be December 12. You may have noticed that we are requesting fewer dessert donations. This is because we've realized that attendees are not big dessert eaters. They are genuinely grateful for the nutritious meals we offer. As in the past, we'll continue to keep you updated through the monthly bulletin. Thank you to all of you who give so generously to this ministry! We welcome and appreciate your support!

NATIVITY FAST CONTINUES

Please remember that our Holy Church observes a fast in preparation for the Nativity of our Lord, which commences each year on November 15th. Regardless of how closely we follow the fast or not, this is a wonderful way of observing a *spiritual* preparation for the Nativity, as opposed to the *secular* preparation for the overly commercialized "holiday season," as the world calls this time of year.

The generally accepted method of fully keeping the Nativity fast is as follows:

- ? November 15 – December 12: fasting from meat, eggs & dairy products daily; fish, wine & olive oil allowed daily, except for Wednesdays & Fridays; shellfish allowed daily
- ? December 13 – December 24: strict fasting as in Great Lent – no animal products, including fish, throughout; wine & olive oil allowed on Saturdays & Sundays; shellfish allowed daily

Note: Strict fasting never applies to growing children, the infirm, expectant mothers, diabetics, and travelers who may not have flexibility in choosing foods. Also, our Holy Archdiocese has always excluded Thanksgiving Day from the Nativity Fast.

RETIREE LUNCHEON & PRESENTATION

We would like to thank Chris Young, owner of Nikolas Pizza, for hosting the lunch at our November gathering. Our next luncheon and presentation will be on **Thursday 12/15 after the liturgy of St. Eleftherios**, approximately at 11:45 am. Please join us for an enjoyable afternoon of fellowship.

PARISH COUNCIL DONATES OLD VESTMENTS

During the past year, the Clean-up Committee collected vestments that were no longer being used from around the church. These vestments (acolyte robes, choir robes, etc.) had unfortunately fallen into neglect and were mostly lying on the ground of various downstairs closets.

Choir Robes - The committee asked the Choir Director to help determine which choir robes were no longer needed and to then either donate or discard them properly. The Choir did a splendid job in accomplishing this task, and as a result of their labors, they now have a neat closet filled with nothing but current robes!

Other Vestments (Acolyte Robes, etc.) – The Parish Council authorized the Clean-up Committee to donate the other old vestments and the committee has recently sent these vestments to the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC), where they will be inspected to determine which are still usable. Those vestments which are deemed usable will be boxed and sent to Orthodox missions in Africa, South America or elsewhere around the world. Those vestments which are deemed not to be usable will be sent to St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary in South Canaan, Pennsylvania to be properly incinerated.

ST. SPYRIDON CHRISTMAS TREE

A reminder that the church Christmas tree will be setup after church in the community hall on Sunday, December 4th.

This activity will be led by the adults associated with the Sunday School, Greek School and Little Lambs groups, assisted by the children of these groups. All community members are welcome to join in the festivities of decorating the tree for the upcoming Christmas season.

CHURCH SERVICE CANCELLATIONS

As we have in the past during the winter months, we will be announcing service cancellations on the voice mail system of the church. You may access this information 24 hours a day, by calling the church, then choosing menu selection #4, “*additional services for the current week.*” Please note that sometimes cancellations are not posted until the morning of a service, so please double-check before departing from home.

DIVINE CALLAND HUMAN RESPONSE

THE THEOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY OF ST. ISAAC THE SYRIAN

**AN ADVENT RETREAT
WITH**

FR. ISAAC CROWE

DATE: Saturday, December 10th

PLACE: St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church – Thames & Brewer Sts. Newport, RI

TIME: Doors open at 10:30 am. Retreat begins at 11:00 am & ends with Great
Vespers at 3:00 pm

A Lenten lunch will be served, \$10 donation at the door

For more information call: (401) 846-0555

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

The Philoptochos would like to thank everyone for their support of the Penny Social— both for donations and workers.

The raffle winners were:

\$200 - Al Castonguay

\$100 - Mary Daglis

\$50 - Gert Tatenaude

We will have a dinner meeting on Wednesday, December 7th, at 6 pm at La Forge Casino restaurant. Please call Zinovia Canale, 848-0879, or Loula Eliopoulos, 847-7746, with an RSVP by Monday, December 5th. New members are welcome at the dinner.

Please send member dues (\$20) to Ionna Bairos Moreau at 96 Sherwood Terrace Portsmouth, RI 02871.

