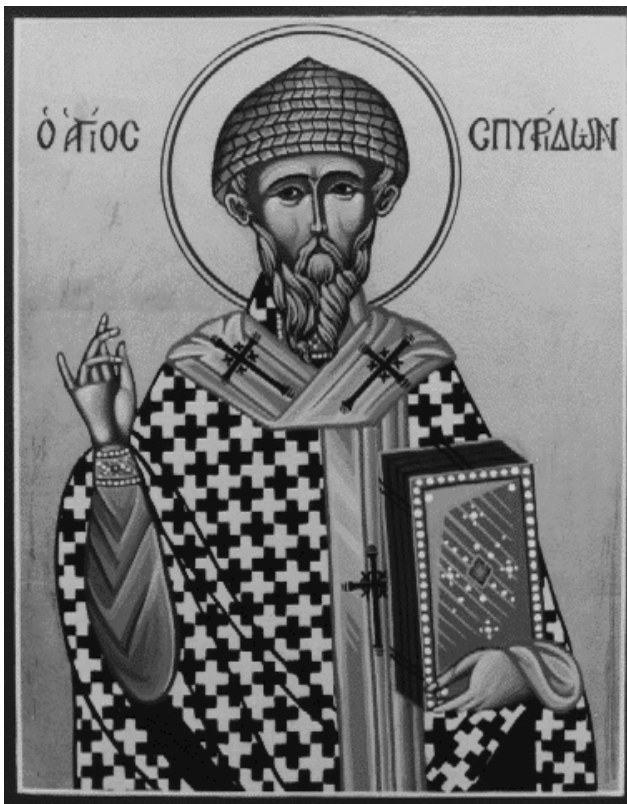

THE SAINT SPYRIDON VOICE
MAY 2006



Saint Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church
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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: Nick Mellekas, James Mellekas

GOYA President: Nick Mellekas

DY Advisor: Sandy Giannopoulos

Greek School:

Loula Eliopoulos

Basile Panoutsopoulos (adult classes)

Bulletin: Alike Cooper

(alikecooper@yahoo.com)

Affiliated Organizations

AHEPA President: Basile

Panoutsopoulos

Daughters of Penelope President:

Ellen Anagnostos

Island of Skiatos Organization:

Christina Rua

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 Vespers—7 pm*
 pm* Orthros—9 am

Saturdays Great Vespers 6 pm* 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

Christ is Risen! What a joy it is to utter these most beautiful and meaningful words ever uttered in the course of human history. The resurrection of Christ is the most radical, unique, and life-transforming event in the history of humankind. The reality of life after death is the direct consequence of Christ's resurrection. For the followers of Christ, fear of what lies beyond the grave is transformed to joy, knowing that death has been destroyed, and that all can live eternally in the presence of Christ.

The Resurrection also grants courage to Christians against the evil ways of the world, because Christ was victorious over the Devil. No wonder the Church celebrates this brightest of feasts and "festival of festivals" with such splendor for thirty-nine days straight, leading us into the Ascension of our Lord on the fortieth day after Pascha. The Resurrection should be celebrated by each and every one of us – in our church, in our hearts, and in our homes. Every fear that we have as human beings can be vanquished through belief in the Resurrection, for through it, hope has been granted to mankind.

When one views the secular world, one doesn't really see a world of hope. It doesn't seem like a world that has been transformed by the Resurrection of Christ, for evil, fear, and hopelessness abound everywhere we turn. What is equally sad is that many who are believers in Christ have fallen far away from the joyful message of the Resurrection.

In some Christians circles, it seems that the true message of Pascha has been lost. Certain Christian "theologians" have actually questioned the resurrection of Christ. For many, Easter is merely a celebration focused on children, with bunnies, candy, and egg hunts. It also is seen as a reason for family and friends to gather together. But where is the Cross and the Tomb in this type of celebration? Where are the tears shed along with the Theotokos and the others who stood by the Cross and were present at the burial? And where is the exuberance and ecstatic joy felt by the myrrh-bearing women who found the tomb empty?

This kind of celebration of Pascha can be encountered in a profound way in the Holy Orthodox Church. We are the unique Church which focuses almost half of the liturgical year on the celebration of the Lord's Resurrection. We are the Church which dedicates every Sunday of the year to the Resurrection. We are the Church that takes the celebration of Holy Pascha so seriously, that we prepare for the Feast

several weeks in advance and celebrate it for several weeks after. In the spiritual practice of the Orthodox Church, we share in the Lord's passion and are buried with Him on Great Friday. Then we are raised with Him in His glorious resurrection, thus renewing ourselves spiritually until the following year.

