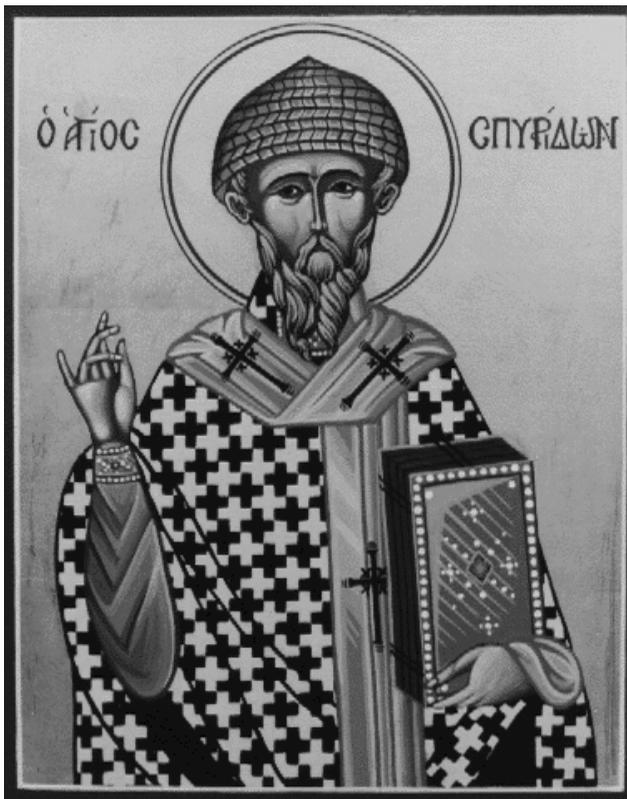

THE SAINT SPYRIDON VOICE
AUGUST 2006



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

franthony@stspyridonchurch.org

Office Hours

Priest—Tuesday—Friday, 9 am—3 pm

Church secretary, Ellen Anagnostos: Tuesday & Thursday, 9 am—1 pm

Parish Council President:

Steven Mellekas

Loula Eliopoulos

Basile Panoutsopoulos (adult classes)

Chanters: George Spiratos

Basile Panoutsopoulos

Bulletin: Aliko Cooper

(alikooper@yahoo.com)

Choir Director: Paul Cotsoridis

Organist: Jane Iandolo

Affiliated Organizations

AHEPA President: Basile Panoutsopoulos

Daughters of Penelope President:

Ellen Anagnostos

Religious Education : Marianne Menas

Stewardship: Zoe Adamedes

Philotochos President: Zinovia Canale

Acolytes: Nick Mellekas, James Mellekas

Island of Skiathos Organization:

Christina Logothets

GOYA President: Nick Mellekas

JOY Advisor: Sandy Giannopoulos

Greek School:

Sunday Summer Hours Orthros 7:45 am Divine Liturgy 9 am

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

Orthros —9 am

Divine Liturgy —10 am

Saturdays Great Vespers 6 pm*

* 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 year, the Orthodox Church dedicates the first fifteen days of August to our most blessed Mother of God, the *Panayia*. As we enter this holy season of fasting and spiritual preparation, let us again this year remind ourselves of the importance of the Theotokos in the life of the Church, and in our own lives, as well.

The importance of the Mother of God is demonstrated first and foremost, through her name. The name *Theotokos* in itself, offers us the correct understanding of God having become man through the Blessed Virgin. If we do not accept this belief, nor the title *Theotokos* (*God-bearer*), then we cannot have a correct understanding of Christ. Since the Church has always taught that Christ is fully God and fully man, we therefore know that His incarnation was *fatherless*, since as God, He was conceived by the Holy Spirit. Likewise, we know that His human form came from the Virgin Mary herself – His earthly mother.

