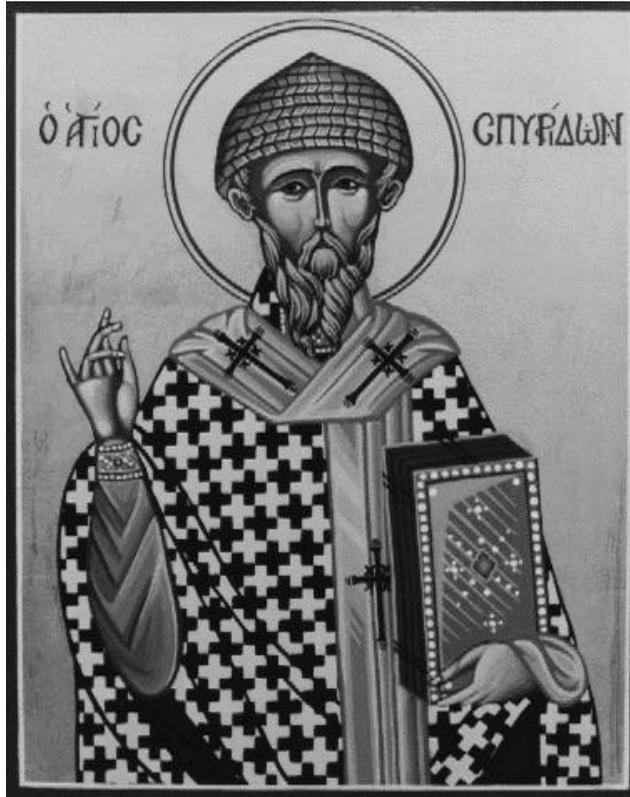

THE SAINT SPYRIDON VOICE
OCTOBER 2005



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



SAINTE 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

Beloved in Christ, the two recent natural catastrophes which have affected our nation, have been very difficult to bear. The magnitude of the destruction is incomprehensible. The scenes we have all witnessed in the media seem surreal. To many, it is unthinkable that God would allow this happen. As Orthodox Christians, however, it is important for us to realize that God is not a cruel tyrant who periodically punishes mankind. It is quite necessary for us to be well grounded in our understanding of natural disasters and God's will, especially those of us raising children, so that they won't have misguided ideas about God.

First of all, we must remember that the Earth is a living organism created by God. Human beings are the crown of God's creation, and have been given dominion over the earth and all living things. As a living organism, the earth is *dynamic*. Many of the great forces of nature such as earthquakes and volcanic activity, are part of the continuing growing pangs of our earth. The wisdom of the Creator is responsible for the necessary and finely balanced conditions that affect the earth's climate. In short, nothing in Creation is evil since God can only create good. These various natural consequences of the dynamic forces of the earth, are responsible for what we call *natural disasters*. Recently, there seems to be more and more evidence, however, that mankind's activities may also have a direct bearing on climatic changes throughout the world, which can have an impact on violent weather.

Some extremists, both Christian and non-Christian, have taken the opportunities of the recent hurricanes, to point out that God is punishing us for a variety of reasons. This attitude was prevalent with the Jews of the Old Testament, who didn't know God in a personal way. The Fathers of the Church have explained many of the destructive events of the Old Testament, as a means of bringing repentance and reunion with God into the heart of man. St. John of Damascus wrote the following: "...*He (God) first schooled him (man) and exhorted him to conversion in many ways – by groaning and trembling, by a flood of waters and the near destruction of the entire race, by the confusion and division of tongues, by the tutelage of angels, by the destruction of cities by fire, by prefigurative divine appearances, by war, victories and defeats, by signs and portents, by diverse influences, by the Law and the Prophets, all of which were directed to the destruction of that sin which had abounded under many forms and had enslaved man and heaped every sort of evil into his life, and to his return to the blessed existence.*" (*The Fathers of the Church, Book 3, Chpt. 1*).

In the New Testament era, the first believers in Christ had a new understanding of God, for they had experienced Him in the flesh. Christians, therefore, have always believed in the unending mercy and love of God, as was clearly demonstrated through Christ's ministry on earth. One of the most poignant passages in the Gospel is from John (3:16-17):

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.” These words of Christ clearly show us that the essence of the Gospel’s message is *salvation*, not *condemnation*.

