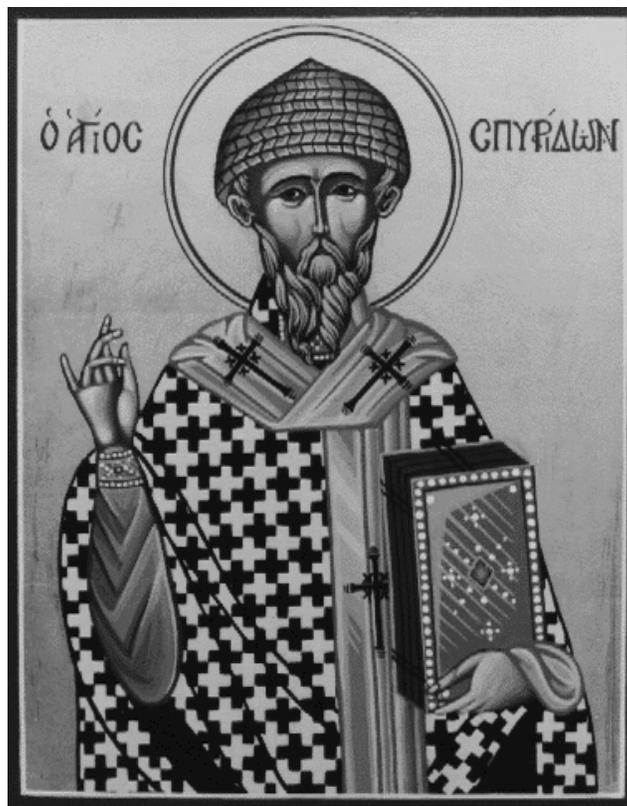

THE SAINT SPYRIDON VOICE
JANUARY 2007



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:

(election pending)

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 has been re-printed from the October 2004 issue of the *St. Spyridon Voice*.)

Many times we hear people refer to the Orthodox Faith as a *living faith*. What exactly does this mean? What would make Orthodoxy a *dead faith*? One way to answer these questions, is by considering the reality of *miracles*.

To understand miracles, we must remind ourselves of the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church. Since the day of Pentecost, the Spirit dwells in the Church, guiding Her in truth and holiness. This is why we Orthodox speak of Holy Tradition with such authority, knowing that through the Holy Spirit, our Faith has been handed down to us by the holy Apostles themselves, and through the teachings of the holy Church Fathers throughout the ages. It is because of this indwelling of God in the Church through His Holy Spirit, that miracles are part of the life of the Church.

By definition, miracles are unexplainable events in which God acts against the laws of nature as we understand them. Miracles and signs from God abound in the Old Testament, as well as in the New Testament. In the Gospels we experience many miracles performed by Christ during His earthly ministry. (There were obvious many more than those recorded, since we know that the Gospels are not a day by day account of the life of Christ on earth.) Throughout the ages, we see countless miracles occurring through the intercessions of holy people in the Church, both during their life on earth, and after. These great works can only be wrought through the power of God. This is obvious to us regarding the miracles recorded in Scripture. In the life of the Church, it is also the power of God which works through His saints, in order to intervene in the life of man through miracles *for our benefit*.

This prior statement, "*for our benefit*," is very important. We must always remind ourselves that miracles do not occur in order for God to "prove" Himself to

the world. They occur, rather, in order to benefit man through God's grace and mercy. This beneficial aspect may be found first and foremost, in the sacramental life of the Church – in the *Holy Mysteries*. Let us remember that at every Divine Liturgy, we are repeatedly in the presence of the greatest miracle of the Church – the change of the bread and wine of the Eucharist into the very Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Each of the other major mysteries, or sacraments of the Church, also have an unexplainable, intangible aspect to them. In all cases, there are very obvious benefits to those who participate in these holy mysteries, as the Church teaches us.

