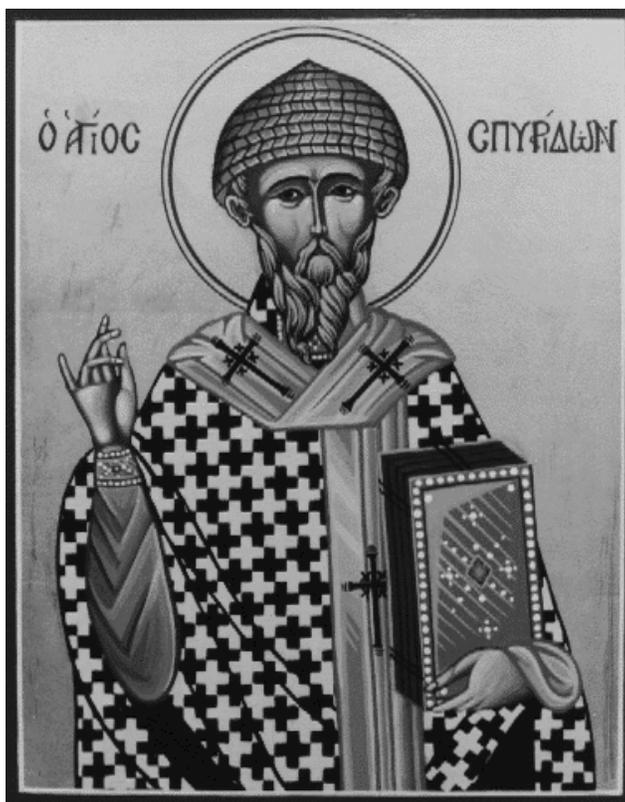


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THE SAINT SPYRIDON VOICE  
APRIL 2007

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Saint Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church  
PO Box 427  
Newport, RI 02840  
tel: (401) 846-0555, fax: (401) 841-0960  
[www.stspyridonchurch.org](http://www.stspyridonchurch.org)

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**SAINT SPYRIDON GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**
[www.stspyridonchurch.org](http://www.stspyridonchurch.org)
**Reverend Presbyter Anthony Evangelatos**
[franthy@stspyridonchurch.org](mailto:franthy@stspyridonchurch.org)
**Office Hours**

Priest: Tuesday—Friday, 9 am—3 pm

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

**Parish Council President:**

Tom Nichols

**Chanters:** George Spiratos

Basile Panoutsopoulos

**Choir Director:** Paul Cotsoridis

**Organist:** Jane Iandolo

**Religious Education :** Marianne Menas

**Stewardship:** Zoe Adamedes

**Philoptochos President:** Zinovia Canale

**Acolytes:** 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\*

Weekday Festal Celebrations:

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

(The following article appeared in the May 2002 edition of the St. Spyridon Voice.)

Beloved in Christ, as you receive this bulletin we will be about to commence the solemn observance of Holy and Great Week, culminating in the glorious celebration of the Feast of Feasts and Festival of Festivals – *Holy Pascha*. This certainly is the most beautiful and spiritual time of the year in the Holy Orthodox Church, during which we are moved in the innermost recesses of our being. During Great Week, the last days of Christ on earth are re-lived through the Church. As we participate in the divine services of the week, we truly feel united with Him as we approach His passion. On Great Friday we die and are buried with Him, only to rise with Him on the glorious day of Pascha. What a great gift we truly have in the liturgical tradition of the Holy Orthodox Church, and most especially, in her celebration of Great Week and Pascha! Could you imagine it any other way?

Since we Orthodox cherish our faith tradition so much, we must remember to work on passing it on to the future generations, as well as being missionaries to others. This faith that we hold on to so dearly must be passed on *intact* to our children, grandchildren, and godchildren. There is so much that our young people face in the world today that truly necessitates our emphasis on their spiritual growth. We cannot simply let the world shape their ideas about life in general, and more specifically, ideas about ethics, moral principles, and so on. We *need* the Church and her teachings and traditions, and more importantly, we need to keep these teachings and traditions alive *in our homes*. What better time of the year than Great Week and Pascha, for families and individuals to focus on Christ and His Holy Church. Our children must grow to know and love this holy season, and the life of the Orthodox Church in general, which will only come from *our* example as parents.

