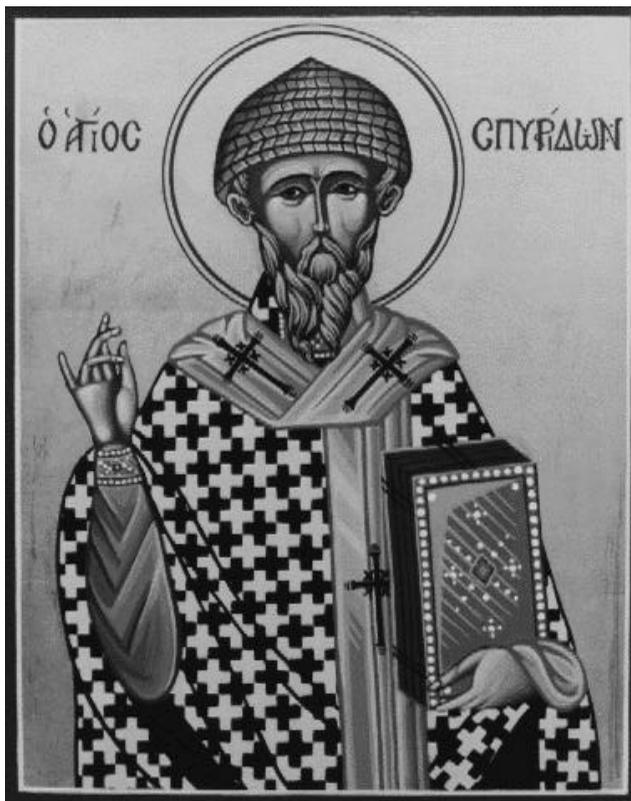

THE SAINT SPYRIDON VOICE
JANUARY 2005



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 Canale

GOYA President: James Canale

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:

Christina Rua

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

After having celebrated the glorious feast of the Nativity of Christ, we immediately go into another great feast of our Lord – Holy Theophany – the *manifestation* of His divinity to the world. It is considered a feast of *light*, because in this feast, God who is the source of light, is physically revealed to the world as a *Trinity* for the first time in history. We are bathed in divine light as we celebrate this most solemn feast of our Church. What we should ask for in prayer at the feast of Theophany is *enlightenment*, so that we may *walk as children of light and not of darkness*. (Eph. 5:8).

As Isaiah the Prophet said, “*The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death, light has dawned.*” (Is 9:2). “*It is for our illumination that Christ plunged into the waters of the Jordan: now we receive the unfading light. We are henceforth made sons of God, sons of the day. The water gives us sight just as it did to the blind man at the pool of Siloam. We were blind because we did not know the true light, now we are healed and we see Christ.*” (*The Incarnate God, Vol. 1, Catherine Aslanoff; SVS Press 1995.*)

Just over a week ago, we saw Christ in the mystery of the incarnation of God. We beheld the All-Powerful Creator as a helpless human baby – a miraculous image beyond human reasoning. In the feast of Theophany, we come face to face with the *God-man* – the *Theanthropos* – and see him as a mature adult. All Creation trembles and flees before the Master as He enters the waters of the Jordan River: “*The sea saw it and fled; Jordan turned back. The mountains skipped like rams, the little hills like lambs. What ails you, O sea, that you fled...? Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob...*” (Ps 114:3-7).

The symbolism of water is very central to the feast of Theophany. One cannot consider anything on earth as *living* without the presence of water, in some form or another. Therefore, it is so very logical that Christ should begin His public ministry by sanctifying all of Creation through His baptism in the Jordan. The Source of Life reclaimed all of Creation to Himself through this holy act, and then went out into the world to begin His public ministry. Christ gave new life to the world through His redemptive work, whose purpose was the salvation of fallen mankind.