Besides the on-going, intangible miracles present in the holy mysteries, there are clearly tangible miracles wrought by the saints on our behalf, as mentioned above. Numerous prayers are constantly answered throughout the Orthodox world, through miraculous events. Generally, these events involve physical healings of various ailments; but of course, these always include *spiritual* healing, which can never be separated from the healing of the body. There is no way that the recipient of a miracle of physical healing could not be forever altered in the soul. Other miracles may involve deliverance from imminent danger, or from major obstacles in one's life.

When considering miracles that have occurred throughout the ages, we constantly see the Theotokos – our beloved *Panayia* – as the source of many of them. After her, many of the various miracle-working saints answer the prayers of the faithful who are in sickness or distress. This includes such saints as St. Nicholas, St. Nektarios, St. Spyridon, St. Paraskevi, just to name a few. Because of their personal holiness, these shining examples of Christian living were granted the power of the Holy Spirit for the benefit of all of us.

This, beloved, is why Orthodoxy is the *true and living* faith. We are a Church that is both divine and human – found in heaven and on earth, and the two are in constant communion through the power of the Holy Spirit. A dead faith would not be one of great works, but one of words, ideologies, philosophies, and other humanistic teachings that do not find their source in the Holy Spirit. Many today of the New Age movement, seek to blend world religions together in a sort of melting-pot of various

expressions of the “truth” of some unknown higher being. Let us never pollute the Orthodox Christian faith in such a way. The Word of God, Jesus Christ, came to us in the form of a man to bring us the one and only Truth – the living water that He spoke about to the Samaritan woman at the well. With the miracles that continue to happen all around us, we can be assured that the living water given to us by Christ continues to flow through His holy Church, bringing us *true life* – the life in Christ.

May we always turn to our beloved Panayia and all the saints in time of need, and for daily guidance. They love us and seek to help us, according to the will of God. Our prayers to them should always be filled with humble petitions for the Lord’s will to be done in our lives. Only God knows why He answers the requests of some and not others. We should never be discouraged when we think our prayers are not being answer. Our constant prayer should be for the salvation of our souls, as we prepare ourselves for the next life. Always remember that eternal life is a reality for us because of the greatest miracle of all – the Holy Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

In Christ’ love,
+Fr. Anthony

HOME BLESSINGS

Fr. Anthony will be available to bless your home after the feast of Theophany. Please call Father at the office to make arrangements for this blessed tradition. For those who call and leave a voice mail message on a weekend, Fr. Anthony will return your call on Tuesday when he returns to the office.

REFLECTIONS ON THEOPHANY

(The following is taken from *The Living God, Vol. 1, SVS Press, 1989.*)

The Manifestation of the Trinity

“The baptism of Jesus is not only His epiphany or manifestation to the world as Christ. It also manifests Him as the Son of God. As such He is the ‘theophany,’ the manifestation of God, for He reveals to us the great mystery of God as Holy Trinity.

John saw the Holy Spirit descend upon Jesus in the form of a dove and remain upon Him. The word ‘remain’ expresses the idea that, from all eternity, the Holy Spirit dwells in Him of whom the heavenly voice said, ‘This is My beloved Son.’

Accordingly, St. Cyril of Jerusalem tells us that in manifesting Jesus as Christ, the baptism of Jesus reveals to us at the same time the mystery of the divine Trinity. Indeed, for there to be a Christ, an anointed Son, there must be One who anoints Him, that is, the Father; and One who is the unction, that is, the Holy Spirit who remains on Him. Therefore we cannot think of Christ without thinking at the same time of the Father and the Holy Spirit. Without Them the word ‘Christ’ would have no meaning. We cannot confess Jesus as Christ without confessing the one God as God in three persons.

People frequently have a false idea of God: they sometimes think of the Father as the God of the Old Testament; of Jesus the Son as coming in the time of the New Testament to replace the Father; while the present time of the Church is seen as the age of the Holy Spirit. We know this scheme is wrong; according to it, the life of Jesus would have meaning only as a past, historical event. But it is very difficult to picture three Persons in one God, acting in the world through a single will. How then should we approach the mystery of the Holy Trinity?