Never underestimate the power of our divine services and their ability to leave a life-long impression on young innocent hearts and minds. Think back to your own special memories of the celebration of Great Week and Pascha in church and in your homes. Even if we have no children or are unmarried individuals, we too can regain those memories year after year, as we celebrate these holy days together as a family in Christ.

And if we are new to the Faith or considering conversion, let us become children again by prayerfully opening our hearts and minds to the power of the Holy Spirit during these sacred services. All of us can be spiritually transformed over and over as we prepare for Holy Pascha each year. Such a transformation is fully realized *especially* when we have made Great Lent the spiritual journey it is meant to be – a journey of repentance and spiritual growth through prayer, fasting, charitable acts, attendance at Lenten services, and participation in the holy mysteries of Confession, Unction, and the Eucharist.

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I pray that all of you have a most blessed Great Week and Holy Pascha. May God grant you strength for the upcoming services, and a greater appreciation for the collective responsibility we all have to pass on our precious Orthodox Faith to the future generations.

In the love of the Crucified and Risen Christ,  
*+Fr. Anthony*

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#### ITEMS STILL NEEDED FOR HOLY WEEK AND PASCHA

Following are items that have yet to be sponsored for this holiest of seasons. Please consider donating one or more items, in order to help defray some of the expenses. All items have been pre-ordered, so please make your check payable to St. Spyridon, noting item on memo line.

- Palm strips and branches for Palm Sunday - \$50
- Bay laurel leaves for Holy Saturday - \$40
- Flowers for the banner of the Resurrection - \$60
- Floral arrangements for brass candelabra - \$40 each
- Epitaphios flowers & potted flowers for the Anastasi (lilies, etc.) – **This is our largest, single expense; your generous donations would be greatly appreciated!**

Your donation for any of the above may be left in the basket on the information table in the hall, or mailed to the office. Thank you in advance for your generosity and love for the house of the Lord!

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#### GODPARENT SUNDAY

**Sunday, April 29th** has been designated as “**Godparent Sunday.**” On this, the 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

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## CONFESSION SCHEDULE DURING HOLY WEEK

During Holy Week, Fr. Anthony will be available to hear confessions as follows:

- after each evening service through Holy Thursday
- by appointment during office hours on Holy Monday, Wednesday and Thursday

Please do not neglect this most important holy mystery of our Church. Come and unburden yourself of all those sins, great and small, that hinder our salvation.

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## IN APPRECIATION

A big *thank you* goes to David Jasinski for constructing a much-needed bookshelf in the vestry area next to the sanctuary. The various sets and individual liturgical books used throughout the year, are now neatly stored and easily accessible with the new shelf. David has donated both the labor and materials for this project, which we greatly appreciate.

Two other new items for our holy temple, is the hand-carved wooden icon stand on the *soleas*, and the sacrament table which is stored in the sanctuary. These two items were slow in coming, being part of the project which started with the carved altar gates, all of which have been donated by Greg and Nadine Parkos of Venice, CA. Once again, we thank the Parkos' for their generosity and love for our parish.

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## BLESSING OF FOOD BASKETS ON PASCHA

As many of you know, there is a pan-Orthodox tradition of blessing baskets with the various foods with which we will break the fast at Pascha. This traditionally is done after the liturgy of Holy Pascha. If you wish to bring a basket to the Resurrection at midnight, please bring it up and place it in front of the *iconostasion*. The baskets will be blessed along with the red eggs after the liturgy. For those with children who might not be able to come at midnight, you may bring your basket to the Agape Vespers on the Sunday morning of Pascha to be blessed.

