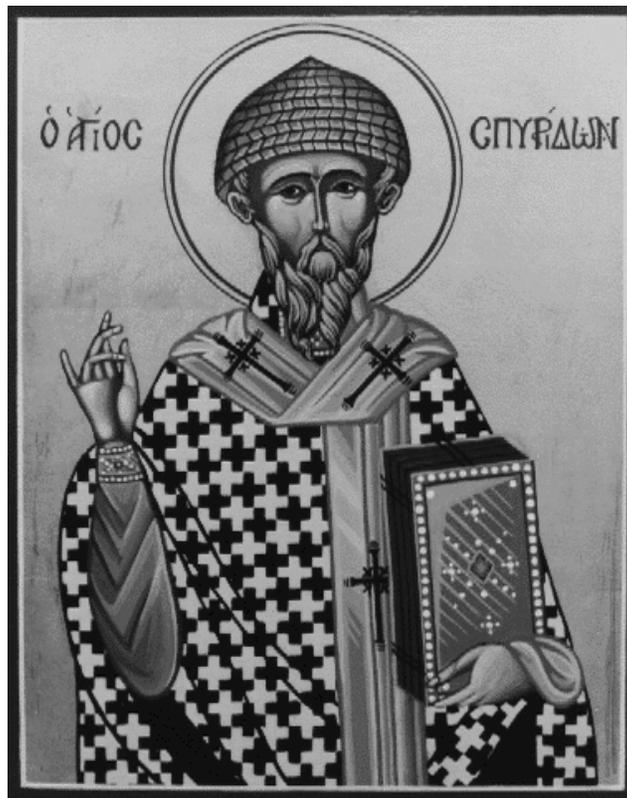

THE SAINT SPYRIDON VOICE
SEPTEMBER 2006



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: Nick Mellekas, James Mellekas

GOYA President: James 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 Logothets

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*

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

Another new ecclesiastical year is upon us as we enter the glorious month of September. Once again we begin the annual liturgical cycle of our holy Orthodox Church. Since everything in life is cyclical, it is quite logical that the Church's liturgical life should also be cyclical. Each year, we celebrate the same feast days, repeat the same scriptural readings, and hear the same seasonal hymns at their appointed times. This liturgical repetition serves us well, for this way, we look forward to celebrating the various feasts, enjoying the rich hymnography of our Church, as well as hearing the Lord's magnificent teachings through His holy Word. The outsider looking in may see this as monotonous, however, the Church is her wisdom knows the value of our unchanging Holy Tradition, through which we believers benefit spiritually.

How many of us would think of complaining about the changing seasons of the year? Most people look forward to each coming season with its particular beauty and feel. Throughout our life, we will continually experience the changing of the seasons, and will always accept and anticipate these changes with joy.

In the same way, each September 1st, we joyfully welcome the new ecclesiastical year with its various feasts and fasts, culminating in the greatest of feasts – Holy Pascha. In fact, most Orthodox Christians have such great love for Great Lent, Holy Week and Pascha, that they begin anticipating the season as soon as Pascha is behind them!

But more importantly than the good feelings we get during the liturgical year, is the potential for *spiritual transformation*, which is part and parcel of keeping the various feast days and fast periods of our holy Orthodox Church. Remember, the goal of an Orthodox Christian in this world is achieving union with God through the vehicle of the Church. We seek to transform ourselves to reflect the reality of not being *of the world*, which is only possible by living the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church, and through our personal prayer lives. Salvation can only come through the Church and her Holy Tradition.

When we fully grasp and comprehend these concepts, we can then embrace the routine of the liturgical cycle of the Church, knowing that this is our way of growing from “glory to glory” as we seek spiritual growth in the image of Christ. Those who live

the faith in this fashion never feel a sense of liturgical monotony. In fact, neither do focused Orthodox Christians have concerns regarding the length of services, the repetitions heard within services, the addition of extra rituals after liturgy, or other related issues.