“*At the ‘Feast of Lights’ (a popular name for Theophany), priests bless water for the use of the faithful...Each person draws from it abundantly, to quench one’s thirst, to purify oneself, to cure diseases, and to bless homes. From the heart of the Church, the body of Christ, ‘flow rivers of living water’ (Jn 7:38)*” (*The Incarnate God, as cited above.*) Through the holy rituals of the feast, we are brought into the presence of the original holy mystery of Theophany, at which the rivers of living water began to flow. We

too, in spirit, witness the voice of the Father proclaiming Christ as His beloved Son, and we see the Holy Spirit rest upon the Son in the form of a dove.

Through Holy Theophany, we are illumined by the divine radiance of the Holy Trinity, in order that we may be spiritually renewed and cleansed as we turn toward the upcoming journey to Golgotha and the empty tomb. Through this feast, darkness is dispelled so that we may easily re-find the path to Christ and salvation. May we all find time out of our busy schedules to celebrate this glorious feast of light, so that we may be sharers in the Divine Light of the all-holy, consubstantial, life-giving, and undivided Trinity!

In Christ's love,
+Fr. Anthony

VISIT OF METROPOLITAN METHODIOS

This year, the annual visit of His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios will take place on **Sunday, January 2, 2005**. Please rest up on St. Basil's Day (New Year's Day), and make every effort to be in church for the beginning of the hierarchical liturgy at 10:00 am. We look forward to His Eminence's pastoral visit, so that we may receive his blessing for the new calendar year.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Starting in the new year, we will begin offering our adult religious classes on **Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am, starting on 1/19**. During the winter, this may make it easier for many to attend who do not wish to drive at night. The class format will remain the same – a short meditation on one of the scriptural passages of the day, followed by a presentation on various topics. As always, questions are encouraged. Come and learn more about your Orthodox faith, in order to help yourself in your spiritual growth.

HOLY WATER BOTTLES

Please make it a point to empty your holy water bottles, so that you may re-use them. To keep costs down, we try not to order too many new bottles each year, so we would appreciate your assistance in this. **Make sure to spill old holy water by plants or trees in your garden, where no one steps.**

HOME BLESSING AFTER HOLY THEOPHANY

As is the custom of the Orthodox Church, Fr. Anthony will be available to bless your homes starting Friday, 1/7. Please call him at the office during the week, in order to make an appointment. Allow the blessings of the Church to be brought to your home through this beautiful and sanctifying ritual.

NEW COMMITTEES FORMED

At the fall general assembly, two new committees were formed. The one committee's purpose is *land acquisition*. Michael Sisak was kind enough to volunteer to serve on this committee, however, we need other such motivated and visionary volunteers to assist in seeking out appropriate opportunities for our future. More detailed information can be found on Page 7.

In addition, a second committee was formed for the purpose of *homeless ministry*. So far, we have three volunteers who are committed to responding to the needs of homeless and/or hungry individuals in Newport. If you are motivated to assist in this ministry, please contact Fr. Anthony.

IN APPRECIATION

We would like to take this opportunity to thank three ladies for beautifying the Nave and church hall in December with seasonal decorations. Ellen Anagnostos provided much of the greenery, and Marea Lewis along with Esther Lascaris created the beautiful arrangements. Thanks to all for your gift of love.

We also wish to thank Vangeli and Sandy Giannopoulos for coordinating every aspect of the recent pastry sale, to benefit the Hellenic Dancers of St. Spyridon. The sale was very successful, thanks to everyone's generosity.

In addition, let us take this opportunity to thank all those responsible for the mailing of the monthly bulletin throughout the year. A big thank you to Aliko Cooper, who so diligently edits and compiles the physical bulletin each month – a big accomplishment for such a busy mom! Of course, we also thank all the volunteers who assist our secretary, Ellen Anagnostos, with the mailing process. The regular crew includes George Anagnostos, Mary Champion, Joanne Hologgitas, Esther Lascaris, Joan Rozes, and our custodian, George Baker. (Please forgive the omission of names of any others who may have periodically helped.)