Everything regarding Orthodox Pascha is about *renewal*. First of all, Pascha falls in spring when all of creation is renewing itself. The week following the Sunday of Pascha is known as *Renewal* or *Bright Week* because everything around us takes on new meaning and life in the Resurrection. Each day of Renewal Week is liturgically considered a continuation of the Sunday of Pascha – the *eighth* day – a unique day unlike any other in history. How can a focused Orthodox Christian who experiences this annual celebration of Pascha, *not* be a renewed person full of hope and resurrectional joy? When we are spiritually renewed through Pascha each year, we are then capable of facing a world without hope and full of evil.

The deep faith we have in the Resurrection, also helps keep us focused on the ultimate goal of life – the goal of *eternal life*. If this goal is not clearly a part of our everyday lives, then we are living a dream, and unfortunately the “dreamers” are easy targets for the Devil. The formula is simple – if we are in love with *this* life and what it offers us, then we are not properly preparing for the next life. If we view this life as *temporary* and continuously seek to do God's will and grow spiritually, then we are on the right path toward salvation. The great feast of Pascha can offer us the faith and hope we need to prepare us for the next life without fear. Let the joyous message of Pascha enter your heart and soul again this year, so that you may reap all the spiritual benefits of this holiest of feasts.

Christ is risen!

+ Fr. Anthony

(Originally printed in bulletin of 6/02, and revised 5/06)

GODPARENT SUNDAY

Sunday, May 7th has been designated as “**Godparent Sunday.**” On this, the 3rd Sunday of Pascha, we invite all godparents to attend church with their godchild/children, and if properly prepared, to receive Holy Communion together. This is a special way to remember the spiritual bond of godparents and godchildren through the grace of the Holy Spirit, during this most spiritually renewing time of Holy Pascha.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

We would like to update everyone on the recent activities of our youth, since many do not hear about them.

Our Goyans recently sponsored a fundraising luncheon for IO CC after church, as a Lenten service project. Along with their advisors, they helped organize and serve the luncheon.

The 3rd-6th grade church school class, prepared the meal for the March soup kitchen, which was completely their own idea.

Representatives of our Greek School recited poems at the Greek Independence Day observation at the State House. The Hellenic dancers performed at Heatherwood Nursing Home where we have parishioners as residents. Please see the Hellenic dancers entry in the bulletin for more information about their many activities.

Goya and JY members were also involved with palm cross weaving on the Saturday of Lazarus, as well as the decoration of the *kouvouklion* on Holy Friday.

Of course, many of these youth continue to be involved with the most important element of the Church – the liturgical life – as acolytes and choir members. We are proud of our youth, as we see them closely involved with the life of the Church.

FROM THE HOLY FATHERS

(the following is taken from the writing of St. John of Damascus, regarding the Resurrection of Christ)

“The deified soul went down into hell so that, just as the Sun of Justice rose upon those on earth, so also might the light shine upon them under the earth who were sitting in darkness and the shadow of death; so that, just as He had brought the good news of peace to those on earth, so also might He bring that of deliverance to captives and that of sight to the blind..And thus, having loosed them that had been bound for ages, He came back again from the dead and made the resurrection possible for us.”

“After His resurrection from the dead He put aside all His passions, that is to say, ruin, hunger and thirst, sleep and fatigue, and the like. For even though He did taste food after His resurrection, it was not in obedience to any law of nature, because He did not feel hunger, but by way of dispensation that He might confirm the truth of the resurrection by showing that the flesh which had suffered and that which had risen were the same. Moreover, He did not put aside any of the elements of His nature, neither body nor soul, but kept possession of the body and the rational, intellectual, willing and acting soul. And thus He sits at the right hand of the Father and wills our salvation both as God and as man. And, while He acts as God by working the providence, preservation, and government of all things, He acts as man in remembering His labors on earth and in seeing and knowing that He is adored by all rational creation.”

REMINDER REGARDING MEMORIAL DAY

Due to Fr. Anthony’s mission trip to South America, there will be no trisagion service at the cemeteries this year. Instead of this, an appropriate and more traditional thing to do in remembrance of our deceased loved ones, would be to attend the *psychosavvato* scheduled on **Saturday, 6/11** – the day before Holy Pentecost. If you’re not able to prepare a small dish of *ko llyva*, you may still provide the names of your deceased loved ones for commemoration.

THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP FROM FATHER ANTHONY

In March, everyone received their stewardship packet for their prayerful consideration of their 2006 financial gift. Hopefully, we've all had a chance to read the thoughtfully prepared letter from our stewardship chairperson, Zoe Adamedes.