Oddly enough, even though some people may find things about the church tedious and monotonous, in our secular lives, we deal with monotonous routines every day – some obligatory, others not. It's interesting to see how many people have very repetitive social routines – dinner out on a particular night each week, golf or bowling on other days, movie night with the family, etc., all of which take extreme importance in one's weekly calendar. Here the question must be asked – do we include worship of God along with our brethren in Christ at the top of the priority list?

If we don't have an established, solid routine for church attendance, perhaps we can make an "ecclesiastical new year resolution" in this regard. Many of us are extremely regular with Sunday church attendance. Perhaps we can attempt to expand our liturgical experience by attending other services offered during the week, especially on feast days. As I have mentioned many times, it would be a great blessing for families to celebrate the great feast days of our Lord and the Theotokos, by at least attending the vespers held on the eve of these feasts. Considering the obligations of work and school, families could still plan ahead and come to vespers to hear the hymns of the feast, and be able to at least venerate the icon of the feast and receive the Lord's blessing.

Let us all take a renewed look at our liturgical and sacramental routines, as well as our spiritual lives in general, as we enter this new ecclesiastical year. May we all pray about this most important area of our lives, so that the Holy Spirit may enlighten and guide us along the path to salvation.

In Christ's love,

+Fr. Anthony

IN APPRECIATION

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all those involved with this year's Hellenic Fest – whether a worker, baker, donor, festival committee member, set-up or breakdown volunteer – you are all greatly appreciated! A special *thank you* goes to Aphrodite and Ashley Cottrell, Penny Hiotas, and Steve and Greg Mellekas for being instrumental in the execution of the festival. Many parishioners have commented on the relaxed and pleasant atmosphere that prevailed this year. However we do financially, the greatest blessing was seeing dedicated parishioners working lovingly together to help their church. May God bless all of you.

Our gratitude also goes to Joan Rozes who donated the grapes and flowers for the icon of the Transfiguration, celebrated on 8/6. In addition, we thank Jimmy and Toula Mellekas who donated the flowers for the icon of the Dormition of the Theotokos on 8/15. Let me also add, that Toula has provided the grapes for the Transfiguration for the past several years, which is much appreciated. Thanks also to Frangoula Christopher for the beautiful potted flowering plant for the feast of the Dormition. May these donations be a blessing to all of you.

+Fr. Anthony

CHURCH EVENT CALENDAR

As we enter the busier period of fall, winter, and spring, we would like to request that all organizations and individuals check availability of dates with the church secretary, *before* choosing dates for special events, memorial coffee hours, and other such things. The church office maintains a parish calendar where all such events are logged. Dates cannot simply be decided at organization meetings, or by families or individuals, without first consulting Ellen in the office.

In this regard, we must also stress that priority must be given to parish organizations before any affiliated organization, or other individual requests for dates. There are many regular parish events that happen each year, so please understand why dates may not always be available.

SUMMER HOURS EXTENDED

As per the instructions of His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios regarding the Faith and Heritage Center ground breaking, **we will be extending summer hours one extra week through Sunday, September 10th**. For those who have not visited the Metropolis Camp, this would be an excellent opportunity for adults and children to see what our Metropolis is doing for our spiritual well-being.

Therefore, Sunday Winter Hours (Orthros 8:45, Liturgy 10 AM) will begin on Sunday, September 17th.

SOUP KITCHEN

We would like to thank Steve and Greg Mellekas for the wonderful chicken dinner they provided at the August soup kitchen. We also thank Joanne Wingert for her donation of fruit and dessert, as well as Catherine Koulouvardis for her monetary donation. The next soup kitchen will be held on Monday, September 11th. Please contact Pres. Themmi at 683-0908 (after August 30th) if you would like to be involved.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Fr. Anthony would like to again offer a session of adult religious education this fall. If there is interest, please call the church office to so indicate. It would be helpful to indicate whether you would prefer a day or night class. In addition, perhaps you could suggest a topic or topics of personal interest. Another idea would be to mail-in anonymous questions that could be answered during class. Please consider expanding the knowledge of your faith through adult religious education.

