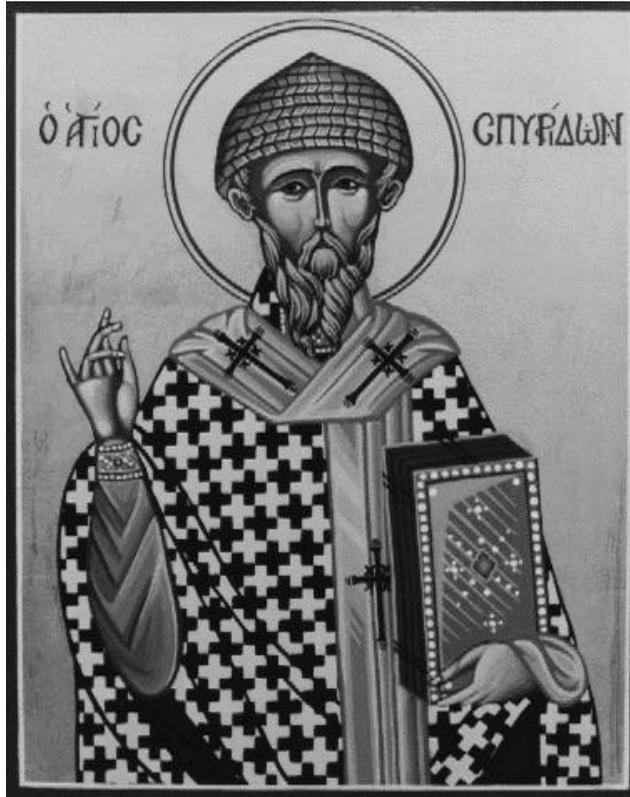

THE SAINT SPYRIDON VOICE
JANUARY 2006



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
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

(The following has been reprinted from the January '04 edition of the St. Spyridon Voice)

Beloved in Christ, as we prepare to celebrate our Lord Jesus Christ's baptism and His manifestation to the world as God in Trinity, along with the Father and the Holy Spirit, we should be reminded of our own baptism – both its significance and its meaning for our lives today.

Those of us who are “cradle” Orthodox, obviously remember nothing of our baptism because of being infants at the time. (With the exception of those unfortunate situations where some parents wait so long to baptize a child, that there *is* a recollection!) Adult converts who join the Orthodox Church through baptism (because of never having been baptized), are fortunate in that they are active participants in their baptism; they can comprehend the prayers and petitions, and understand the deep significance of the various symbolic rituals, especially because of having gone through catechetical training with their priest.

At the baptisms of children, we usually get caught up with the “cuteness” of it all. Our focus is totally on the child – whether he was quiet or noisy throughout the service; whether he hated or loved the emersion into the water; whether a noisy child stopped crying abruptly upon tasting the Holy Communion; interest in how lovely the baptismal garment is, etc., etc.. What we tend to forget, is the awesome mystery that is taking place before our eyes – the exorcism of demonic forces, the spiritual death and rebirth of the one baptized, the entering of the Holy Spirit into the child through Holy Chrismation, and the climax of physical union with Christ upon receiving His spotless Body and Blood at the end of the service.

Let us look at excerpts from some of the prayers of the baptismal rite, which demonstrate the awesomeness of the holy mystery taking place before us. During the prayers of exorcism we hear the following: *“The Lord rebukes you O Devil, for He came into the world and dwelt among men in order to shatter your tyranny and free mankind; hanging on the Cross, He triumphed over all the hostile powers...He destroyed death by death, and conquered you O Devil, who had the power of death...Have fear, come out and depart from this human being, and never return nor hide in him, neither meet nor act upon him, not by night or by day, not at dawn or at noontime, but depart to your own darkness until the appointed great day of judgment.”*

From another prayer we hear, *“Therefore I adjure you, most wicked, impure, abominable, loathsome and alien spirit; come out of the man and never again enter into him. Depart; admit the vanity of your power which could not even control the swine.”* We see with both these prayers, that the Church takes Satan head on prior to baptizing

one of God's children. The priest prays to God to drive all the disgusting demons out of His holy temple; everyone breathes and spits upon Satan and his demons out of disgust, and they then turn their back on them in order to face and acknowledge Jesus Christ as the living God.

Upon blessing the baptismal waters the priest says, "*Manifest Yourself O Lord, in this water, and grant that he who is baptized in it may be transformed so as to put away the old nature that is corrupted by deceitful desires, and to put on the new nature that is renewed in the image of God the Creator; so that united with You in the likeness of Your burial through baptism, he may also become a partaker of Your resurrection*"... So here we clearly see that baptism *renews and transforms* our corrupt, fallen nature, by sharing in the Lord's death and resurrection. Baptism is the door through which we enter into eternal life, having mystically been joined to the body of Christ.