What we also need to remember, is that God as Creator has ultimate authority over the universe. After all, He created everything that exists from *nothing* through His word alone. As a Church, we continually pray for fair weather, and for protection from natural disasters. Through the prayers of the righteous, God can intervene in human and natural events, as has been demonstrated many times in the history of the Church. Therefore, it is important for us to pray for God’s mercy before and during these types of events. Of course, the pious Orthodox Christian always accepts God’s will in all things, even when the outcome of such an event is devastating. God in His holy wisdom has a reason for all things that occur in our world, and we, His obedient servants, can never know or understand His will, but only accept it.

No matter what happens to us in this world, whether through our own actions, those of nature, or through bodily illness, we must always keep in mind that the message of salvation through faith in Christ remains intact. Our homes may be literally shaken from their foundations, but when the foundation of faith is sound, we can bear all things and never lose focus on the Kingdom of Heaven.

Since the coming of Christ, two thousand years have passed in which there has occurred a myriad of unfortunate events – natural disasters, persecutions of the faith, wars, famines, holocausts, terrorist attacks, slavery and foreign occupation, epidemics, man-made disasters – and the list can go on and on. Always remember that the saints of our Church and all pious believers lived through all these things and kept their faith. Generation after generation of Orthodox hierarchs have passed on the faith to future generations, and it has remained pristine and intact through the collective faith of the believers, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, even during the most trying times.

Let us all take account of our own lives in the wake of these recent catastrophes, and strengthen our faith through prayer, and the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church. We never know when our own “spiritual foundation” will be shaken to the core, so please be prepared!

In Christ’s love,
+Fr. Anthony

SPONSOR A “MENAION” VOLUME

The Orthodox Church has a 12-volume set with the services of the saints commemorated each day, as well as the fixed major feast days. A new series has recently been published in English, which is very thorough and highly accurate. This is a *much needed* addition to our liturgical book collection, which allows us to chant hymns of saints in English at all vespers services, including the presanctified liturgies during Great Lent.

A sign-up sheet will be located in our church hall for those who wish to sponsor a particular month. The actual cost to cover each volume, plus shipping and handling, is \$86, however, a \$100 dollar gift would leave a residual donation for our parish. Please sign up for one of the volumes, then mail in your check, or place it in the envelope stapled to the sign-up sheet. May the Lord, the Theotokos and all the saints bless you for your support of this important ministry!

LOST AND FOUND

The church maintains a Lost and Found in the Church Office. If you believe you have misplaced something within the church, please contact the church secretary at 846-0555 (press 2) to determine if it has been found. If you ever find anything within the church, please inform the church secretary, Ellen Anagnostos; she will ensure the item is placed in the Lost and Found bin.

On that same note, the Lost and Found currently contains a small girls winter fur coat found in the Crying Room and a small boys winter coat found hanging in the choir closet. These items were seen in their respective areas for many months prior to being turned over to the Lost and Found. If these items belong to you, please claim them as soon as possible. Since they have been left in the church for some time, they will be donated if not claimed by the end of October.

FROM THE LIVES OF THE SAINTS

October 1, Memory of our Holy Father Romanos the Melodist

“Our holy Father Romanos was from Emesa in Syria. He became deacon of the Church of Berytus (Beirut), and settled in Constantinople during the reign of the Emperor Anastasios I about the year 496. His virtuous life was a shining example of the faithful, and he fulfilled his duties conscientiously at the Church of the Mother of God of Cyrrhus to which he was appointed. But Romanos had not been blessed with a well-modulated voice, so he was unable to glorify the Creator melodiously as he wanted to. One Christmas in the Church of Blachernae at the Vigil of the Nativity, the Mother of God appeared to him holding in her hand a scroll which she gave him to eat. As soon as he tasted it, an indescribable sweetness filled his mouth and, going up into the ambo, he began to intone in an angelic voice the kontakion that has come down to us: ‘Today the Virgin gives birth to Him who is above all being...’

The gift remained with him for the rest of his life. Through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, he adorned most of the feasts of the liturgical year with wonderful hymns. More than one thousand kontakia are ascribed to him (eighty-five have been preserved, of which fifty-nine are of undoubted authenticity). Some say that he also composed the renowned Akathist to the Mother of God. Saint Romanos died in peace some time after 555 to join the angelic choir that he so well represented on earth.”