RETIRES LUNCHEON & PRESENTATION

Our monthly retirees program will resume on the feast of the Holy Cross, **Thursday, 9/14, immediately after liturgy**. Please come and enjoy the good food, fellowship, and quality presentations that our regular attendees have enjoyed for the past few years. We hope to see all of you at the solemn feast of the Holy Cross, to be followed by our luncheon and program.

SEPTEMBER 2006

Sunday Winter Hour

Sun**Mon****Tue****Wed****Thu**

 3
12th Sun. of Matthew

4

5

6
Small Vespers 7 pm7
Vespers of I
Nativity of t
7 pm*(fast day)*

 10
Sunday Before the
Elevation of the Holy
Cross (**summer hours
continue today due to
Metropolis Camp event**)

11

12

13
Vespers for the Feast of the
Elevation of the Holy
Cross, 7 pm14
Feast of the
Orthros & I*(fast day)*

 17
Sun. after the Holy Cross,
St. Sophia & her daughters

18

19

20
Small Vespers 7 pm

21

**WINTER HOURS
BEGIN***(fast day)*

 24
1st Sun. of Luke
25
Vespers of St. John the
Theologian & Evangelist, 7
pm26
Feast of the Falling Asleep
of St. John, Orthros & Lit.27
Paraklesis 7 pm

28

(fast day)

Orthros 8:45 am	Divine Liturgy 10 am
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Fri

Sat

1 Feast of the Indiction (new ecclesiastical year), Orthros & Lit.	2 Great Vespers 6 pm
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(fast day)

8 Feast of the Theotokos, Orthros & Lit.	9 Great Vespers 6 pm
--	-------------------------

(fast day)

15 Holy Cross, Lit.	16 Great Vespers 6 pm
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(fast day)

22	23 Great Vespers 6 pm
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(fast day)

29	30 Great Vespers 6 pm
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(fast day)

Upcoming Events

September 10—St. Methodios Faith & Heritage Center ground breaking at Metropolis Camp, Contoocook, NH

September 10—Religious Education & Greek School registration

September 11—Soup Kitchen, 5 pm

September 11—Ahepa meeting & elections, 7 pm, AHEPA housing

September 11—Greek School starts this week

September 12—Parish Council, 7 pm

September 14—Retirees Luncheon & Presentation, immediately after liturgy of Holy Cross

September 17—First day of Religious Education

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

SPIRITUAL COUNSELS

(from the writings of St. John of Kronstadt)

“Learn to pray; force yourself to prayer. In the beginning it will be difficult; but afterwards the more you force yourself to pray, the more easily you will do so. But in the beginning it is always necessary to force oneself.”

“Do not indulge your slothful flesh during prayer. Do not hurry. The flesh, growing weary and oppressed by the holy work, hastens to finish praying, in order to rest, or to occupy itself with worldly or carnal matters.”

“Be assured, if you hurry over your prayers to give rest to your body, you will lose both spiritual and bodily rest. What labour, sweat and tears, are needed that our hearts may approach God.”

“Are you in a hurry to get to your place of service or work? Get up earlier; do not sleep so long; and pray fervently – you will get calm, energy and success for your whole day’s work.”

HELLENIC FEST THANK YOU'S

We would like to extend one more big thank you to all of the generous donors that helped to make this year’s Hellenic Fest such a success!

Marianne Menas	John Michael	Rainbow Cab
Evangelatos family	Zoe Adamedes	Seabreeze Inn
Joanne & Richard Wingert	Amarant family	Rhea’s Inn by the Sea
John Agias	Atlantic Beach Club	Nikolas Pizza
Arthur & Mary Michael	Coastal Electric	Newport Music Co., Inc.
Anonymous	Mersina Christopher Walsh	A-1 Pizza
Katherine McKeon	Giannopoulos family	Flo’s Clam Shack
Mr. & Mrs. David Farias	Harry Koulouvardis	
Catherine Koulouvardis	Toula Mellekas	
Joanne & Gus Hologgitas	Mel’s Lunch	
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Moisiades	Cosmas & Despina	
Mr. & Mrs. C. Logothets	Haralambides	

THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP*

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of Lights...