NEW 2005 PARISH CALENDARS

By now, you have all received your 2005 calendars, compliments of Memorial Funeral Home. We hope you enjoy these beautiful and useful calendars, which have been created by our Archdiocese. With the larger, easy to read print, we hope that you will notice and take advantage of some of the special features. First of all, each month has the icon and hymn of one of the major saints for that particular month. Major feast days and other days of liturgical importance are highlighted in red. Each month also features colorful symbols regarding fasting guidelines. Another important feature, is the printing of the daily Scripture readings prescribed by the Church, which helps all of us get into the habit of reading Scripture along with our prayers. We thank Memorial Funeral Home again this year for their generosity, and hope that you will derive spiritual benefit from your calendar.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY CREATES LAND SEARCH COMMITTEE

Although our community may be many years away from seeing any plans to relocate our church to fruition, we all acknowledge that without owning a piece of land to do so, this will never happen. Since real estate is such a commodity on Aquidneck Island, a purchase of land would be an excellent long-term investment, in addition to affording the opportunity for relocation in the future. In this regard, the December 5th General Assembly created a land search committee and directed that its chairperson be Michael Sisak. Many parishioners have expressed an interest in eventually relocating to an area that offers the opportunity to have a larger community hall, ample parking and an easier trip to church for all parishioners.

Michael reported on the following parcels of land that are currently available and are suitable for a church:

1. Elizabeth Lane (off Green End Avenue between Third Beach Road and Indian Avenue)
1.8 acres, zoned R-60, Church permitted - \$340,000
2. 186 Vaucleuse Avenue (near Green End and Indian Avenues)
2.25 acres, zoned R-40, Church permitted - \$500,000
3. Bramans Lane (bordering the 2nd Tee of the Newport National Golf Course)
3 acres - \$425,000

Other suitable properties to be considered by the committee:

4. Valley Road (between East and West Main Roads across from NAPA Auto Parts)
8.31 acres, zoned LB
5. 656 Aquidneck Avenue (to left of Polo Center)
3.41 acres, zoned R20A
6. East Main Road (purchase a sub-parcel fronting East Main Road across from Slate Hill Farm)
16.8 acres, zoned R30A

Any parishioner that is interested in serving on the Land Search Committee, please contact Michael Sisak or make your intentions known to a Parish Council member.

JANUARY 2005

Sunday Winter F

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

2 Sun. Before Theophany, VISIT OF MET. METHODIOS Special Altar Team	3	4	5 Eve of Theophany, Great Hours, 10 am; Vigil Lit. of Theophany & 1 st Blessing of Waters, 5 pm	6 Holy Orthros Blessin Vesper Foreru
<i>no fasting through January 4th</i>			<i>strict fast</i>	
9 Sun. After Theophany Altar Team B	10	11	12 Small Vespers 7 pm	13
			<i>(fast day)</i>	
16 12 th Sun. of Luke; Vespers of St. Anthony 7 pm Altar Team A	17 St. Anthony the Great, Orthros & Lit.	18 St. Athanasios, Orthros & Lit.	19 Small Vespers 7 pm	20
			<i>(fast day)</i>	
23 14 th Sunday of Luke Altar Team B	24 Vespers of St. Gregory the Theologian at Church of St. Gregory, Mansfield, MA, 7 pm	25	26 Small Vespers 7 pm	27
			<i>(fast day)</i>	
30 The Holy 3 Hierarchs Altar Team A	31			

Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10 am

Fri

Sat

1 Circumcision of Christ & St. Basil the Great, Orthros & Lit. (NO VESPERS)

no fasting

7
Great Vespers;
John the Baptist
(fast day – fish, wine & olive oil permitted)

8
Great Vespers 6 pm

14

(fast day)

21

(fast day)

28

(fast day)

15

Great Vespers 6 pm

22

Great Vespers 6 pm

29

Great Vespers 6 pm

Upcoming Events

January 9– Philoptochos Vasilopita

January 11– Parish Council Meeting, 7 pm

January 11– Daughters of Penelope Meeting, 7 pm

January 12– Little Lambs Group, 10:30 am

January 18– Philoptochos General Meeting, 6:30 pm

January 20– Retirees Luncheon & Presentation, 12 noon

Regular Events

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

Adult Greek School– Mondays 5– 6 pm

Religious Education– Sundays, immediately after Holy Communion

Adult Religious Education– Wednesday mornings at 10 am

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

SPIRITUAL WISDOM

The following is taken from *Way of the Ascetics*, by Tito Colliander (Harper & Row, 1960), who was a pious Russian layman of the 20th century. His writings comprise a spiritual guide, borrowing much from the Desert Fathers and the *Philokalia*.