Before anointing the newly baptized with the chrism of the Holy Spirit, the priest prays as follows: "*Blessed are You O Lord God Almighty, the source of all blessings, the sun of righteousness who shone with the light of salvation on those in darkness through the manifestation of Your only-begotten Son and our God; and You gave to us, unworthy though we be, blessed cleansing through Holy Baptism and divine sanctification through life-giving Chrismation; who now also have been well-pleased to regenerate Your newly-illuminated servant by water and the Spirit, granting to him the remission of all his sins both voluntary and involuntary.*" We see here that we are not only re-born in Christ through baptism, but also *cleansed* of all sin. Furthermore, we are sanctified and regenerated through the gift of the Holy Spirit. Baptism is not truly complete without Holy Chrismation.

As we reflect upon our own baptism, we should be awestruck to know that we have been set aside from the world and delivered from the power of the Devil; that we have been born anew by sharing in Christ's death and resurrection through the baptismal waters; and that we have been sealed with the Holy Spirit, thus fully belonging to God as a creature who has been virtually *re-created*. From that point on, it is up to us to strive to *live* this way, so that our baptism does not become meaningless and trivialized.

May God bless all of you as we celebrate Holy Theophany; as we all pray for spiritual renewal through this holy feast of light – the transforming light of God that shines through all darkness and evil.

In Christ's love,

+Fr. Anthony

EARLY BULLETIN

Due to holiday travels of those involved with the bulletin, this month's bulletin was printed much earlier in the month than normal. and therefore we apologize if we might be missing some items from later in the month as a result. Any timely items can always be given to the church secretary, Ellen Anagnostos, to be included in the Sunday bulletin as well.

HOUSE BLESSINGS

As is the custom of the Orthodox Church, Fr. Anthony will be available to bless homes starting Tuesday, 1/10. Please call him at the office during the week, in order to make arrangements. Allow the blessings of the Church to be brought to your home, through this beautiful and sanctifying ritual!

COMMUNION WINE DONATIONS

We wish to thank the following parishioners for their generous donation of communion wine for the celebration of the Holy Eucharist:

- George & Ellen Anagnostos – 1 case
- Richard & Joanne Wingert, *in memory of Anthony Rozes* – 1 case

May God bless these donors for their generous offering for the Holy Table of the Lord.

PROSFORON BAKERS

Along with the acknowledgement of the gifts of communion wine, it would be most appropriate to also acknowledge our team of *prosforon* bakers. The gifts of bread and wine are for the most central and important of the holy mysteries – the *Holy Eucharist*. We greatly appreciate their on-going and devoted ministry. The following parishioners comprise our *prosforon* baking team: Zoe Adamedes, Zinovia Canale, Loula Eliopoulos, Catherine Koulouvardis, Joan Rozes, and the Evangelatos family. May the Lord bless all of the hands which prepare the holy bread for the Lord's Table.

FROM THE WRITINGS OF THE SAINTS

(The following passages are taken from the book, *Spiritual Counsels* (St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1989), which are selected passages from the book, *My Life in Christ*, by St. John of Kronstadt, a priest and great spiritual elder of nineteenth century Russia.)

THE HELP OF THE CHURCH ON EARTH

The Church of God

“Your soul seeks true life and its natural food. The food of the mind is truth; the food of the heart is peace and blessedness; the food of the will is lawfulness. Go to the Church; she will give you all this in plenty, for she possesses it superabundantly. She is the pillar and ground of the truth, because in her is the Word of God, manifesting the origin of all things... She affords us peace and blessedness through her divine service, above all through the sacraments... She teaches us the true way which leads to eternal life – the way of God’s commandments.”

“We ought greatly to honour the Church, venerate her holiness, her antiquity, her unshaken firmness, her divinely enlightened wisdom and spiritual experience, her soul-saving commandments and ordinances, her divine services, sacraments and rites...”

The House of God

“The Church, through the ordering of the church building and her divine service, acts upon the whole man, educates him wholly: acts upon his sight, hearing, smelling, feeling, taste, imagining, mind and will...”

“The source of every true joy, of all true calm and peace of conscience, of cleansing, of spiritual and bodily healing, the source of spiritual power and boldness, flows in the church – theatres and other worldly distractions and consolations can never replace that which a true Christian receives in the church, where God himself comforts the souls of those who believe, and whose hearts are turned to him, as a mother comforts her child...”

“Truly the church is heaven upon earth; for where the throne of God is, where the awful sacraments are celebrated, where the angels serve together with men, ceaselessly glorifying the Almighty, there is truly heaven...”