(James 1:17)

Imagine for a moment a sunny deck chair on a breezy cruise ship with nothing to do but smell the sea air, take in the ocean views and have your every comfort cared for. Who couldn't enjoy this for a week or even two? But would you be will to sail the seas your whole life long as nothing but a passenger? The boredom would surely prove intolerable. Even so, thousands of people do spend their lives on ships at sea, but with one important difference—they are members of the crews of their ships all with interest in their work and proud of their skills. The officer on duty on the bridge, the navigator, the engine room—each knows he or she is helping to make the ship sail.

The trouble with many church members is that they remain mere passengers, year in and year out and sooner or later they find themselves bored by the “voyage”.. They need to become crewmembers!!

Each parishioner of St. Spyridon has been blessed in some way with talents and abilities. We have all acquired some kind of knowledge, some skill, large or small, which could be used to help our church function and prosper. Service on the Parish Council, a Church committee, the Church School, GOYA, the choir or chanters, the various church and church-affiliated organizations, people with professional knowledge, people skills, leadership ability—**ST. SPYRIDON WANTS AND NEEDS YOU!!**

“Silver and gold have I none”, said St. Peter, “but what I have, that I give thee”. Think about your talents, what you enjoy doing, and give it to the Church. The first thing the Church needs from you is your time—in prayer, in Church attendance, in setting examples for our children. The next is active service. If you give your time and talent, you will find yourself not a bored passenger, but an alert, enthusiastic member of the crew on God's ship!

*(The article above is adapted from “The Duties of Church Members to the Church, Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of New York and all of North America (1957)

Stewards, so far we are half-way to our goal of achieving \$90,000 through Stewardship. We still have nearly half of the pledge cards still outstanding. If you haven't sent in your pledge card, please do so as soon as you can!!! Remember—your pledge does NOT have to accompany your pledge card. Thank you.

Zoe Adamedes, Stewardship Chairman

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Hello Families,

Welcome to another year for Religious Education! We will be having registration in the hall after church on Sunday, September 10th. Classes will begin on Sunday, September 17th. Please remember that children as young as two years old may register and be enrolled in the Pre-K class. God Bless!

Marianne Menas, Director of Religious Education

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The next Parish Council meeting will take place Tuesday, September 12 at 7 pm in the Church Hall. The focus of the September meeting will be to review the outcome of 2006 Hellenic Fest. The final figures from the weekend should be finalized for this meeting.

The council will continue with related goals such as the maintenance of the church, and the support of stewardship amongst our parishioners. The Parish Council would like to extend their appreciation of all of the outstanding Parish Community effort in making the 2006 Hellenic Festival a great success. We thank all who have contributed their time, money, and effort to make this important fundraiser a continuing catalyst by defusing operation costs of St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church. Thank you.

Steven J. Mellekas, President of the Parish Council

NEWPORT HELLENIC DANCERS NEWS

The Newport Hellenic Dancers completed another successful summer. It was with great pride and joy that we watched our group dance at the festival. We are very proud of the program that our children performed and we would like to thank them for their dedication and hard work. We also thank the parents for making time in their busy schedule to support all the practices during the week prior to the festival. Finally we would like to thank all of you for your support and kind words about our youth.

We are now planning the start of a new year. We will hold our first practice on Sunday September 17th after liturgy. We invite all children over the age of 6 to participate. We plan to hold classes at multiple levels and teach both basic and advanced dances. This is the perfect time for dancers of all levels to join us. We will also be starting an adult group which will be meeting at various times during the year.

Please contact Evangelos or Xanthoula Giannopoulos at 667-2984 for more information.