As we can see, the role of the Theotokos is *central* in salvation history. Many Church Fathers have made it clear, that without the Theotokos, there could be no salvation. It is important to emphasize though, that our Panayia accepted to bear Christ through her own *free will*. This great and awesome responsibility was not forced upon her. Through her “*Yes*” to the Archangel Gabriel, the possibility of salvation became a reality for mankind.

On a personal level, the Mother of God has become our chief intermediary before the throne of Christ. She has the unique role of being His mother in the fullest sense of the word, as well as His most exemplary human being ever created. The Theotokos knows her Son more intimately than any other person, and therefore, she also knows His divine will for mankind. This is why it is so logical for us to turn to the Panayia every time we pray, and especially in times of great need.

We should make it a point to turn to the Theotokos, and to the saints as well, as shining examples of the true life in Christ. As Christians we are called to be imitators of Christ through His saints. St. Paul says, “*Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.*” (*1 Cor. 11:1*). There is so much that we can learn from the life of the Theotokos, as well as from the lives of the saints. If we are serious about our own salvation, then we need to

take *serious* steps toward that divine goal. The Panayia and the saints are our guides and fervent intercessors, so let us seek their help, if we haven't yet.

If we have any doubts about the great love and concern that the Theotokos has toward mankind, we have only to contemplate the great amount of miracles, apparitions, wonder-working icons, and many other unexplainable signs and wonders worked through her holy name. The Holy Tradition of our Orthodox Church has included her in divine worship from the earliest days, but most especially, after the 3rd Ecumenical Council of Ephesus when her title and role in the Church were clarified and defended. There is not a service of our Holy Church that does not include reference to the blessed Mother of God. She is ever-present in the liturgical life of the Church because of Her role in salvation history, and in our own personal journey toward salvation.

I conclude with the following hymn taken from Saturday evening vespers in the third tone. In very few words, this hymn summarizes the major points that we have presented above.

“Without seed you have conceived the Son of God from the divine Spirit, and by the will of the Father. He existed before the ages without a mother, and was born without a father for our sake. Since you gave birth to Him and nursed Him as an infant, do not cease interceding that our souls be delivered from dangers.”

In the love of Christ and the Panayia,

+Fr. Anthony

THE FAST OF THE THEOTOKOS

Please remember that the first 14 days of August comprise a period of *spiritual preparation* for the great feast of the Mother of God – her holy Dormition. This period includes strict fasting according to the guidelines of Great Lent: we do not consume any animal products – including fish – nor alcoholic beverages and olive oil (these last two items are permitted on Saturdays and Sundays). On the feast of the Transfiguration on 8/6, we are also permitted the consumption of fish, since it is a feast of our Lord. As always, shellfish is permitted throughout the fast.

In addition, this is also a period of increased *liturgical participation*, specifically through the multiple *Paraklesis*, or *Supplication* services being offered to the Theotokos for our spiritual benefit. As always, fast periods should also include intensified personal *prayer*, *almsgiving* and other charitable works, as well as participation in the holy mysteries of *Confession* and *Holy Communion*. May the *dekapentávousto* be fruitful and spiritually uplifting to all.

DONOR NEEDED FOR FEAST OF TRANSFIGURATION

It is a tradition of the Orthodox Church to bless grapes at the feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord. Since the feast falls on a Sunday this year, we will need many more grapes than usual. Also, it is traditional to decorate festal icons of our Lord and the Theotokos with flowers on the great feast days. **A nominal donation of \$50 will cover both the grapes and the flowers.** If you wish to have this blessing for you and your loved ones, please contact the church office before mailing in your check; we tend to always have “competition,” so we’ ll need to go with whoever is the “early-bird.”

REGARDING THE THEOTOKOS

(the following is taken from *Orthodox Dogmatic Theology*, by Fr. Michael Pomazansky, St. Herman of Alaska Brotherhood, 1994)

“Two dogmas concerning the Mother of God are bound up, in closest fashion, with the dogma of God the Word’s becoming man. They are: a) Her Ever-virginity, and b) Her name of Theotokos...”