“How ardently we should love the house of God, how we should adorn it!... The adornment of holy things elevates our souls to God, and is therefore not merely not wrong, but positively holy and edifying, as also are sacred music, the fragrance of incense, the magnificence and splendour of the ornaments of the church building and its vessels. All these, destined to glorify God and to arouse devout feelings, are not sinful, but holy.”

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Dear Stewards,

Please find listed below a continuation of our list of Stewards, current through 12 December 2005. Note that many of our faithful stewards provide their financial support during the month of December. This, in conjunction with the early cut-off date for inclusion in the January Monthly Bulletin (12 December) means that a final listing of our Stewards will not be available until the February 2006 bulletin. A final Stewardship report will also be available at that time.

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.

Very soon, Stewardship packages for 2006 will be in the mail. But don't forget about 2005! 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 make your donation now or contact me at your earliest convenience.

Zoe Adamedes
274-1316
zadamedes@yahoo.com

Mr. & Mr.s Telly Amarant
Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Christy
Mr. Harold Demopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. John Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. Constantine Logothets
Mrs. Esther Lascaris-Viveiros
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Mihos
Mr. & Mrs. Basile Panoutsopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Antonios Panteleos
Mr. & Mrs. Leon Panteleos
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Petrou
Mr. Michael Sisak

JANUARY 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
1 The Circumcision of Christ; St. Basil the Great Altar Team A	2	3	4 Small Vespers 7 pm <i>(no fasting)</i>	5 Theophany Theophany Liturgy 1st Blessing pm <i>(strict fasting)</i>
8 Sunday after Theophany Altar Team B	9	10	11 Small Vespers 7 pm <i>(fast day)</i>	12
15 The 12th Sun. of Luke Altar Team A	16 Vespers of St. Anthony the Great 7 pm	17 St. Anthony the Great, Orthros & Lit.; Vespers of Sts. Athanasios & Cyril 7 pm	18 Sts. Athanasios & Cyril, Orthros & Lit. Small Vespers 7 pm <i>(fast day)</i>	19
22 The 14th Sun. of Luke Altar Team B	23	24 Vespers of St. Gregory the Theologian in MANSFIELD, MA 7 pm	25 Feast of St. Gregory the Theologian, Orthros & Lit. here Paraklesis 7 pm <i>(fast day)</i>	26
29 Sunday of Zaccheus Altar Team A Vespers of the Three Hierarchs 7 pm	30 The Three Hierarchs, Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, & John Chrysostom, Orthros & Lit.	31		

Fri

Sat

urs of
m; Vigil
hany &
Water, 5

6
Holy Theophany, Orthros,
Lit. & Great Blessing of
Water; Vespers of St. John 7
pm
(no fasting)

7
Synaxis of St. John the
Forerunner & Baptist,
Orthros & Lit.
Great Vespers 6 pm

13

14
Great Vespers 6 pm

(fast day)

20

21
Great Vespers 6 pm

(fast day)

27

28
Great Vespers 6 pm

(fast day)

Upcoming Events

Parish Council Meeting (date pending)

January 8– Vasilopita

January 9– Soup Kitchen 5 pm

January 10– Daughters of Penelope Meeting, 7 pm

January 18– Philoptochos General Meeting, 6:30 pm

January 19– Retirees Luncheon & Presentation

January 20– Little Lambs Meeting, 10:30 am

Regular Events

Religious Education– Sundays, immediately after Holy Communion **(no classes January 1st or 15th)**

Adult Religious Education – (to be announced)

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

RETIREES LUNCHEON & PRESENTATION

We would like to thank Jane Iandolo for providing the excellent Italian soup at our December gathering. We were entertained by a choir of home-schooled children, who sang hymns and carols of the advent season. Our next luncheon and presentation will be on **Thursday, 1/19 at 12 noon**. Please join us for an enjoyable afternoon of fellowship. **Note:** In the December bulletin, we neglected to thank Angela Volpicelli for her interesting and informative presentation on depression and mourning at the November gathering. Thanks again, Angela!

IN APPRECIATION

We wish to thank the outgoing members of the 2005 parish council, for all their hard work and support of the parish. During the past year, a few committees had been formed which accomplished much needed work, such as cleaning out the basement and closets of the church, re-organizing these areas, upgrading the computer, fax and phone system, and general office area downstairs, among other things. May the Lord bless our out-going council members, and all those parishioners who helped with the above projects.

In addition, we sincerely thank Steve Jennings, Jr. who hand-crafted six wooden “stops” for the candle holders at the *pangaria*. These blocks will keep the candles neatly stacked and flush with the front edge of each well. We truly appreciate this labor of love.