On the Use of Material Things

“We are made up of soul and body; the two cannot be separated in our conduct. Let the physical therefore come to your aid: Christ knew our weakness and for our sake used words and gestures, spittle and earth as media. For our sake He let His power flow from the fringe of His garment (Matthew 9:20; 14:36), from the handkerchiefs or aprons that were carried away from the apostle Paul’s body (Acts 19:12), yes, from the shadow of the apostle Peter (Acts 5:15).

Therefore use all that is of earth as a staff of remembrance on your troublesome wandering along the narrow way. May the whiteness of the snow and the blue of the heavens, the jeweled eye of the fly and the scorching of the flame, and all of creation that meets your senses, remind you of your Creator; but make use especially of what the Church offers you to help you ‘yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness’ (Romans 6:19). First of all, the Lord’s Holy Communion. But likewise the other mysteries, or sacraments, and the holy Scriptures. And the Church offers you also the holy icons of the Mother of God, the angels and the saints; and prayer before them, and candles and incense, holy water and the gleam of gold, and singing. Receive all this with gratitude and use it all for your upbuilding and encouragement, improvement and benefit as you travel further.

Give free outlet to your love for the generous Lord of love, kiss the Cross and the icons, adorn them with flowers; if only evil be crushed with silence, the good will be allowed to breathe freely. If what is given in love is received with love, the scope of love is increased and enlarged, and this is the aim of your work. The greater the river, the wider the delta.

Use your own body, too, as an aid in the struggle. Trim it down and make it independent of earthly whims. Let it share your trouble: you wish to learn humility, so let the body also be humble and bow to the ground. Fall on your knees with your face to

the earth as often as you can in privacy, but get up at once, for after a fall follows restoration in Christ.

Make the sign of the Cross assiduously: it is a wordless prayer. In a brief moment, independent of sluggish words, it gives expression to your will to share Christ's life and crucify your flesh, and willingly, without grumbling, to receive all that the Holy Trinity sends. Moreover, the sign of the Cross is a weapon against evil spirits: use this weapon often and with reflection.

A house is never built until the scaffolding is raised. Only the strong man has no need of outward support. But are you strong? Are you not the weakest among the weak? Are you not a child?"

RETIREE LUNCHEON & PRESENTATION

The next luncheon and presentation will be on **Thursday, January 20th, at 12 noon.** Catherine (Spiratos) Carbone will conduct a "Stress Busters" workshop, which will emphasize proper breathing and relaxation techniques. Please join us for an enjoyable afternoon of food and fellowship!

CHURCH SERVICE CANCELLATIONS

Now that we are in the winter season, we wish to remind everyone of the system for checking for service cancellations on bad weather days. Simply call the church at 846-0555; after 4 rings the voice mail system will answer. **Select menu item #4 – "Additional Services for the Current Week" for an update.** You can access this anytime of the day or night. Remember, if you have a rotary-dial telephone you will not be able to access the church's voice mail system, so call a fellow parishioner who can check for you.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Dear Families,

Thank you to all my families for bringing their children to Religious Education classes! We had a wonderful time at the pageant this year. Much thanks to Mike's class who helped serve the food. Thanks to the parents who donated food items for the luncheon. Thanks to Loula and the wonderful poems that were read by the Greek School children. Also, thank you the teachers who are there for the children every Sunday. December was a hectic month, but we made it through!