The Ever-Virginity of the Mother of God

“The birth of the Lord Jesus Christ from a Virgin is testified to directly and deliberately by two Evangelists, Matthew and Luke. This dogma was entered into the Symbol of Faith of the First Ecumenical Council, where we read: ‘Who for the sake of us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became man.’ The Ever-virginity of the Mother of God is testified by Her own words, handed down in the Gospel, where she expressed awareness of the immeasurable majesty and height of Her chosenness: ‘My soul doth magnify the Lord..For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed... For He that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is His Name (Luke 1:46-49).’”

The Most Holy Virgin Mary is Theotokos

“With the dogma of the Son of God’s becoming man is closely bound up the naming of the Most Holy Virgin Mary as ‘Theotokos’ (Birth-giver of God). By this name the Church confirms its faith that God the Word became Man truly and not merely in appearance; a faith that, in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ, God was joined to Man from the very instant of His conception in the womb of the Virgin Mary, and that He, being perfect Man, is also perfect God.”

“At the same time the name of Theotokos is the highest name that exalts or glorifies the Virgin Mary. The name ‘Theotokos’ has a direct foundation in Sacred Scripture. The Apostle Paul writes: a) ‘When the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman (Gal. 4:4).’ Here is expressed the truth that a woman gave birth to the Son of God. b) ‘God was manifest in the flesh (I Tim. 3:16);’ the flesh was woven for God the Word by the Most Holy Virgin Mary...”

EARLY BULLETIN PRINTING

Due to the vacation schedule of the bulletin editor, please note that the bulletin was completed very early in July. Therefore, items and events from later in the month will be included in the September bulletin.

SOUP KITCHEN

Thanks to all those who helped to make the July Soup Kitchen a success, especially Jane Iandolo and Rose Apostol for overseeing most of the meal. A special thanks to our many committed volunteers who help every month with financial support, preparation, cooking, serving, and clean up. Our guests appreciate all of you! We will be hosting our next soup kitchen on August 14, with preparations on Sunday August 13. Please contact, Presvytera Themmi if you'd like to volunteer.

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

(the following is a summary of an Archdiocesan press release of 7/6/06)

Appellate Division of New York Supreme Court Unanimously Dismisses Lawsuit Against the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

On June 22, 2006, the New York Appellate Division, First Department, unanimously affirmed the decision of Justice Ira Gammerman dismissing a lawsuit brought against the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America by several individuals concerning the granting of the Archdiocese's 2003 Charter. "It must be dismissed," the Court wrote referring to the lawsuit, "because it involves a question of internal governance of a hierarchical Church." The Court ruled that the First Amendment of the United States Constitution prohibits courts from interfering with doctrinal and ecclesiastical affairs of a hierarchical church, including matters of internal governance. The complaint was originally brought against the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America on September 16, 2004. The Archdiocese has incurred costs in excess of \$320,000 for its legal defense. (The Court's memorandum decision is posted at the Archdiocese website at [http://www.goarch.org/en/archdiocese/documents/.](http://www.goarch.org/en/archdiocese/documents/))

August 2006

Sunday Summer Hours

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
		1 Fast of the Theotokos begins Paraklesis 7 pm	2 Paraklesis 7 pm	3 Parakle
Fast of the Theotokos—strict fast, no animal pr				
6 The Transfiguration of our Lord <i>(fish permitted)</i>	7	8	9 Paraklesis 7 pm	10 Parakle
Fr. Anthony on pilgrimage				
Fast of the Theotokos—strict fast, no animal products; wine & olive oil permit				
13 9th Sun. of Matthew, Leave-taking of the Transfiguration	14 Vespers of the Dormition IN PAWTUCKET, 7 pm	15 Dormition of the Theotokos, Orthros & Lit.	16	17
			<i>(fast day)</i>	
Fast of the Theotokos—cont' d				
20 10th Sun. of Matthew <i>(visiting priest)</i>	21	22	23	24
			<i>(fast day)</i>	
Fr. Anthony on vacation				
27 11th Sun. of Matthew <i>(visiting priest)</i>	28	29 Beheading of St. John the Forerunner – (no services) <i>(strict fast)</i>	30	31
Fr. Anthony on vacation			<i>(fast day)</i>	