On the same day, we observe the Solemnity of the Holy Protection of our Sovereign Lady the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary (In the Church of Greece and in the diaspora, this feast was transferred to October 28, in memory of the protection of the Mother of God over the Greek forces against the Italian invasion of 1940.)

“The feast of the Holy Protection of the Mother of God was established following a vision of our Holy Father Andrew, the Fool for Christ, during the course of a Vigil in the Church of Blachernae at Constantinople. At the fourth hour of the night, while deep in prayer, the Saint lifted up his eyes to heaven and beheld the holy Mother of God watching over the congregation as she covered the faithful with her Veil. Epiphanius, the disciple of Saint Andrew, who was also accounted worthy of looking upon this wonder, confirmed the truth of the vision. Whereupon the Saint hastened to the altar, opened the coffer containing the precious Veil of the Queen of the world and, standing in front of the royal doors, extended it above the worshippers (the holy Veil and Robe of the Virgin were both kept in this church). Upheld by an invisible power, the Veil hung in the air and was of such size as entirely to cover the great congregation. Then, amid a shattering burst of light, the Mother of God went up into Heaven and out of sight, but leaving the Christian people in possession of her holy Veil as a pledge of her loving protection. Many a time did the Mother of God give clear evidence of her protection of the imperial City and, by analogy, of the entire holy Church of Christ, which is the new Jerusalem. Indeed, everywhere and at every moment, the Sovereign Lady of the world casts her Veil mystically over Christians as she makes prayer and intercession for the salvation of the world to her Son and Lord.”

OCTOBER 2005

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

2 2nd Sun. of Luke (visiting priest) Altar Team A	3	4	5 Small Vespers 7 pm <i>(fast day)</i>	6
9 3rd Sun. of Luke Altar Team B	10	11	12 NO VESPERS <i>(fast day)</i>	13
			Fr. Anthony c	
16 4th Sun. of Luke (visiting priest) Altar Team A	17	18	19 NO VESPERS <i>(fast day)</i>	20
Fr. Anthony on vacation 10/11– 10/26				
23 6th Sun. of Luke (visiting priest) Altar Team B	24	25	26 St. Demetrios the Myrrh- streamer –NO SERVICES; <i>(fast day – wine & olive oil permitted)</i>	27 Vesper the Ho Theotc
Fr. Anthony on vacation 10/11– 10/26				
30 5th Sun. of Luke Altar Team A	31 Vespers for the Feast of Sts. Cosmas & Damianos, 7 pm			

Fri

Sat

1
NO VESPERS – Fr.
Anthony at Metropolis
Camp

7

8

Great Vespers 6 pm

(fast day)

14

15

NO VESPERS

(fast day)

from 10/11– 10/26

21

22

NO VESPERS

(fast day)

Feast of
Protection of the
Theotokos – Orthros &
Lit.

(fast day)

29

Great Vespers 6 pm

Upcoming Events

October 1 & 2– Norman Bird
Sanctuary Harvest Fair

October 4– Parish Council Meeting, 7
pm

October 7– Little Lambs meeting,
10:30 am

October 10– Soup Kitchen 5 pm

October 11– Daughters of Penelope
Meeting, 7 pm

October 12– Philoptochos General
Meeting, 6:30 pm

October 18– Retirees Luncheon &
Presentation 12 pm

October 20– Philoptochos Penny
Social, 5:30 pm

Regular Events

Religious Education– Sundays,
immediately after Holy Communion
(no classes October 2nd & 9th)

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

The Philoptochos Society

of

St. Spyridon Church

presents its

FALL SOCIAL THURSDAY, October 20, 2004

Five dollar donation includes
Admission and
a Light Fare served at 6 p.m.

Doors open 5:30 p.m.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL
7 VALLEY ROAD
MIDDLETOWN, RI**

Please join us for a fun evening full of prizes and
surprises and support our charitable work.

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Our annual Penny Social, our major fund-raiser is scheduled for October 20 and are looking forward to seeing you all there (see flyer on previous page).

Our next general meeting will be October 12th at 6:30 downstairs in the church hall.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Hello Families,

We are off to a wonderful new year with a few new families joining us! I would like families to be aware of October's schedule of classes. There will be no class on October 2nd, due to our retreat at the Diocese camp retreat in New Hampshire. Also, no classes the following Sunday, on October 9th, due to Columbus Day weekend. Please have our yearly calendar available at home as a reference every Sunday. Alternately, it is also available on the church website at:

<http://www.stspyridonchurch.org/religiouseducation.html>

God Bless!