God Bless!
Marianne

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS AND **GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

The next Parish Council meeting will be held Tuesday January 11, at 7:00pm. Items discussed at the December meeting were:

- A. Stewardship - Zoe Ademedes will chair this committee.
- B. Assessments update for Archdiocese.
- C. Repairs on the roof and purchase for the new cross.
- D. New members for Parish Council

Please feel free to contact anyone on the Parish Council for the needs of the church.
Thank you,
Steve J. Mellekas, Council President

NEWPORT HELLENIC DANCERS

We want to thank everyone that supported our fundraiser. Your generosity is greatly appreciated by us and our young dancers. The funds raised will be used to purchase new costumes for our group. All costumes purchased will become the property of the church for future generations to enjoy. We look forward to see you at upcoming performances.

We will be beginning our lessons again on January 9th after Liturgy. Everybody is welcome to participate (adults and children five or older). Call Vaggeli or Xanthoula at 782 9457 for more information.

LITTLE LAMBS GROUP

The Little Lambs Group will have its next meeting on Wednesday January 12, 2005 at 10:30 am in the church hall at St. Spyridon's church. A pot luck luncheon will be held on that day. Please R.S.V.P to Mrs. Vivian Karanikola: 401-849-0997, or email: us.greek@verizon.net

Our "little lambs" learn crafts, play games, sing songs, and have fun with their moms. We would like to say thank you to Father Anthony who helps and supports this group, and gives a short religious lesson to our infants and toddlers when we meet.

Thank you to all the mothers who take part in this group and especially Vivian who has made a great effort to organize the group and activities each month. We hope to see more and more new faces at our group in the new year. If any mother feels that morning hours are not good for them, please let us know and we could try to organize something for the evenings!

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Philoptochos' annual cutting of the Vasilopita will be held on Sunday, January 9th. The next General Meeting will be on Tuesday, January 18th at 6:30 pm in the church hall. Please make an effort to attend.

DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE

The Sunshine Committee of the Daughters of Penelope visited the shut-ins at the Nursing Homes for the Christmas holiday bringing the patients fruit and cookies.

Members have collected toiletries which will be sent to Penelope House for Abused Women in Mobile, AL. Also, District 7 has adopted a child from St. Basil's Academy and the chapter will be providing him with gifts throughout the year.

Members are asked to attend the next meeting which will be held on TUESDAY, JANUARY 11th at 7 p.m. at the Ahepa Housing on Girard Avenue. Happy New Year to all!

IN OUR PARISH

50th Wedding Anniversary: We wish to congratulate Greg & Christine Borodemos on 50 years of marriage, which they will celebrate on 1/9. May God grant them many more years!

NOVEMBER 21ST DINNER DANCE FUNDRAISER A GREAT SUCCESS!

The joint Newport AHEPA and Rhode Island Hellenic Society Paideia Dinner Dance was held Sunday, November 21st at the Atlantic Beach Club. Over 300 parishioners and out-of-town guests turned out to enjoy the evening's festivities. Haris Athanasiou and the Asteria Orchestra along with the clarinet of Thanasis Spaniotis provided the entertainment.

A presentation on the Hellenic Studies Center "Rodas" at the University of Rhode Island was made by the National President of Hellenic Society Paideia, Mr. Ilias Tomazos, who also called upon twenty URI students in attendance, who are participating in the Hellenic Studies program, to join him at the podium for a group picture symbolizing the successes of the program at URI. Among the honored guests in attendance offering remarks were Dr. Richard Carothers, the President of the University of Rhode Island and the Honorable Konstantinos Bikas, the Greek Consulate General of Boston.

Mr. John Lyssikatos, the president of the RI Chapter of Paideia made a special presentation to the Kyriakides Family for their on-going and steadfast support of Hellenism in the Rhode Island community. He also announced pledges made during the evening, which helped the event to raise over \$20,000 for the Paideia URI project! Special thanks to parishioners, the Kyriakides Family, who helped make the fundraiser such a great success by donating the entire proceeds of the event.

Thank you to all parishioners who assisted in making this event a tremendous success through their participation!

URI President, Dr. Richard Carothers looks on as Ilias Tomazos, the National President of Hellenic Society Paideia, address the URI Hellenic Studies students at the fundraiser dinner dance held at the Atlantic Beach Club on November 21, 2004.



<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>



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