Orthros 7:45 am Divine Liturgy 9 am

Fri

Sat

4
Paraklesis 7 pm

5
Vespers of the
Transfiguration – 6 pm

Wine & olive oil permitted on Saturdays & Sundays

11
Paraklesis 7 pm

12
Great Vespers 6 pm

Sundays & Sundays

18

19
(no vespers)

(fast day)

St. Anthony on vacation

25

26
(no vespers)

(fast day)

Upcoming Events

August 14—Soup Kitchen, 5 pm

Regular Events

Parish Council (no August meeting)

Religious Education—Sundays,
immediately after Holy Communion
(on break for summer)

Children’s Greek School— Mondays,
Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 4-6 pm
and Thursdays, 4-5 pm
(on break for summer)

Adult Greek School—Mondays, 5-6
pm
(on break for summer)

HELLENIC FEST ITEM SPONSORSHIPS NEEDED

We have already been overwhelmed by the generous response of the community with regards to festival donations. The following food sponsors have already helped to make this year's festival a successful one for our church. (Please note that due to the vacation schedule of the bulletin editor, this month's bulletin was being printed early. Therefore, if you do not see your name listed here for a donation given after July 14th, please look for it in next month's bulletin. Thank you for your understanding.)

John Agias
Anonymous (2)
Telly & Leeza Amarant
Evangelatos Family
Catherine Koulouvardis
Mr. & Mrs. C. Logothets
Kathryn L. McKeon
Marianne Menas & family
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Michael
Richard & Joanne Wingert

There are still many items left to be donated, so please consider sponsoring the remaining food items for the Hellenic Fest. Simply mail your check to the church office, designating the item(s) you'd like to sponsor. We will take it from there. Any questions contact the church office 846-0555 or Presv. Themmi at 683-0908. Thanks!

Items to be sponsored

Pork Souvlaki - 28 cases @ \$70 ea. (**only 26 cases still needed**)
Chicken - 28 cases @ \$70 ea.
Tyropita - 25 cases @\$40 ea.
Pastitsio - 46 pans @ \$20 ea.
Mousaka - 40 pans @ \$20 ea. (**Note: 10 pans were sponsored; 30 more need to be ordered - we are not making any homemade this year**)
Spanakopita - 10 cases \$40 ea. (**only 5 cases still needed**)
Gyros - 70 cases @ \$25 ea (**completely sponsored**)

- Meatballs - 20 boxes @ \$25 ea
- Feta Cheese - 4 cases @ \$60 ea
- Tzatziki - 15 cases @ \$20 ea **(completely sponsored)**
- Pita Bread - 25 cases @ \$20 ea **(completely sponsored)**
- Produce (misc) - 25 units @ \$50 ea
- Salad Dressing - 5 cases @ \$25 ea
- Chicken Broth - \$100
- Paper Supplies - 60 units @ \$40 ea
- Pastries - 75 trays @ \$40 ea
- Dolmades - 9 cases @ \$30 ea
- Baking & Loukoumades ingredients - 60 units @ \$50 ea

You may use the following form when mailing in your festival donation for this purpose.

Name: _____

Item (s) Sponsored: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

FESTIVAL DONATIONS

As well as the food donations listed on the page 10, we have had numerous other generous donations for the festival which we would like to acknowledge.