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## REGARDING CHOOSING GODPARENTS

*(the following has been taken from the March 2007 edition of the St. Demetrios Observer – the monthly bulletin of St. Demetrios Church of Fall River, MA)*

How often one will meet Orthodox Christians who cannot understand why a priest will insist that the Godparents of a child who is about to be baptized must be Orthodox in their beliefs. These people will contend that they know many Orthodox members of the Church who have had non-Orthodox sponsors for their children, so why the change all of a sudden? Is it not sufficient to have been baptized in the Name of, and to confess belief in the Holy Trinity? Doesn't that make it possible for any Christian to be Godparent within the Orthodox Church? Especially in the light of our ecumenical age, would not such a spirit be justifiable as an act of charity on the part of the Orthodox Church? And again, in the light of our mixed marriages – would not such a continued practice pacify and please the non-Orthodox members of the family?

A reply lies only by answering the question, “Just what is the function of the Godparents?”

The primary function of a Godparent is not that of an honor without a responsibility. The Godparent does not fulfill a mere formality – that of holding the child while the priest performs the Sacrament of Baptism. The primary responsibility is that of confessing the Faith for the child, which is yet too young to do for itself. It is the act of confessing the Creed of Faith as maintained free of heresy by the Orthodox Church. That in fact is an impossibility for a Christian who has beliefs other than those confessed by the Orthodox. A second responsibility remains after the baptism. In essence it is a continuation of the first act of confessing the Faith. It remains the task of the one who confessed the Faith for the child to continue doing so for the child, until the child has come to the same stage of maturity as his Godparent. The Godparent is responsible with the child's parents to rear the child in the Faith. Obviously it is clear that a Roman Catholic, Protestant, or even a former Orthodox who commits apostasy through marriage outside the Church would be incapable of fulfilling these first and second responsibilities. It is not their moral integrity which is being questioned at this point, but their beliefs. Only one who has accepted the Truth of Orthodoxy would be able to confess it and be able to rear a child in that Truth.

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## THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

### ZACCHAEUS AND THE TREE

We recall the story of Zacchaeus who was too short to see Jesus in the crowd. So he climbed a sycamore tree. From this tree he saw Jesus and Jesus saw him. The Lord called him down from the tree, as you recall, to salvation. Legend has it that in later years Zacchaeus used to rise early every morning and carry a bucketful of water to this tree and carefully watered its roots. On one occasion his wife followed him and when she asked the reason for this strange concern over an old sycamore tree, Zacchaeus said, "This is where I found Jesus."

What a sycamore tree was to Zacchaeus, the Church is to us: this is where we find Jesus. To express our appreciation and to enable others to also keep finding Jesus, like Zacchaeus we bring our Stewardship offering of love to Church every Sunday morning and through our pledges.

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## HELP "AGIA SOPHIA" BECOME A CHURCH AGAIN

*(The following was included in a bulletin last year, however, there had been a problem with the listed website for some time. It is now "up and running," so please read carefully and take appropriate action.)*

The European Union Parliament is pressuring Turkey to restore the famous "Aghia Sophia" Cathedral – the queen and prototype of all Byzantine temples – to the Ecumenical Patriarchate to be a functioning cathedral again, instead of a museum. This is one of the prerequisites to allow entry into the European Union, which the nation of Turkey very much desires. The EU Parliament is requiring 1,000,000 signatures in order to proceed. You may cast your vote through the official website: [www.hagiasophiablog.com](http://www.hagiasophiablog.com). Please pass this information along to anyone else who would like to see this happen. Become part of history by helping to fulfill a desire that the Orthodox Church has had for centuries. We finally have a chance to make a difference!