THE ST. METHODIOS FAITH & HERITAGE CENTER

His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios of Boston, has asked all his parishes to support a large project being planned at the Faith & Heritage Center in Contookook, NH. The project is known as the “Retreat House,” which will serve the expanding need for retreats and conferences for the clergy and laity of the Boston Metropolis. Please refer to the enclosed “giving list” which shows a break-down of rooms and corresponding donation amounts. It would be a great blessing if our parish could be able to help in some significant way, toward this important ministry of our Metropolis. We are open to any suggestions for ways to participate. Please contact Fr. Anthony or the parish council with any ideas.

SOUP KITCHEN

In December, we served around 60 meals, offering a traditional holiday menu for all to enjoy. Thanks again to the many volunteers who cooked, baked, served, cleaned, or assisted monetarily. Our next Soup Kitchen will take place on Monday, January 9th. We look forward to a successful and gratifying year of meal ministry to those in need.

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.

PARISH COUNCIL RATIFIES COMMITTEE WORK

The Parish Council has ratified the work of the Clean-up, Office Reorganization, and Records and Archives Committees. These committees were officially disbanded as of December 31, 2005.

The members of these committees did an excellent job cleaning out the church of unneeded items, sorting and properly arranging the remaining items, upgrading the church computer system, streamlining the manual processes, purchasing new office furniture and supplies to replace the outdated office arrangement, and organizing the records and archives, including the past priests and presidents lists posted in the last two newsletters and on the church web site.

We wish to thank the members who worked on these committees for their support of a more dignified condition for our church premises. The members were Athanasios Stefanopoulos, Evangelos Giannopoulos, Christos Psilos, John Johnson, Ellen Anagnostos and Basile Panoutsopoulos.

Thank you!

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The upcoming Parish Council Meeting will be held in January 2006, please be advised for further date and time. I would like to thank the 2005 Parish Council for their endless time and efforts in supporting Saint Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church.

Discussions at the December meeting were focused on closing out year 2005. Other items of discussion were finalizing the budget, and approval of the 2005 assessment to the Archdiocese. We reviewed the preparation for the visit and luncheon for Metropolitan Methodios which took place on Sunday, December 11. We look forward to a blessed and productive New Year of 2006.

Happy and Blessed New Year
Steven J. Mellekas
Parish Council President

2006 PARISH COUNCIL OPENING

The church by-laws require twelve (12) Parish Council members serving staggered two-year terms. Three members who recently completed their 2004-2005 terms, Basile Panoutsopoulos, Penelope Hiotas, and Tom Nichols have submitted their names to serve another two-year term on the Parish Council. Two other members who completed their 2004-2005 terms, Athanasios Stefanopoulos and Evangelos Giannopoulos, have chosen not to continue on the Parish Council. We thank them for their dedicated service to the community and their hard work over the past few years. The 2006 Parish Council thus stands as follows:

2005-2006 Terms

1. Steve Mellekas
2. Tom Lewis
3. Chris Christopher
4. Panayiotis Petrou
5. Zinovia Canale
6. Armand Muzzuli

2006-2007 Terms

7. Basile Panoutsopoulos
8. Penelope Hiotas
9. Tom Nichols
10. Open
11. Open
12. Open

If you are interested in volunteering to serve on the Parish Council for the 2006-2007 term, please submit your name for one of the three Parish Council openings by contacting the church secretary as soon as possible.

IN OUR PARISH

Baptism: The daughter of Lucian & Gabriela Dobrot was baptized on 12/18, and was given the name *Ana*. Her sponsors are Eugen & Simona Trandafir. Fr. Onisie Morar of St. John the Baptist Romanian Orthodox Church, Woonsocket, concelebrated the mystery with Fr. Anthony. May she live many years!

Engagement: *David Jasinski & Adeline Ashmore* recently announced their engagement. They plan to be married next year. We congratulate them as they anticipate their blessed day!

Marriage Blessing: *Gregory & Tasha Brown* recently had their marriage blessed in the Orthodox church at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Cranston. The sponsor was Gregory's Brother, Kevin Brown. Gregory is the son of Stanley & Elaine Brown. May they live many years!

Death: *Sophia Petrou*, mother of Panayiotis Petrou, fell asleep in the Lord in late November, on the island of Cyprus. We offer our condolences to Panayiotis, Marizete & Isabel Sophia. May her memory be eternal!

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

The Philoptochos will host the annual church Vasilopeta on Sunday, January 8th. The next general meeting will be on Wednesday, January 18th at 6:30 downstairs in the church hall. All new members are welcome.

LITTLE LAMBS GROUP

The Little Lambs group will be meeting on Friday, January 20th at 10:30 in the church hall or downstairs in the preschool room. 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.

DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE

The first meeting of the new year will be held on TUESDAY, JANUARY 10th at 7 p.m. at the Ahepa Housing. 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><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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