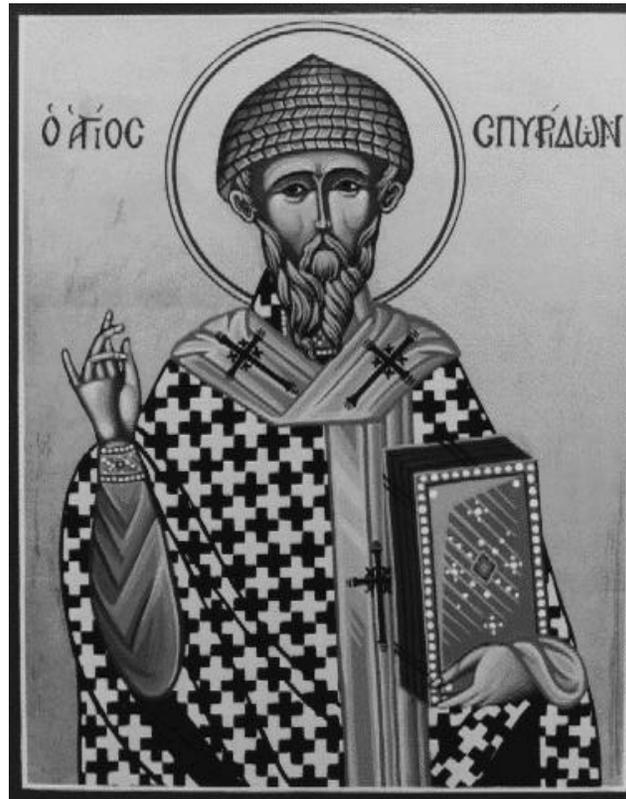

THE SAINT SPYRIDON VOICE
FEBRUARY 2006



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

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 Festal celebrations in the week:

last Wednesday of month) 7 pm* 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

We have just completed the month of January, during which many of us make so-called, “New Year resolutions” (which, by February 1st are usually promptly forgotten!). The typical one we hear from many, has to do with losing weight. Others take on a more serious tone, such as improving interpersonal relationships, changing bad habits, and improving other various forms of negative behavior. As an Orthodox priest I wonder, however, how many people make serious resolutions each year, regarding their *spiritual lives*?

It seems more and more, that many Orthodox Christians today don’t make the life of the Church and their own spiritual lives the priority that they should be. Today’s humanistic, secular society does not provide an environment conducive to a spiritual, God-centered life-style. Unfortunately, the world at large has become an “un-godly” place. The only places where we can be assured that God is omni-present in our lives, is through our local church, and in our own homes.

God’s presence in church and at home is a strongpoint of Orthodox Christianity. In other words, even though it is sad that God is more and more absent in society, the Church Fathers have always emphasized home-life needing to be a mirror of the life of the Church. Both the worship of our Church, and our prayer-life and upholding of Orthodox traditions in the home, keep us close to God. A committed Orthodox Christian family lives and experiences the faith on a daily basis. The Orthodox faith has never been a “Sunday-only” experience (though many of our faithful have allowed this to happen). So, if we are considering a *spiritual* resolution for the new year, perhaps we need to consider *how much* attention we give our spiritual lives apart from Sunday.

Of course, there is the category of Orthodox Christians who think that our faith can be experienced in an abstract fashion. By applying the concept that *God is everywhere*, these people attempt to live an Orthodox Christian life-style *apart* from the Body of Christ. This group is correct in stating that one can pray to God at any time and in any place (as we all should be doing daily). In fact, prayer is an extremely important and central activity in the life of an Orthodox Christian. However, the liturgical and sacrament life of the Church cannot be substituted, nor replaced by this phenomenon of *privatization* of our spiritual lives. If such persons are raising children, then this view is being passed on to their offspring. Their children will also

think that church attendance is optional. Perhaps some of us, therefore, should make a spiritual resolution to become part of the Body of Christ through *action*, and not just *theory*.

Unfortunately, there is also the category of those Orthodox Christians who are completely absent from the life of the Church, both formally and in the home setting. This is the saddest situation of all, especially when there are children involved. Whenever a family approaches me to baptize a child, I emphasize the importance of *raising* that child in the faith, lest the baptism be viewed only as a “rite of passage” into something that they will never fully experience. It is amazing to see with what diligence some families follow the tradition of three consecutive Sundays of church attendance after the baptism, along with the godparents. After this, many families disappear, sometimes to reappear on the next major holiday in order to bring the child to communion – a child totally traumatized by the unfamiliar setting of church! A major spiritual resolution is in order in these cases, which is only possible through the commitment of the parents. Otherwise, these children will be raised not knowing or living their Orthodox faith in any meaningful way.