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# APRIL 2007

<b>Sunday Winter Hour</b>
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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
1 Palm Sunday	2 Holy & Great Monday	3 Holy & Great Tuesday	4 Holy & Great Wednesday	5 Holy & C
<i>Please see enclosed Holy Week schedule for times of servi</i>				
<i>(fish, wine &amp; olive oil permitted)</i>	<i>strict fast – no animal products (including fish), w</i>			
8 <b>HOLY PASCHA</b>	9 Bright Monday	10 Bright Tuesday	11 Bright Wednesday  Paschal Vespers 7 pm	12 Bright Thur
<i>Renewal Week—no fasting; all foods per</i>				
15 Sun. of Thomas	16	17	18  (No Vespers)  <i>(fast day)</i>	19
22 Sun. of the Holy Myrrhbearers;  Vespers of St. George in NEW BEDFORD, 7 pm	23 Feast of St. George the Great-martyr, Orthros & Lit.	24	25  Paraklesis 7 pm  <i>(fast day)</i>	26
29 Sun. of the Paralytic; “Godparents’ Sunday”	30			

**s** Orthros 8:45 am      Divine Liturgy 10 am

**Fri**

**Sat**

Great Thursday 6 Holy & Great Friday      7 Holy & Great Saturday

*ves.*

*ine or olive oil permitted*

sday	13 Bright Friday Life-Giving Spring of the Theotokos, Orthros & Lit.	14 Bright Saturday Great Vespers 6 pm
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*nitted daily.*

20	21 Great Vespers 6 pm
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*(fast day)*

27	28 Great Vespers 6 pm
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*(fast day)*

**Upcoming Events**

April 9—Soup Kitchen, 5 pm

April 10—Daughters of Penelope Meeting, Ahepa Housing, 7 pm

April 12—Hellenic Fest meeting 6 pm, Parish Council 7 pm

April 17—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

## REFLECTIONS ON GREAT WEEK

*(The following is taken from the book, Great Week and Pascha in the Greek Orthodox Church, by Fr. Alkiviadis Calivas, Holy Cross Orthodox Press, 1992.)*

### **The Ethos of Great Week**

“The salvific events, which the Church remembers and celebrates in Great Week, are rooted in the inexhaustible mystery of God’s ineffable love for the world that culminated in the incarnation, the death and resurrection of His only-begotten Son and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The solemnities of Great Week help us to enter and penetrate the depths of this mystery. Each day has a particular theme, focus and story. Each story is linked to the other; and all together, they are bound up in the central event: the Pascha of the cross and the resurrection...Everything converges on the person of Jesus Christ, who was betrayed, crucified and buried; and who rose on the third day. These events are the keystones of the structure of Great Week. Through them we embrace the mystery of our salvation. Their radiance helps us to see again more clearly the depth of our sins, both personal and collective. Their power bursts upon us to remind us again of God’s immeasurable love, mercy and power...

Great Week brings us before two realities. On the one hand we are made aware of the dreadful blight of human sin, issuing from the rebellion against God that resides in us and around us; on the other hand, we experience anew the omnipotent, transforming power of God’s love and holiness.

From the beginning, Jesus and His Gospel were met by a two-fold response: some believed and became His disciples; others rejected Him and came to hate him, and to despise and scorn His Gospel. These opposing attitudes towards the person and the message are especially evident in the events of Great Week. As the events unfold, false religiosity is unmasked (Mt 23.2-38); and the hellish bowels of the power of darkness are laid bare (Lk 22.53)...

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In the course of the events of Great Week we encounter many contrasting figures and faces that call to judgment our own dispositions towards Christ. Great Week is not simply a time to remember; it is a time for repentance, for a greater and deeper conversion of the heart...

In the solemnities of Great Week we experience afresh the embrace of God's love and forgiveness; the gift and promise of eternity and plenitude. Quickened and energized by the experience, we continue by faith to climb the ladder of divine ascent. Certain of His love, we live in the saving tension of joyous-sorrow until He comes. With a repentant heart we live the joy of hope and the rapture of expectation for things to come (1 Cor.2.9).

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Please join us for the

**Palm Sunday**  
**Fish Dinner**

April 1st, immediately after Liturgy

sponsored by the Daughters of Penelope

Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$5 children under 12.

Space is limited so please be sure to buy tickets in advance.  
Contact Ellen Anagnostos at the church office for tickets.

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## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Council met on March 6th. Fireproof storage was purchased for church documents.