Let us return to the baptism of Jesus, to the moment when He comes up out of the water. We have already described how John the Baptist sees the Christ upon whom the Spirit remains, and hears the voice of the Father call Jesus His beloved Son. John recognizes one God in three Persons. At the Jordan the Trinity is manifested for the first time. The Church describes this manifestation to us through the icon and the troparion of the feast of the Epiphany (or Theophany)...”

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We will continue offering adult religious education until Great Lent begins in mid-February. Due to the presanctified liturgies and Lenten suppers on the Wednesdays of Lent, adult classes will cease. Please take advantage of these opportunities to expand your spiritual horizons in a relaxed and pleasant atmosphere. For now, we will keep the current schedule on Wednesday evenings of Small Vespers at 7 pm, followed by class at 7:30.

RETIRES LUNCHEON & PRESENTATION

Our next retirees luncheon and presentation will take place on **Thursday 1/18**, immediately following the liturgy of St. Athanasios. Please come and enjoy the good food, fellowship, and quality presentations that our regular attendees have enjoyed for the past few years. We wish to thank Steve and Greg Mellekas of *Mel's Lunch* for the delicious fish dinner they provided for the feast of St. Spyridon, on which we held our December retirees gathering.

SERVICE CANCELLATIONS

As we do each winter, service cancellations on bad weather days will be announced on the church voice mail system. Simply call the church at 846-0555, and select #4 on the main menu: "*additional services for the current week.*" Make sure to check before departing for church, since the decision to cancel is usually made in the morning, or late afternoon for evening services.

JANUARY 2007

Sunday Winter Hour

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
	1 Circumcision of Christ, St. Basil the Great, Orthros & Liturgy	2	3 (no services or adult rel. ed.)	4
<i>No fasting, including Wed.</i>				
7 Synaxis of St. John the Forerunner	8	9	10 Small Vespers 7 pm, followed by adult rel. ed.	11
			<i>(fast day)</i>	
14 Sunday after Theophany	15	16 Vespers for St. Anthony the Great, 7 pm	17 St. Anthony the Great, Orthros & Lit.; Vespers for St. Athanasios the Great, 7 pm, followed by adult rel. ed.	18 St. Athanas Orthros & Lit.
			<i>(fast day)</i>	
21 Sunday of Zacchaeus	22	23	24 Vespers for St. Gregory the Theologian in MANSFIELD, MA 7 pm	25 St. Gregory Theologian HERE
			<i>(fast day)</i>	
28 Sun. of the Publican & Pharisee; TRIODION BEGINS	29 Vespers for the 3 Hierarchs, 7 pm	30 Feast of the 3 Hierarchs, Orthros & Lit.	31 Paraklesis 7 pm, followed by adult rel. ed.	
<i>No fasting during 1st week of Triodion</i>				

Orthros 8:45 am	Divine Liturgy 10 am
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Fri

Sat

5
Royal Hours, 10 am;
Vespers Liturgy & 1st
blessing of water, 5:00 pm

6
Holy Theophany, Orthros
& Lit, Great Blessing of
Waters; Gr. Vespers 6 pm

(strict fast)

12

13
Gr. Vespers 6 pm

(fast day)

19

St. Basil the Great,
Lit.

20
Gr. Vespers 6 pm

(fast day)

26

St. Basil the Great,
Orthros & Lit.