In many of these cases, there are grandparents who are active in the life of the church. I am appealing to these committed grandparents to help reverse this situation, as much as possible. I realize this is a lot to ask, but perhaps you can make the effort of bringing your grandchildren with you to church. This won't remedy the situation, however, of spiritual life in the home. Of course, if the children begin coming regularly to church with their grandparents, they might end up being the catalysts for spiritual renewal at home.

The bottom line here, is that *all of us* – both clergy and laity – are constantly in need of spiritual renewal and growth. Not too far into each new year, our Church offers us Great Lent, which is the ideal time for spiritual introspection. So let us all begin working on those spiritual resolutions, and be prepared to carefully examine them during Great Lent. Remember, that as each one of us grows spiritually, we become an example to our fellow Orthodox Christians. This is especially true toward our *children*, who are the greatest responsibility which God has given us, so let's all do our part!

In Christ's love, +Fr. Anthony

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Since it gets dark early in winter, and many people don't want to venture out at night, adult religious education will be offered on Wednesday mornings **starting February 1st at 10:00 am**. We will continue through Wednesday, March 1st, just prior to the first week of Great Lent. The focus will be on the study of Holy Scripture, with time for general questions and answers on any topic. Please join us in order to be spiritual enriched in preparation for Great Lent.

RETIRES LUNCHEON & PRESENTATION

We would like to thank the Amarant and Moisiades families of *Aquidneck Pizza* for providing the lunch at our January gathering. Our presentation was a very interesting video on St. Herman of Alaska. Our next luncheon and presentation will be on **Thursday, 2/16 at 12 noon**. A speaker from the University of RI Speakers Bureau will be addressing our group regarding the potential of an earthquake in the Narragansett Bay area. Please join us for an enjoyable afternoon of fellowship.

REQUEST FOR NEW RUG IN ALTAR

The oriental rug currently in front of the Holy Table is quite worn and in need of replacement. After shopping around, it seems that a wool carpet of that size will run at least \$200. We are asking for a donor who would be willing to cover the cost of a new carpet. In the mean time, Fr. Anthony will keep looking for an appropriate size and style, which may take a while. Please contact Fr. Anthony directly if you are so moved. May God bless the donor of the rug!

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

(The following is taken from The Orthodox Church: 455 Questions & Answers, by Fr. Stanley Harakas, Light & Life Publishing Co., 1987)

“What is the Orthodox Church’s position on Saturday night dances? More specifically, what does the Church say about Saturday night dances held during the lenten (Christmas and Easter) periods?”

“In principle, dances and Lent are opposites. The purpose of Lent is to help us turn away from the pleasures and attractions of the worldly life so that we can give our attention to spiritual preparation for the coming feast (Christmas, Easter, Dormition of the Theotokos, etc.). Thus, it has been a long-standing position of our Archdiocese to oppose dances during lenten periods. The same logic applies to dances on Saturday nights. Our Saturday night should be seen as a preparation for Church attendance and worship the next day, Sunday. So, it has also been the long-standing position of our Archdiocese to encourage the faithful not to organize and not to attend these dances on Saturday nights because they distract from the appropriate observance of the Sunday Liturgy. More specifically regarding lenten periods, both Archdiocesan encyclicals and Clergy-Laity Congresses have sought to eliminate such practices, especially by the Church communities themselves. There is something incongruous occurring when the Church’s pulpit and hymns call for repentance, fasting, prayer and charitable giving, and the Church’s bulletin invites the very same parishioners to dance, drink and make merry...!”

“Why do we light candles?”

“The candle as used in worship is very rich in meaning. The basic idea of ‘Light’ as opposed to ‘darkness’ is at its root. Thus, for example, Symeon the Prophet spoke of the coming of Jesus Christ as ‘a light for revelation to the Gentiles.’ He himself was reflecting the prophecy of Isaiah about the coming of the Messiah: ‘The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned’ (Isaiah 9:2). Jesus identified Himself precisely

with those words: 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness' (John 8:12). One of the most ancient hymns of the Church, the 'Lamp-lighting' hymn of the Vespers, begins by referring to Jesus Christ as 'Gladsome Light...' ('Phos Ilaron...'). The lighting of candles in churches is a very ancient practice. Clearly, the practice of personally lighting a candle as you enter the Church is a powerful way of relating one's own prayer with the prayer of the Church, and with Christ, the 'Light of the world.' However, we ought not to use the candles as a kind of magical substitute for our own conscious prayers. The best way to use the candles is to use a lighting of them as an expression of your own prayers, in a sacramental fashion."