This year is the 25th anniversary of Hellenic Fest! For those interested in serving our church by volunteering this year, there will be a meeting at 6 pm on Thursday, April 12.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place at 7 pm on Thursday, April 12, 2007. Please feel free to approach any member of the Council with items for the agenda.

Tom Nichols  
President

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## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Dear Families,

For the month of April, our focus with the children will be on gathering our treasures up in heaven. Each child should have received a box, from our Orthodox Christian Missionary Center. Each child is asked to fill up their box, and send it back to their teacher by Sunday, April 29th. Our goal this year is to raise \$200 for our Missionary Center. If your child did not receive a box, please ask their teacher for one. If your child has filled up his/her box early, please sent it in as soon as possible.

Love in Christ!  
Marianne Menas

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## NEWPORT HELLENIC DANCERS NEWS

The Newport Hellenic Dancers will begin preparing for Hellenic Fest 2007 after Easter. We ask anyone that is interested in joining the group to contact us. This year we are planning to expand the group to include younger children from our community, and young adults. We feel that even if the young children learn to perform one simple dance, it will be a great start. We plan to hold separate classes for the various ability levels. For children under six we invite the parents to join us during the lessons.

A detailed schedule with practices will be ready after Easter. We are planning approximately twelve practice sessions with the first one to be held on 29 April after Liturgy. Please contact Evangelos and Sandy Giannopoulos at (401) 667-2984 for more information.

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## IN OUR PARISH

Birth: A baby girl, *Alexandra Leontis*, was born to Leon & Popi Panteleos on 3/4. She is the newest granddaughter of parishioners Antonis & Cristalia Panteleos, and Athanasios & Alexandra Gatos. May she live many years!

Deaths: *Steluta-Cecilia Bordei*, mother-in-law and mother of Lucian & Gabriela Dobrot, fell asleep in the Lord on 3/2 in Romania. A trisagion was chanted on the day of death at the Dobrot's home. May her memory be eternal!

*Thalia Gallas*, mother-in-law and mother of Harry & Antigone Koulouvardis, fell asleep in the Lord on 3/21 in Clearwater, Florida. We express our condolences to Antigone and her father, Stephen. May her memory be eternal!

*James Lewis*, brother of Marea & Sturgis Lewis, fell asleep in the Lord on 3/21. His funeral was held at St. Demetrios in Weston, MA on 3/24, and his private burial was held in Portsmouth on 3/26 by Fr. Anthony. We express our condolences to Marea & Sturgis, and the entire Lewis family. May his memory be eternal!

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## RETIREES LUNCHEON & PRESENTATION

Our next retirees luncheon and presentation will take place on **Tuesday, 4/17, at 12 noon**. Please come and enjoy the good food, fellowship, and quality presentations that our regular attendees have enjoyed for the past few years. The presentation for April has yet to be determined. We wish to thank Leza Amarant and Eleni Moisiades of *Aquidneck Pizza*, for providing the lunch for our March gathering.

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## PAIDEIA STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS IN GREECE

This year the summer program in Greece for Elementary Level students will have a departure around the 20th of July for three weeks in Halkidiki. Travel expenses, housing, room and board and cultural activities are being covered. For students over 12 years of age, travel expenses are not being covered and students from a previous program can't participate again with covered expenses. Please see George Anagnostos with questions.

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## AHEPA NEWS

The AHEPA would like to share the following notes and opportunities:

- The local chapters of AHEPA and the Daughters offered the Lenten Supper during the third and fourth Wednesdays of Lent.
- The local chapter of AHEPA donated books on the Hellenic Heritage to the local Libraries of Newport, Middletown, and Portsmouth.
- The AHEPA announces a program to support children in the community who wish to attend the Metropolis of Boston Camp in New Hampshire. Limitations are \$100 per child and \$200 total for the program. For more information on the camp, see <http://www.boston.goarch.org/youthoffice/bdc/>
- The AHEPA Journey to Greece Program was a great success in 2006. We invite you to join us for the 2007 Journey to Greece Program. It is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to earn college credit while learning about ancient and modern Greece. Visit the AHEPA web site: <http://www.ahepa.org/> and select "Journey to Greece".
- AHEPAcademy is seeking exceptional Greek-American high school juniors to apply for selection in this summer's AHEPAcademy on Campus program taking place at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia from June 24-30th 2007. AHEPAcademy has agreed to extend the Application Deadline for students to April 1, 2007 for selected Chapters. AHEPAcademy is also seeking instructors for the session as well as mentors for after the conclusion of the on-campus session. Please contact AHEPAcademy today at [info@AHEPAcademy.com](mailto:info@AHEPAcademy.com) or visit [www.AHEPAcademy.com](http://www.AHEPAcademy.com) for more information on this exciting opportunity
- An invitation is extended to all Hellenes and Philhellenes of the Newport area to join the local AHEPA 245 and Daughters of Penelope 49 chapters. Let all work together to preserve the Hellenic values. Meetings: Every second Tuesday of the month.

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## DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE NEWS

The Daughters of Penelope will be sponsoring the PALM SUNDAY FISH DINNER on Sunday, April 1st immediately following the Divine Liturgy. Tickets may be purchased from any member of the chapter or by calling or seeing Ellen Anagnostos at any time.

Members are asked to refer to the President's letter which was sent out recently.

The next meeting will be held on TUESDAY, APRIL 10th at 7 pm.

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<p><i>In loving memory of</i> <b>Gredo Vincent</b> <i>Volpicelli</i></p>	<p><b>Order of AHEPA</b> Maud Howe Elliott Chapter No. 245 <b>Daughters of Penelope</b> Ares Chapter Number 49</p>	<p><b>Mel's Cafenio</b> 25 Broadway Newport 849-6420</p>
<p><i>With compliments of...</i> Dr. Joanne and Mr. C. Gus Hologgitas</p>	<p><b>Aquidneck Pizza</b> Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner 27 Aquidneck Avenue Middletown Take out orders: 849-3356 Daily 7am-12am, Fri &amp; Sat 7am-2am</p>	<p><b>Enthimia</b> <i>The Wedding and Baptism Store</i> Elegant Accessories 705 Washington Street Norwood, MA (781) 702-6034 <b>enthimia.com</b></p>
<p><b>Nikolas Pizza</b> 38 Memorial Blvd West Newport 849-6611</p>	<p><b>ASTRO CONSTRUCTION INC.</b> PO Box 522 Portsmouth, RI (401) 683-9120 Established 1954</p>	<p><b>CODDINGTON</b> <b>BREWING COMPANY</b> 210 Coddington Highway Middletown 847-6690</p>
<p>Compliments of the <b>ATLANTIC</b> <b>BEACH CLUB</b> 53 Purgatory Road Middletown 847-2750</p>	<p><b>A-1 Pizza</b> 306 Broadway Newport <b>Free Delivery</b> <b>849-2213</b></p>	<p><b>Rhea's Bed &amp; Breakfast</b> <i>Accommodations with jacuzzi's available!</i> 120 West Main Road Middletown <b>841-5560</b></p>
<p><i>Compliments of</i> <b>Island of Skiathos</b> <b>Organization</b> Established 1967</p>	<p><b>Flo's Drive-In</b> <i>Portsmouth</i> <b>Flo's Clam Shack</b> <i>Middletown</i> <i>Voted Best in Rhode Island!</i></p>	<p><b>The Mainstay Inn</b> 151 Admiral Kalbfus Road <i>Newport</i> <b>849-9880</b></p>
<p><b>This space available.</b> <b>Call church office.</b></p>	<p><i>Compliments of</i> <b>A Friend</b></p>	<p><b>PEQUOT PROPERTIES</b> <b>Dino Dart—Realtor</b> 711 Broad Street Ext. Waterford, CT 06385 Office: (860) 447-0345 Fax: (860) 444-6306 DinoD6969@aol.com</p>



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