LITTLE LAMBS GROUP

The Little Lambs group will not be meeting in the month of December but look forward to seeing everyone again in the new year. Any mothers or fathers with Pre-K age children, please plan to join us for fellowship. Please contact Ourania Stefanopoulos at 846-7086 with questions.

DECEMBER 2005

Sun**Mon****Tue****Wed****Th**

1

Nativity

4 10th Sun. of Luke, the Great Martyr Barbara Altar Team B	5 Vespers of St. Nicholas the Wonder-worker, 7 pm	6 St. Nicholas the Wonder- worker, Orthros & Lit.	7 Small Vespers followed by adult rel. ed., 7 pm	8 Vesper Concep pm
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Nativity fast continues— fish, wine & olive oil permitted each day

11 11th Sun. of Luke, Pastoral visit of Met. Methodios; Vespers of St. Spyridon, 7 pm	12 PARISH FEAST DAY, Orthros & Lit.	13	14 Vespers of St. Eleftherios followed by adult rel. ed., 7 pm	15 St. Elel Lit.
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*Nativity fast continues**Strict fast through 12/24— no animal products*

18 Sunday Before the Nativity Altar Team A	19	20	21 Small Vespers followed by adult rel. ed., 7 pm	22
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Strict fast through 12/24— no animal products including fish; wine & olive

25 THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD IN THE FLESH, Orthros & Lit.	26 Boston Metropolis Clergy Family Dinner	27 St. Stephen the 1st Martyr, Orthros & Lit.	28 Paraklesis 7 pm	29
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No fasting through 1/4, including Wed. & Fri.

Fri

Sat

2

3

Great Vespers 6 pm

inues—fish, wine & olive oil permitted each day except Wed. & Fri.

9

10

The Conception of St. Anna, 7
Orthros & Lit.

Mini-retreat w/ Fr. Isaac Crowe, 11 am, followed by Great Vespers 3 pm

d. & Fri.

16

17

Orthros &

Great Vespers 6 pm

fish; wine & olive oil permitted on Sat. & Sun.

23

24

Eve of the Nativity – Vigil Liturgy 5 pm

: Anthony on pilgrimage

tted on Sat. & Sun.

30

31

Great Vespers 6 pm

Upcoming Events

December 4– Decorating of church Christmas Tree after Liturgy

December 6– Parish Council Meeting, 7 pm

December 7– Philoptochos Dinner Meeting, 6 pm

December 9– Daughters of Penelope Dinner, 7 pm

December 10– Advent mini-retreat

December 12– Soup Kitchen 5 pm

December 15– Retirees Luncheon & Presentation

December 18– Christmas Pageant

Regular Events

Religious Education– Sundays, immediately after Holy Communion **(no classes December 25th)**

Adult Religious Education – after Wednesday evening Vespers

Children’s Greek School– Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 4-6 pm and Thursdays, 4-5 pm

Adult Greek School– Mondays, 5-6 pm

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Dear Stewards,

Please find listed below a list of Stewards current through 20 November 2005. (In the future, Stewards will be recognized monthly in the church bulletin). Please verify the information on the list as to its accuracy. If your name has been inadvertently omitted, please accept my sincerest apologies and contact me as soon as possible. An end of year Stewardship report will be issued shortly, and very soon, Stewardship packages for 2006 will be in the mail. If you have misplaced your Stewardship 2005 Informational material and would like another set, or are interested in becoming a steward of St. Spyridon, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Zoe Adamedes, 274-1316, zadamedes@yahoo.com