We would like to thank the following advertising sponsors:

A-1 Pizza
Newport Music Co., Inc.
Nikolas Pizza
Rainbow Cab
Rhea's Inn by the Sea
Seabreeze Inn

Also, various other donations have been received:

Zoe Adamedes (new multi-colored chips, plus \$200)
Amarant family (rizogalo)
Atlantic Beach Club (liquor)
Coastal Electric (labor donation - electrical set-up under tent)
Mersina Christopher Walsh (labor donation - loukoumades & syrup prep. & frying)
Evangelatos family (koulourakia - ingredients & labor)
Catherine Koulouvardis (30 Greek cookbooks; labor donation - spanakopita workshop)
Harry Koulouvardis (raffle ticket printing, plus \$1,000)
Toula Mellekas (kourambiedes - ingredients & labor)
Mel's Lunch (labor donation - total prep. for homemade pork & chicken souvlaki)

Lastly, we would like to thank everyone who has bought or sold raffle tickets thus far!

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Due to the early publication of the August bulletin, I am currently writing to the parish before our next meeting on July 11, 2006. Important information from this meeting will be included in the September bulletin.

The Parish Council would like to thank the many individuals and businesses of our Parish community that have donated numerous amounts of time, money and extraordinary effort to make our primary fund raiser of the Greek 2006 Festival a success.

Thank you,
President of the Parish Council
Steven J. Mellekas

FESTIVAL MESSAGE FROM FR. ANTHONY

As previously mentioned, this bulletin has been produced in mid July, therefore, I am writing this message well before the Hellenic Fest weekend. At this point, I would like to first of all, personally acknowledge the generosity of so many of our beloved parishioners toward the success of our festival. This generosity has been demonstrated both financially, and through donations of time and labor. As happens each year, we also anticipate many more donations of time, talent and treasure, as we approach the festival.

It is truly a blessing to see our parish community come together each year to make this major fundraiser a success. Our parish continues to move forward due to our beloved brethren who are forward-thinking, showing love and concern for their parish, and especially for its future leaders - our beloved children. Hopefully, we will see as many of you as possible helping during the festival, demonstrating your support of our parish.

So regardless of how we do financially, let us all work toward a successful goal, which primarily is union with Christ and each other. We all know that during the festival, our patience can sometimes be tested, and that tempers can flare-up with the pressure of the work, the heat, the noise, etc. Let's all do our part to *respect* and *support* each other as true brothers and sister in Christ. Thanks again, and God bless.

+Fr. Anthony

IN OUR PARISH

Birth: A baby girl, *Ona Kayla*, was born to parents Christopher & Stacey (Krones) Keefe on 6/14. Parishioners Peter & Deborah Krones, & Christine Krones are the proud grandparents and great-grandmother. May she live many years!

Baptism: The daughter of Ted & Dina Karousos was baptized on 7/9, and was given the name *Sophia Ann*. Her sponsor is *Ioannis Mathiopoulos* of Glyfada, Greece. May she live many years!

Graduation: *Christopher M. Taber*, a recent graduate of Portsmouth High School, was the recipient of the Charles T. Mellekas Memorial Award. Christopher is the grandson of Sofi Cofield, and the great-grandson of Michael Janaros and the late Mary Janaros. He will be attending Bentley College in Waltham, MA this fall. We wish him all the best!

Wedding: *David Jasinski & Adeline Ashmore* were married on 7/4. Their sponsor is David's brother, Eric Jasinski. We congratulate them and wish them many years together!

NOTE: In last month's bulletin, we inadvertently dropped the name of Christine Krones, who is the grandmother of Christine Krones who graduated from Simmons College. We apologize for the error.

<p><i>In loving memory of</i> Gredo Vincent <i>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>Enthimia <i>The Wedding and Baptism Store</i> Elegant Accessories 705 Washington Street Norwood, MA (781) 702-6034 enthimia.com</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</i> <i>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>PEQUOT PROPERTIES Dino Dart—Realtor 711 Broad Street Ext. Waterford, CT 06385 Office: (860) 447-0345 Fax: (860) 444-6306 DinoD6969@aol.com</p>



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