FILM FESTIVAL NEWS

Eight films were screened at this year's Saint Spyridon Orthodox Christian Film Festival on Saturday, 8 July, in the church hall. In the Junior Division, the Saint John of Damascus Award went to **Alexander Antonopoulos** for his film entitled "St. Spyridon: The Simultaneous Divinity and Humanity of Christ" wherein Alex used the 3 forms of water as an analogy for the concept of the Trinity. **Michael Politis** of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Cranston took the Saint Kassiane Award for his film entitled "The St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival". Michael also won the Saint Constantine the Great Award for Best New Entrant. He explained the idea behind the festival, and he showed pictures and scenes from the various stages of the event. The Saint Marcian Award went to **Michael Casey** of St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Centerville, Massachusetts, **Alexandra D'Entremont** and **Maria Kasseris** of Taxiarchae Greek Orthodox Church in Watertown, Massachusetts, **Chrysanthe Peteros** of St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church in New London, Connecticut, and **James Rockas** of St. Vasilios Greek Orthodox Church in Peabody, Massachusetts for their film entitled "A Day at the Metropolis of Boston Camp". This film included interviews with campers and staff members as well as scenes of normal camp activities. **Michael Antonopoulos** earned honorable mention for his first film entitled "Behind the Scenes" which explored the process of making a film for the St. Spyridon Film Festival.

Gabriela and Lucian Dobrot won the Saint Luke the Evangelist Award in the Senior Division for their film "The Beginning of the Christian Journey". The Dobrots chronicled the Baptism, Chrismation, and First Holy Communion of their infant daughter, Ana. **Barbara Politis** of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Cranston took home the Saint Theodora the Empress Award for her film, "A Year in Review". Barbara collected numerous pictures of the life and times of the St. Spyridon community and put them into a musical slideshow. The Saint Andrei Rublev Award went to **Yianno Pantazelos** of St. Vasilios Greek Orthodox Church in Peabody, Massachusetts for his film entitled "St. Mark's School in Kenya". Yianno taught us about some missionary work in Africa giving us the interesting flavor of Orthodoxy there. And **Marianne Menas** earned (for the second year in a row) the Saint Symeon the Translator Award for Best Theological Research for her film entitled "Teaching About The Theotokos" wherein she presented an interactive teaching book that she constructed about the Theotokos.

Following the videos and the luncheon, participants and audience members alike enjoyed the annual festival sail on the Madeleine with great weather and good music.

Special thanks go out to this year's judges, **Matthew Myers**, Lieutenant, United States Navy, **Andrew Pawl, Ph.D.**, Professor, Naval Academy Preparatory School, and **Janka Sisakova**, Film Historian, The Art Cinema, Presov, Slovakia. Thanks also go out to **Ellen and Peter Antonopoulos** and **Marianne Menas** for their luncheon donations.

IN OUR PARISH

Graduation: George Kutsaftis has graduated from the University of Connecticut with a degree in Computer Engineering. George is the son of parishioners Anthony and Donna Kutsaftis and grandson of Rose Kutsaftis. We wish him all the best.

GREEK SCHOOL NEWS

The new school year will start the week of September 11th. All children age 6 or older are welcome to participate. Registration will be conducted together with the Sunday School on Sunday September 10th after liturgy. In addition to the youth classes, Dr. Basile Panoutsopoulos will continue to conduct classes for adults. Please contact Mrs. Loula Eliopoulos, Basile Panoutsopoulos or Evangelos Giannopoulos for further information.

AHEPA NEWS

American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association—www.ahepa.org

The election of new Officers will take place during the next meeting of the Maud Howe Elliot Chapter 245 of AHEPA will take place on the second Monday of September, in the AHEPA Housing at 7:00 pm.

All current members please make sure to attend. All people who are not members yet are invited to join the AHEPA or the Daughters of Penelope. Let us work together for the preservation and promotion of the Hellenic ideas, ensuring a good present and better future.

The American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA) is the largest Greek-American organization. Its scope is international - with chapters in the United States, Canada, Australia and Greece. AHEPA was founded July 26, 1922, in Atlanta, Georgia, by visionary Americans of Greek descent to protect Hellenes from the evils of bigotry and to help assimilate them into American society in the early 20th Century. Although a majority of the membership is composed of Americans of Hellenic descent, application for membership is open to everyone who believes in the mission of the organization.

MISSION: The mission of the AHEPA Family is to promote Hellenism, Education, Philanthropy, Civic Responsibility, and Family and Individual Excellence.

Order of AHEPA - Maud Howe Elliot Chapter 245 - Newport, RI 02842 - Tel 849-5298 – AHEPA245@att.net

<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>
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