Marianne Menas

RETIREE LUNCHEON & PRESENTATION

We would like to thank Komaz Rozes, owner of Flo's Clam Shack, for hosting the lunch at our September gathering. Our next luncheon and presentation will be on **Tuesday, 10/18 at 12 noon**. Please join us for an enjoyable afternoon of fellowship.

LITTLE LAMBS GROUP

The Little Lambs group will begin their regular monthly meetings on Friday, October 7th and continuing on the first Friday of each month from about 10:30 am—12 in the church hall. 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.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The next parish council will take place Tuesday, October 4 at 7 p.m.. The parish council met September 8th where a discussion took place about posters on bulletin boards. Please contact Ellen Anagnostos for postings that will be submitted to parish council first and then approved by priest and parish council. This will create an appropriate environment for our Church community.

At this meeting a General Assembly date was set for Sunday, November 13th, following church services. Please make every attempt to attend this important meeting.

The focus of Stewardship was discussed in order to promote an increase of revenue for the church. The chairperson Zoe Adamedes will be present for the next parish council meeting.

Soon the festival report will be available for the parish members.

If you would like to join the parish council, please contact Father Anthony or anyone on the parish council.

Please contact anyone on the parish council if you have any concerns.

Thank you,
Steven J. Mellekas
Parish Council President

ARCHIVE AND RESTORATION VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Archive Committee

The Parish Council is seeking volunteers for the purpose of organizing the archives and memorabilia of the church. During the recent church clean-up, archives and memorabilia were found in various locations of the church and have been consolidated into one area and a few banker's boxes. Some items date back to the founding of the church community in the early 1900s. You may have already noticed that a copy of the Newport Daily News from 50+ years ago has been posted on the community board in the Church Hall. The front page depicts the election of our dearly departed parishioner, Dean J. Lewis, as Mayor of Newport in 1950! His son, Tom Lewis, currently serves as Treasurer of the Parish Council. Additionally, a photo of the church ladies from 1935 has also been posted.

The Parish Council would like to have these items organized and possibly displayed within the church. If you have experience in such matters or would like to contribute any other church archives or memorabilia that reside off the church property, please contact the church secretary at 846-0555 (press 2) or speak with a Parish Council member.

Restoration volunteers

The Parish Council is seeking volunteers to restore the following church items:

- a Brass Candelabra
- Three (3) Antique Chairs

The items are from decades ago and were found in the boiler room by the Clean-up Committee. The Parish Council would like to have these items restored to their original beauty and then to possibly find a home for them within the church. If you have experience in brass or wood restoration, please contact the church secretary at 846-0555 (press 2) or speak with a Parish Council member.

AHEPA HARVEST FAIR FUNDRAISER



Norman Bird Sanctuary Harvest Fair

Oct. 1 & 2, 2005

For the third year, the AHEPA will be at the Norman Bird Sanctuary Harvest Fair to sell gyros to raise funds for the Newport Hospital Room in the name of the AHEPA Family, the Ahepans and Daughters of Penelope. We hope that members of our community will come and support our efforts for the good of the Newport Hospital.

Thanks Steve Jennings, Chairman

NEWPORT AHEPA BASKETBALL TEAM

After more than 20 years of inactivity, the AHEPA would like to organize a community youth basketball team for the upcoming 2005-2006 basketball season. We are investigating various avenues in which to enter a team representing our community youth, including a YMCA Youth League and various Church and Municipal Leagues. Depending on the level of interest, we may have two teams, 6th grade to 8th grade and 9th grade to 12th grade.

If you have any interest in assisting in this effort as a coach or advisor or your son has an interest in competing in the spirit of Christ or Hellenism (or both), please contact Basile Panoutsopoulos or an AHEPA board member.

DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE

The next meeting of the Daughters of Penelope will be held on TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2005. All members are asked to come and greet your new officers. They are: President Ellen Anagnostos, Vice President, Maria Botelho, Secretary Angela Volpicelli, Treasurer Joanne Hologgitas, PhD and Chairman of the Board of Governors, Stella Volpicelli.

<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>



Saint Spyridon
Greek Orthodox Church
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