The key to making a decision on the amount of support for our beloved parish, has everything to do with our *spiritual relationship* with the church, as opposed to a purely *financial* decision based on other factors. Our decision must start by making the Church the highest priority in our lives. Without the Church, we cannot be spiritually healthy, nor seriously strive for salvation. No other institution in this world could ever compare to, nor be on par with what the Church is in our lives – both in this world and the next. If this is how we understand the Church, then an appropriately generous stewardship pledge should come naturally.

Most of us have similar financial obligations, especially if we are still raising children. On a personal note, my family has these same obligations, as well as other typical needs such as family vacations, and periodic recreational activities. Now, my salary is not a secret, as everyone sees on the annual parish budget. I am being remunerated according to the Archdiocesan guidelines, at a rate that allows us to function as a family by today's standards. At this time, we are able to offer back approximately 7% of our income.

Please forgive the candor of my remarks, which are solely meant to illustrate what is *possible* for many, if not most of us. They are certainly not meant to bring unnecessary attention or praise our way, but instead, to offer a point of reference as we consider this year's pledge. With the revenue vs. expense situation of our parish being what it is, I felt that it was necessary to assist in radically shifting our thinking about stewardship, and the financial future of our parish. Thank you for understanding.

+ Fr. Anthony

MAY 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
	1	2	3 Sn all Vespers 7 pm	4
			<i>(fast day)</i>	
7 Sun. of the Myrrh-bearers <i>Godparent Sunday</i>	8 St. John the Theologian, Orthros & Lit.	9	10 Sn all Vespers 7 pm	11
			<i>(fast day)</i>	
14 Sun. of the Paralytic	15	16	17 Sn all Vespers 7 pm	18
			<i>(fast day)</i>	
21 Sun. of the Samaritan Woman; Sts. Constantine & Helen	22	23	24	25
			<i>(fast day)</i>	
28 Sun. of the Blind Man <i>(visiting priest)</i>	29	30	31 Leave-taking of Pascha <i>(no services)</i> <i>(no fasting—all foods permitted)</i>	

Fr. Anthony on mission trip

Fri

Sat

5

6

Great Vespers 6 pm

(fast day)

12

13

Great Vespers 6 pm

(fast day)

19

20

Great Vespers 6 pm

(fast day)

26

27

(fast day)

. Anthony on mission trip

Upcoming Events

May 2—Hellenic Fest meeting, 6pm

May 2—Parish Council, 7pm

May 8—Soup Kitchen, 5 pm

May 9—Daughters of Penelope Meeting, 7 pm

May 18—Retirees Luncheon & Presentation, 12 Noon

Regular Events

Religious Education—Sundays, immediately after Holy Communion

Children's Greek School—Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 4-6 pm and Thursdays, 4-5 pm

Adult Greek School—Mondays, 5-6 pm

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Dear Families,

May is our last month of Religious Education for the 2005-2006 year! Thank you to all the children and the teachers who have made this year wonderful. Our last day will be May 21st. I will be sending home a letter for families to donate food for the luncheon on that date. We also will be honoring our graduating senior, Nickolas Mellekas.

God Bless!

Marianne

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The next parish council meeting will take place Tuesday, May 2, 2006 at 7p. m. There will be a prior meeting for the 2006 Hellenic Fest that will be open to all on May 2, 2006 at 6 pm to organize the upcoming event.

At the last council meeting maintenance was discussed and reviewed for the bid of the front stairs and the repairs to the roof, and the maintenance of the air conditioning units. The council is currently determining creative ways to pay for these needed expenditures. The council will keep the parish up to date and well informed of these funds.

The preparation for Holy Week and Easter was discussed. Please accept the Easter envelopes as a positive donation to meet the needs of Holy Week and Easter and to continue to promote the wonderful celebration of our St. Spyridon Orthodox Easter. Please feel free to contact anyone on the council for concerns.

Thank you,
Steven J. Mellekas
Parish Council President

IN APPRECIATION

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who gave of their time, talent and treasure during Great Lent and Holy Week. Our acolytes, choir, chanters, decorators, parish council ushers, general donors, and all the donors of specific items needed are greatly appreciated.

A special thanks to Sofie Cofield for donating three new rectangular tablecloths for the food and beverage tables in the hall.

Let us also express our appreciation to Rose Kutsaftis, who is our official launderer of the communion cloths, which most people do not realize. This is an important and specialized ministry, since these cloths must be handled differently than everyday laundry. Again, thanks to all, and may the Risen Christ bless you with every good thing!

SOUP KITCHEN NEWS

Thank you to Sofie Cofield, Vicki Yankopoulos, Rose Apostol, George & Evie Spiratos, Steve and Greg Melikas for helping with the preparations for the April Soup Kitchen. The "Easter" ham dinner was a big success, right down to the beautiful colored eggs done by some of our parish children. We served around 40 guests. We'd also like to thank those who've made monetary contributions. Last but not least, our many faithful volunteers who helped to set up, serve and clean up and have made our guests feel welcome.