A	Mr. & Mrs. Jon Cooper	Ms. Penny Hiotas
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Adamedes	Mr. & Mrs. Ted Cotatgis	Mr. & Mrs. Charles Holder
Ms. Zoe Adamedes	Mrs. Susan Cotsoridis	Ms. Rita Hologittas
Mr. John Agias	Mr. & Mrs. Dino Cotsoridis	Mr. Gus & Dr. Joan Hologittas
Mr. & Mrs. George Anagnostos	Mr. & Mrs Ted Cotsoridis	J
Mr. & Mrs. David Anagnostos	Mrs. Irene Cotsoridis	Mr. Emmanuel Janaros
Mrs. Stella Antonio	Mr. Paul Cotsoridis	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Janaros
Dr. Peter Antonopoulos and	D	Mr. David Jasinski
Dr. Ellen Spielberg	Ms. Mary Daglis	Mr. & Mrs. Steve Jennings
B	Mr. Bill Dedreux	Mrs. Bessie Jex
Mrs. Ionna Bairos-Moreau	Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Dragon	K
Mr. & Mrs Canelo Bartis	E	Dr. & Mrs. Christos Kapogiannis
Mrs. Zina Bashlayeva	Fr. & Pres. Anthony	Mrs. Katherine Karanikolas
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Bitzileos	Evangelatos	Mr. & Mrs. Nick Karanikolas
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Bonafas	F	Mr. & Mrs. Kyril Korolenko
Mr. & Mrs. Demo Borodemos	Mr. & Mrs. David Farias	Ms. Catherine Koulouvardis
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Borodemos	Mr. & Mrs. Francis Flowers	Mr. George Koulouvardis
Mrs. Elaine Brown	G	Mr. & Mrs. Harry Koulouvardis
C	Mr. & Mrs. Athanasios Gatos	Mr. John Koulouvardis (of blessed memory)
Mr. Steve Caminis	Mr. Jim George	Mrs. Christine Kronos
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Canale	Mr. & Mrs. Costa Gianetis	Mrs. Rose Kutsaftis
Mr. & Mrs. John Caragianis	Mr. & Mrs. Tom Gianetis	Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Kutsaftis
Mr. Alson Castonguay	Mr. Paul Gianiotis	Mr. Michael Kutsaftis
Mrs. Mary Champion	Mr. & Mrs. Evangelos	Mr. James Kutsaftis
Mr. Chris Christopher	Giannopoulos	Mr. Peter Kyriakidis
Mrs. Frances Christopher	H	
Col. & Mrs. Tom Connally	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Harrigan	

L

Mr. Peter Lazar
 Mr. & Mrs. Gerard Levesque
 Mr. Sturgis Lewis

M

Mr. & Mrs. Steve McDonald
 Mr. & Mrs. Spyridon Meares
 Mrs. Kay Medeiros
 Mrs. John Meiczinger
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Mellekas
 (Charles of blessed memory)

Mr. & Mrs. John Mellekas
 Mr. & Mrs. Greg Mellekas
 Mr. & Mrs. James Mellekas
 Mr. & Mrs. Steve Mellekas
 Mr. & Mrs. George Menas
 Ms. Marianne Menas
 Mr. Francine Menas
 Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Michael
 Mr. & Mrs. Anththony Moisiadis

N

Mrs. Helen Nelson
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Nichols

P

Ms. Jaclyn Parkos
 Ms. Barbara Parkos
 Mr. & Mrs. Greg Parkos
 Mr. Nick Pasyanos
 Ms. Gail Perry
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Petropoulos
 Mr. & Mrs. George Petropoulos
 Mr. Christy Petropoulos
 Mr. & Mrs. Chris Psilos
 Mr. & Mrs. Haralambos Psilos

R

Mrs. Joan Rozes
 Dr. James Rozes
 Mr. & Mrs. John Rozes
 Mrs. Mary Rozes
 Mr. Komes Rozes

S

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Soliozy
 Mr. & Mrs. George Spiratos
 Mr. & Mrs. Adam St. Peter
 Mr. & Mrs. Athanasios
 Stefanopoulos

Mr. & Mrs. Chris Stefanopoulos
 Ms. Despina Stefanopoulos
 Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Sullivan
 Mrs. Athena Stoupis
 Mrs. Eva Stoupis

T

Mr. & Mrs. James Tasso
 Mrs. Koula Tsaparas

V

Dr. & Mrs. Ernest Violet
 Mr. & Mrs. Melachrinio Violet
 Mr. & Mrs. James Violet
 Mrs. Stella Volpicelli
 Ms. Angela Volpicelli

W-Y-Z

Mrs. Mersina Walsh
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Wingert
 Mrs. Georgia Young
 Mr. Kimon Zarakostas

2006 STEWARDSHIP GOAL DOUBLED!

At the November General Assembly meeting, the assembly approved a motion to increase the Stewardship goal for 2006 to \$135,000, as this is the actual amount of money that must be collected from the community to pay the annual operating expenses of the church. Although, the old goal of \$65,000 is more in line with the past actual giving of the community, it falls far short from what is needed to run the church. We wish the Stewardship Committee the best of luck in meeting the 2006 goal. To reach the goal, the contribution of each current steward or the number of current stewards must double, or some combination of the two. We know there are many potential stewards out there, as the church has a mailing list of 255 stewards, however only 125-155 have recently pledged support for the church. For those who have lapsed as current stewards and are on the mailing list, please return your 2006 Stewardship card with a kind donation to your church. For those who are current stewards, please consider doubling your contribution to help balance the operating budget for the upcoming year.

THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

Attention Parents!!!!
Too good to be true ... (but it is) ⁽¹⁾

What if I told you there was a well-researched and statistically proven program that can:

- ? increase the average life expectancy of your children by 8 years
- ? significantly reduce their use and risk from Alcohol, Tobacco and Drugs
- ? dramatically lower their risk of suicide
- ? help them rebound from depression 70% faster
- ? dramatically reduce their risk for committing a crime
- ? improve their attitude at school and increase their school participation
- ? reduce their risk for rebelliousness
- ? reduce the likelihood that they would binge drink in college
- ? improve their odds for a "very happy" life
- ? provide them with a life-long moral compass
- ? and get them to wear their seatbelts more often

Is there such a program? YES, THERE IS.

How much would a program like this be worth to you? What if I told you it was FREE, and only took about 2 hours a week?. Take a look at the list again. It's not a dream. The program is called "ACTIVE CHURCH PARTICIPATION."

In study, after study, after study ², children who actively engage in a faith community on a regular basis are rewarded with SIGNIFICANTLY reduced likelihood of problems and risks, and significantly improved odds of a happier, healthier, longer life. These studies show the same results for adults as well.

We are fortunate that there are many avenues by which children at St. Spyridon's can participate in church life: Sunday School, Acolytes, Junior Choir, Goya, Joy, Greek School, Little Lambs and the dancing troupe, to name a few. These organizations are supported through the time, talents and treasures of the Stewards of the church. Why not take advantage of these resources today??? And, for more information on becoming a more active Steward, please contact Zoe Adamedes, Father Anthony, or the church office today!!

As Christ said in Matthew 7:9, "...what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone?" Our children are asking for bread!! Let's not give them stones!

¹ Taken from an article by Neil MacQueen

² Duke University, Indiana University, The University of Michigan, The Center for Disease Control, Barna Research Group, and the National Institute for Healthcare Research.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Items discussed at the last meeting:

- A. General Assembly preparation: The council voted that the agenda for General Assembly meetings must be reviewed by the priest prior to the actual meeting. The priest and the president will sign the agenda indicating that it has been reviewed.
- B. Discussion of stewardship and maintenance of church was reviewed.
- C. Openings to serve on the parish council are still available, anyone interested to serve please contact the council.

The next Parish Council meeting will meet on Tuesday, December 6, 2005 at 7:00 p.m

Thank You,
Happy and Blessed Holidays
Steven J. Mellekas
Parish Council President

PARISH COUNCIL OPENING

Five members of the current parish council will be concluding their two-year terms at the end of the year; this, combined with a vacancy that had not been previously filled, provides six (6) openings for the upcoming 2006 parish council. The church by-laws require twelve (12) parish council members serving staggered two-year terms; each year six (6) members should be concluding their terms, while the six other members continue to serve one more year of their two-year term. Interested community members will be joining the six individuals below who will be beginning the second of their two-year terms and therefore are already serving on the 2006 Parish Council, unless they otherwise resign their position:

2005-2006 Terms:

Steve Mellekas
Tom Lewis
Chris Christopher
Panayiotis Petrou
Zinovia Canale
Armand Mazzuli

If you are interested in volunteering to serve St. Spyridon church by submitting your name for one of the 6 openings for the 2006-2007 term, please contact the church secretary as soon as possible so the current council can determine if elections will need to take place.

PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT HISTORY

The Archive Committee is now attempting to gather an accurate chronological listing of all presidents that have served St. Spyridon Church since its inception as the Hellenic Orthodox Community of Newport, Rhode Island, Inc. in 1915. Once completed this list will also be posted under the Parish History section of our church's web site at www.stspyridonchurch.org, just as the list of all past priests from last month will be posted. In that regard, we wish to thank the community members who provided input regarding last month's past priest list. Additionally, the Archive Committee has completed its work of sorting the records and archives in the church office.

Below is a list of presidents that has been compiled from various sources, including past parish meeting minutes, a wall plaque in the church office, and the 50th and 75th Anniversary Albums. Although we believe we have accounted for all past presidents, we are not sure of the exact years served for some of the presidents and there is also a question on the order in which some have served, in addition to whether they actually served as president or chairmen of some major function in a specific year.