PRE-LENTEN FASTING GUIDELINES

Periodically, people ask about the fasting guidelines during the first three weeks of the Triodion period, prior to the beginning of Great Lent. Each of these weeks has completely different fasting rules, which I shall attempt to clarify.

- ? week of the Publican & Pharisee (2/12): no fasting – all foods permitted *daily*
- ? week of the Prodigal Son (2/19): regular Wednesday & Friday fast
- ? week of Cheesefare (2/26): Meatfare Sunday is last day to consume meat; fish*, eggs, dairy products, wine & olive oil permitted *daily* up to Cheesefare Sunday (3/5)

*Some maintain that fish is not eaten during Meatfare week since it is in the category of animal meat. Others state that fish is permitted because eggs & dairy are allowed. On certain major feast days throughout the year, when they fall on a Wednesday or Friday, the Church permits fish along with wine and olive oil, but never eggs and dairy products. Therefore, the logic is that fish is lighter fare than eggs and dairy, hence its allowance during Cheesefare week, and on major feast days falling on fast days. I personally feel that it is correct to allow fish, so therefore, I give my blessing for its consumption during Cheesefare week.

+Fr. Anthony

FEBRUARY 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
			1 Vespers of the Presentation of our Lord, 7 pm	2 Feast of the of our Lord Lit.
<i>(fast day)</i>				
5 Sun. of the Canaanite Woman Altar Team B	6 St. Photios, Patriarch of Constantinople, Orthros & Lit.	7	8 Small Vespers 7 pm	9 Vespers of: 7 pm
<i>(fast day)</i>				
12 Sun. of the Publican & Pharisee; Triodion begins Altar Team A	13	14	15 Small Vespers 7 pm	16
<i>No fasting during the 1st week of Triodion—all food permitted</i>				
19 Sun. of the Prodigal Son Altar Team B	20	21	22 Paraklesis 7 pm	23
<i>(fast day)</i>				
26 Sun. of the Last Judgment (Meatfare) Altar Team A	27	28		
<i>(last day for meat)</i>	<i>Fish, eggs & dairy permitted daily during week of Cheesefare</i>			

Fri	Sat
3 Presentation , Orthros &	4 Great Vespers 6 pm
<i>(fast day)</i>	
10 St. Haralampos	11 St. Haralampos the Priest- martyr, Orthros & Lit.
<i>(fast day)</i>	
17	18 Great Vespers 6 pm
<i>1 daily</i>	
24	25 Sat. of Souls, Orthros & Lit.; Great Vespers 6 pm
<i>(fast day)</i>	

Upcoming Events

February 7th—Parish Council Meeting

February 12—Camp Awareness Day
after Liturgy

February 13—Soup Kitchen, 5 pm

February 14—Daughters of Penelope
Meeting, 7 pm

February 16—Retirees Luncheon &
Presentation, Noon

Regular Events

Religious Education—Sundays,
immediately after Holy Communion
(No classes February 19 & 26)

Adult Religious Education –
Wednesdays, 10 am

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

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE

We hope everyone enjoyed the lovely 13' Christmas tree that graced our community hall this past Christmas season. We wish to thank the Stefanopoulos Family, the gracious donors of the tree. We also wish to thank those individuals who assisted with the decorations; the tree truly enhanced the Christmas spirit for all!

A BIT OF CHRISTMAS IN WAVELAND

Members and friends of St. Spyridon's raised nearly \$1,000 to buy and ship Christmas gifts for eight families in Waveland, Mississippi, a Gulf Coast town destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. Assorted toys, books, games, puzzles, CDs of Christmas carols, candies, nuts, and other good things were among the dozens of presents we wrapped and sent to the thirty-four children and adults that Waveland's mayor asked us to help.

Through phone calls and letters, these folks have expressed their astonishment and gratitude to us.

"Y'all have put Christ back into Christmas for us," said one mom.

A teenage girl wrote, "...you have blessed us and made this Christmas one of the best and displayed the true meaning of Christmas through your love."

From a family: "God's love shines in good people with kind hearts doing nice things. Thank you all for a wonderful Christmas!"

A young boy claimed, "You made this Christmas one of the best I've ever had."

A grandmother wept when told to expect gifts for her grandson. "We lost everything," she said. "We've been living in a tent on the concrete slab where our house was. I was afraid to hope that we'd be able to have any kind of Christmas for Brad. God bless you all. Tell everyone, 'Thank you. Thank you!'"

Indeed.