Our next Soup Kitchen will be on Monday, May 8. We'll be serving roasted chicken, which we will prepare over the weekend. Please contact Presv. Themmi if you'd like to help.

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Ladies, we will end our year with a lovely business brunch at the Atlantic Beach Club. Our meeting will be on May 7th following church. Please call Elaine Brown at 849-3480 and let her know if you will be attending. We will plan our summer meeting to create our calendar for next year. How fast time flies!

Thanks, Zinovia

GREEK SCHOOL

It was with great pride that we watched the patriotic program celebrating the 185th anniversary of Greek independence presented by the Children of the Greek School and the Hellenic Dancers on Sunday April 2nd.

The St. Spyridon Greek School program is now on its third year and it is a testament to the hard work of the children, the commitment of the parents and enthusiasm and dedication of Mrs. Loula Eliopoulos.

Our children are continuing to learn to read, write and speak the Greek language, as well as getting an introduction to Greek History, Culture, and Traditions.

We are now starting to plan for the upcoming school year and we ask those who are interested in participating to contact us. All children age six or older are welcome to participate.

Your input at this time will help to ensure a successful program for next year. Please contact Mrs. Loula Eliopoulos, or Evangelos Giannopoulos (667-2984) for further information.

In addition to the youth classes, Dr. Basile Panoutsopoulos continues to conduct classes for adults. Please contact Basile if you are interested in these classes.

NEWPORT HELLENIC DANCERS

The Newport Hellenic Dancers have been very active during the winter and spring seasons. During the Christmas holidays we held our second annual pastry sale fundraiser. The funds that were raised will be used to purchase new costumes for our collection. Once again our community has been very generous and we thank all of you that participated.

We celebrated Greek Independence day on April 2nd jointly with the Greek School by performing traditional patriotic Greek dances, and complementing the poems that were recited by the Greek School children.

After the celebration we visited the Heatherwood retirement home in Newport, where our young dancers performed beautifully. It was a festive event that brought joy to all the residents.

During the holidays in December, we also visited and performed at St. Clare retirement home.

We are very proud of our young dancers and we appreciate all the hard work they do. A job well done.

We are now planning ahead for the Hellenic Festival in July. We plan to start practices again the week after Easter and will continue through June. We invite all that are interested to begin practicing with us and be part of the festival activities.

Practices are held on Sunday after liturgy. We are planning a rich program with new dances from all over Greece, as well as the traditional favorites. Please contact Evangebs or Xanthoula Giannopoulos at 667-2984 for more details.

HELLENIC FEST MEETING

A Hellenic Festival meeting will be held Tuesday, May 2nd at 6 pm. Anyone interested in chairing or participating please attend. This event is very important to the benefit of St. Spyridon Church and needs all of our help and support. If you are unable to attend this meeting but wish to participate, please contact Steve Mellekas.

IN OUR PARISH

75th Birthd ay: *Stella Volpicelli* recently celebrated her 75th birthd ay amid family and friends. May the Lord grant her e very good thing and m any more years of good he alth !

HELLENIC SOCIETY PAIDEIA FILM PRESENTATION

O n Friday May 19th at 7 pm, Paideia will sho w the film "The 11th D ay" (2005) directed by Christos Epperson. A documentary film, "The 11th D ay" chronicles the story of the men, women, and children of the Cretan civilian resistance movement and their relentless battle against Nazi occupation forces during World War II from 1941-1945—a battle whi ch inspired Churchill to proclaim, "Until now , we kn ew th at Greeks were fight ing like heroes; from now on we shall say th at the heroes fight like Greeks."

The film will be shown at Deme trak as Hall at the Annunciation Church in Cranston with free admission.

DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE

The Daugh ters of Penelope wish to thank all who supported our Palm Sunday Fish Dinner. Your support enabled us to he lp the Penelope H ouse in Mobile, Alabama, the Papanicolaou Cancer Center in Florida and our beloved St. Spyridon Church. We also wish to thank our fellow Ahepans who helped serve the dinners and our own members who helped make our dinner a success.

Our next meeting will be held on TUESDAY, MAY 9th at 7p.m. at which time delegates to the District and National Conventions will be chosen.

<p><i>In loving memory of</i> <i>Gredo Vincent</i> <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: 8493356 Daily 7am-12am, Fri & Sat 7am-2am</p>	<p>Entinia <i>The Wedding and Baptism Store</i> Elegant Accessories 705 Washington Street Norwood, MA (781) 702-6034 entinia.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><i>Flo's Drive-In</i> <i>Portsmouth</i> <i>Flo's Clam Shack</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> 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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