27
Gr. Vespers 6 pm

(fast day)

Upcoming Events

January 8—Soup Kitchen, 5 pm

January 9—Parish Council, 7 pm

January 18—Retirees Luncheon & Presentation, immediately after liturgy

January 21—Philoptochos Vasilopita

Regular Events

Religious Education—Sundays, immediately after Holy Communion

Adult Religious Education—Wednesdays, 7:30 pm following 7 pm Vespers

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

Adult Greek School—Mondays, 5-6 pm

FROM THE LIVES OF THE SAINTS

January 2 – The Holy New Martyr George the Georgian, hanged at Mytilene in 1770

Saint George, a native of Georgia, had been sold as a slave to a Turk and made a Muslim in his youth. He lived as such until he was seventy years old, having apparently completely forgotten the language and the faith of his fathers. But then suddenly his conscience awakened. He went to present himself before the judge, threw his turban to the ground and firmly declared that, having been born a Christian, he wished to die a Christian. Repeated questioning, insults, threats and torture were without effect on the old man, who kept on saying, “I am a Christian, a Christian; I want to die a Christian!” The executioners hanged him, but then cut him down to see if he had changed his mind. Since he remained steadfast, they strung him up again and he thus gained the palm of martyrdom.

January 28 – Memory of our Holy Father Palladius the Anchorite

Saint Palladius, the friend and companion in ascesis of Saint Symeon the Elder (26 Jan.), lived in a small hermitage on a mountain near Imma (now Yemi Shekin), a village twenty-five miles to the east of Antioch. One night a merchant, returning home from the village fair with a large sum of money, was attacked and killed by an evildoer, who then left the corpse outside the cell of the man of God. Next day, news of the murder having spread through the fair, a crowd rushed to the hermitage, broke down the door and called on Palladius to answer for the crime. Sending up a prayer to God, the Saint asked for His aid, whereupon the dead man sat up and pointed to the murderer, who was among the crowd. With a cry of astonishment, the people seized the criminal and discovered on him the bloodstained knife and stolen money. The villagers begged forgiveness of Palladius, whom they held from then on in great veneration. The Saint continued to work many miracles until he went to God.

THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

DO SOMETHING RELIGIOUS!

There is an old joke about an airplane that was in serious trouble in the air. The captain said, "Somebody had better do something religious." So a guy took up a collection!

It may sound funny but if you really think about it, you will realize that in many ways, one of the most religious things we can do is to take up a collection. Giving is one of the surest signs of commitment.

The high point of the Liturgy every Sunday occurs when, raising the chalice and the paten at the altar the priest says, "Your own gifts we offer to You," O Lord. The particles of bread lying before the *Amnos*, or *Lamb*, which the priest raises to God, represent all of us. This bread represents our life, for bread is the staff of life. We are placing ourselves on the altar at this moment as Abraham placed Isaac on the altar. We are giving ourselves in complete surrender to God.

Once we have communed and given thanks, thus ending the liturgy, the offering is taken. In other words, we again give ourselves to God, this time through our offering. And make no mistake, the offering we give represents us. It is part of us. It is our sweat, our work, our time, our talent, our effort, our life. In placing our offering in the collection tray every Sunday, we are placing ourselves on God's altar. We are giving ourselves to Him.

How much should I give? Most of our giving is hardly expressive of our love and commitment. When you place your offering in the collection tray next Sunday or send in your pledge, remember that it is not a tray at all, but the hands of your Savior receiving your commitment and love.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The next parish council meeting will tentatively take place at Tuesday, January 9th at 7 pm. The upcoming council will take the oath of office Sunday, January 7th following liturgy. I would like to thank Father Anthony and the parish council for a productive 2006 Parish Year.

The main items discussed at the December meeting were closing out of the 2006 year and the maintenance of the church.

The following maintenance jobs have been completed: the ceiling in the balcony, and the walkway to the hall has been retiled. Bids for the front stairs are in process and will be reported to the parish council in the next meeting.

Please feel free to contact any parish council members of your concerns.

Thank you,
Steven J. Mellekas
Parish Council President 2006

AHEPA NEWS

Attention Greek-American High School Juniors!