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

To all Graduating Seniors:

Please look for Philoptochos Scholarship Applications in your schools beginning in February. If you attend a private school and need an application, please contact Elaine Brown at 848-3940.

Ladies our annual dues are now being collected. They are \$20.00 and can be mailed directly to:

Ionna Bairos-Moreau
96 Sherwood Terrace
Portsmouth, RI 02871

As always new members are always welcome. Just speak to any of the Board members for information or attend a general meeting. Dates and time are listed in the Newsletter. Happy, healthy and Blessed New year to all.

CAMP AWARENESS DAY

On Sunday, February 12, the Religious Education Department will host the fellowship hour during which time they will show a terrific 10 minute video about the Metropolis of Boston Camp. It is an attractive video professionally produced under the auspices of the Metropolis. At the fellowship hour, free-will offerings will be collected for a fund to be administered by the Religious Education Department to help young people in our church community who wish to attend one of the week long summer camp sessions.

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.

SOUP KITCHEN

Thanks to everyone who helped with the January soup kitchen. Another very successful evening! We will be hosting the February soup kitchen on Monday the 13th.

Thanks to Sandy Giannopoulos and the children of our JOY group for offering to prepare the meal for the March soup kitchen. We will still need adult servers for the evening meal. Please mark your calendars for a short soup kitchen committee meeting after the liturgy on Sunday February 12. Anyone interested in helping is welcome to attend.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The next Parish Council Meeting will take place February 7th, at 7 p.m.. No meeting was scheduled for the month of January. The new council was sworn in after Liturgy on Sunday, January 22, 2006.

The new offices of the 2006 Council are:

President: Steven J. Mellekas
Vice President: Thomas Nichols
Treasurer: Thomas Lewis
Assistant Treasurer: David Jasinski
Secretary: Penelope Hiotis.

The active members of the council are:

Zinovia Canale,
Chris Christopher
Maria Holder
Armand Mazzuli
Mary Michael
Basile Panoutsopoulos
Panayiotis Petrou

This council is looking forward to serving the Saint Spyridon Community for the year 2006.

Thank you,
Steven J. Mellekas
Parish Council President

IN OUR PARISH

Birth: A daughter, *Sophia Ann* was born to Ted & Dina Karousos on 1/17. We congratulate the parents and parishioner George Karousos, the proud grandfather. May she live many years!

Baptisms: The daughter of William & Heidi Christy, *Chloe Olivia*, was baptized on 1/8, and was given the name *Christina*. Her sponsors are George & Marianne Pylotis. May she live many years!

The daughter of Anthony & Julia Moisiades was baptized on 1/15, and was given the name *Antonia*. Her sponsor is Steve Kyriakides. May she live many years!

Death: *Charles Kempenaar*, husband Angela (Violet) Kempenaar, fell asleep in the Lord on 12/14, and was buried on 12/19 through the Episcopal Church. We express our condolences to Angela and her sons during their time of loss. May God rest his soul.

CHURCH BOOKSTORE

Our church bookstore is the ideal source for gift items as well as Lenten materials.

Audiotapes of cultural interest (children's songs in Greek, available)

Audiotapes of religious interest (services, etc)

Bibles (Orthodox Study Bible – New Testament and Psalms)

Books of cultural interest (Children's books in Greek, available)

Books of religious interest (For Children and adults)

Icons (Events and saints, prophets, etc.—many new icons have just been ordered!)

Incense and charcoal

Software, (Children's Bible Stories, Compton's Interactive Bible, Multilingual Bible Story-Noah's Ark, Creation, Treasures of the Bible, Quick Verse)

Prices are printed on items. Leave cash or check in the basket or make a check payable to:

Saint Spyridon
Attn. Bookstore

Note: If you need an item that is not available, please ask Basile if we can order it for you.

IONIAN VILLAGE

Ionian Village is now accepting staff applications for the summer of 2006. Applications, the dates for the summer 2006 program, and more information are available at:
<http://www.ionianvillage.org/main.html>.

IONIAN VILLAGE



Summer 2006 !

<http://www.ionianvillage.org>

DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE

Thank you to three members of our chapter who visited our shut-ins this Christmas. Stella and Angela Volpicelli and Maria Botelho went to the Nursing Homes bearing gifts of shawls to go along with the blankets and pillows that were given in previous years. They were warmly welcomed by all they visited and brought a lot of good cheer to the elderly.

The chapter is formulating plans for the Palm Sunday Fish Dinner which will be held on April 16th this year.

The next meeting of the chapter will be held on Tuesday, February 14th at the Ahepa meeting room at 7 p.m. All members are asked to attend.

<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>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 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>



Saint Spyridon
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