Current Chronological List of St. Spyridon's Parish Council Presidents:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Nikolaos Mitchell (Mintzelos) | 1915 |
| 2. Anthony Spanoudis | |
| 3. Constantine Hologgitas | |
| 4. Stamos N. Logothets | |
| 5. Basil K. Constant (Constantinides) | 1924 |
| 6. Xenophon Constant (Constantinides) | |
| 7. James D. Lewis (Dialegmenos) | |
| 8. Christy P. Petropoulos | |
| 9. Peter M. Daglis | |
| 10. Harilaos (Harry) K. Koulouvardis | |
| 11. Spiros G. Spiratos | 1941 |
| Apostolos B. Cascambas | 1945 (or VikingHotel Banquet Chairman) |
| Theodore Mellekas | ? |
| Nicholas G. Spiratos | 1946 (BuildingExterior Renovation Project) |
| 12. Alexander Demessianos | |
| 13. Dean J. Lewis | |
| 14. John A. Rozes | |
| 15. James Daglis | |
| 16. Harry Borodemos | |
| 17. Anthony G. Spiratos | |
| 18. Charles H. Koulouvardis | |
| 19. Angelo Fotelis | |
| 20. Frank Lascaris | |

21. Gregory H. Borodemos	
22. Arthur Krones	
22. George H. Koulouvardis	1964, 1974, 1991
23. Constantine (Gus) Hologgitas	1965
24. Charles T. Mellekas	1966
25. Chris Christopher	1972
26. Thomas Stoupis	
27. Demetri N. Damaskos	1975
28. James Georgiou	
29. Harry C. Koulouvardis	1980-82
30. James Avramis	1983-84
31. Elaine P. Holder	1985-90, 1996-97
32. Arthur C. Stefanopoulos	1992-93
33. James Mellekas	1994
34. Joanne Hologgitas	1995
35. Thomas Diomandes	1998-99
36. Anthony Kutsaftis	2000-01
37. Steve Mellekas	2002-05

The committee would again appreciate input from any community member that may be able to fill in the blanks on the years served and point out any discrepancies in the names and/or order of service. Please contact the church secretary, Ellen Anagnostos, at 846-0555 (dial 2), or email her at ganln@efortress.com or secretary@stspyridonchurch.org. If you prefer, you may mail your input to: Attn: Archive Committee, St. Spyridon Church, PO Box 427, Newport, RI 02840

Thank you for your continued assistance in helping the Archive Committee to capture accurate information regarding our church history.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Dear Families,

The Advent of the Christmas season is upon us again. The children will be busy making Christmas decorations or memorizing lines for the pageant on the 18th of December. Practice for the pageant will be held on Saturday, December 17th at 9 am in the church hall. I am asking families to make donations for the luncheon to be held that day. Please note, Greek School and Religious Education will be combining their programs for the 18th. More notices will be handed out in class on what to have the children wear for the pageant.

God bless! Marianne

IN OUR PARISH

Birth: A set of triplets - 2 girls & 1 boy - were born to James & Rachel (Holder) George on 11/28. Their names are *Charleigh Rae*, *Kennedy Rae*, & *Fischer Gregory*. As far as we know, this is the first set of triplets in our parish. We congratulate the parents, and the proud grandparents, parishioners Charlie & Elaine Holder. May all three live many years!

Baptism: The daughter of Leon & Kalliopi Panteleos was baptized on 11/26, and was given the name *Kristalia*. Her sponsor is Kimon Zarakostas. May she live many years!

Wedding: *Todd Siebens & Melissa Morin* were married on 10/29. Their sponsor is Melanie Morin. May they live many years!

NEWPORT AHEPA BASKETBALL TEAM

After more than 20 years of inactivity, the AHEPA's efforts to organize a community youth basketball team will have to wait at least one more year. Although we had interest from five community members for the 6th to 8th grade team for the current season, we fell short of the eight players needed to realistically field a team. Since there was even less interest for the 9th to 12th grade team, next year we will solely concentrate on fielding a 6th to 8th grade team. Thank you to all who helped to support this quest; we look forward to your continued support next year.

The AHEPA Athletic Committee

DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE

The Daughters of Penelope and their guests will get together on Friday, December 9th at the Sea Fare Inn in Portsmouth. Reservations are required by December 2nd.

<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>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> A Friend</p>	<p>Sandwich Board Deli 397 Thames St. Newport, RI 849-5358</p>



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