Apply for the opportunity to be one of 150 Greek-American high school students selected from all over the country to participate in AHEPAcademy, an intensive, academic and interactive program to be held on the campus of George Mason University outside Washington, DC from June 24-30, 2007.

Graduates of AHEPAcademy are eligible for further mentoring, access to a nationwide network of internships, and participation in continuing internet-based networking and learning opportunities throughout the end of high school, college, graduate school, and beyond. AHEPAcademy provides instruction and inspiration by prominent Greek-American and Philhellene instructors from the academic, professional, and public service fields across the United States.

AHEP Academy is looking for exceptional Greek-American high school juniors with top grades (minimum 3.5/4.0 GPA or equivalent), who exemplify scholarship, leadership, character, participation in extracurricular activities, community service, and involvement in the Greek-American community to apply for selection in next summer's AHEP Academy on Campus program.

AHEP Academy is sponsored by the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA) through its network of over 300 local Chapters across the United States. Each active AHEPA Chapter is eligible to sponsor one student for participation in this program next summer.

Write to info@AHEPAcademy.com and please include your name and address, the name of your high school, the name of your local AHEPA Chapter, and the name of the Greek Orthodox Church that you attend. You will receive an email from AHEP Academy with instructions on who to contact and how to apply for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Applications for AHEP Academy will be available on December 1, 2006 through your local participating AHEPA Chapter. Completed applications must be submitted to your local Chapter no later than March 1, 2007. Contact your local AHEPA Chapter for more details. Some AHEPA Chapters have yet to decide whether they are interested in sponsoring a student from their local communities for next summer's program, so please contact AHEP Academy at info@AHEPAcademy.com and your local AHEPA Chapter to indicate your interest in applying as soon as possible.

AHEP Academy is a program that identifies, educates, inspires, mentors, advances, and networks exceptional Greek-American high school students as they progress through their high school, college, graduate and professional careers. The program includes a one-week AHEP Academy on Campus session that invites one Candidate (a Greek-American high school junior selected and sponsored by a local AHEPA Chapter) each summer to participate in an intensive academic and interactive program in the Washington, DC area, facilitated by prominent Greek-American and Philhellene instructors from the academic, professional, and public service fields. AHEPA is the largest and oldest American-based Greek heritage grassroots membership organization, promoting the ideals of Hellenism, education, philanthropy, civic responsibility, family, and individual excellence.

Visit <http://ahepacademy.com/> for more information about this wonderful program.

IN OUR PARISH

Death: *John Rozes* fell asleep in the Lord on 12/6 and was buried on 12/11. He is survived by his wife Beatrice, and their children Komes and Ourania, and their grandson Yanni. May his memory be eternal!

John Caragianis fell asleep in the Lord on 12/10. A *trisagion* was chanted at the Memorial Funeral Home in Newport on 12/13, and his funeral was held at the Taxiarchae Church in Watertown, MA on 12/14, at which Fr. Anthony participated. He is survived by his wife Nina and their children Bill, Elaine, Christine, and their families. May his memory be eternal!

DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE

Thank you to everyone who attended our 70th Anniversary/Christmas celebration last month. We are so grateful that so many Ahepans and guests could join us.

The next meeting of the chapter will be held on TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2007 at the Ahepa Housing complex, weather permitting.

Happy 2007 to all.

<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>
<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>Flo's Drive-In <i>Portsmouth</i> Flo's Clam Shack <i>Middletown</i> <i>Voted Best in Rhode Island!</i></p>	<p>The Mainstay Inn 151 Admiral Kalbfus Road Newport 849-9880</p>
<p>ELLAS Greek and American music . We play all types of functions. Call Andy. (978) 532-0771</p>	<p><i>Compliments of</i> A Friend</p>	<p>PEQUOT PROPERTIES Dino Dart—Realtor 711 Broad Street Ext. Waterford, CT 06385 Office: (860) 447-0345 Fax: (860) 444-6306 DinoD6969@aol.com</p>



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