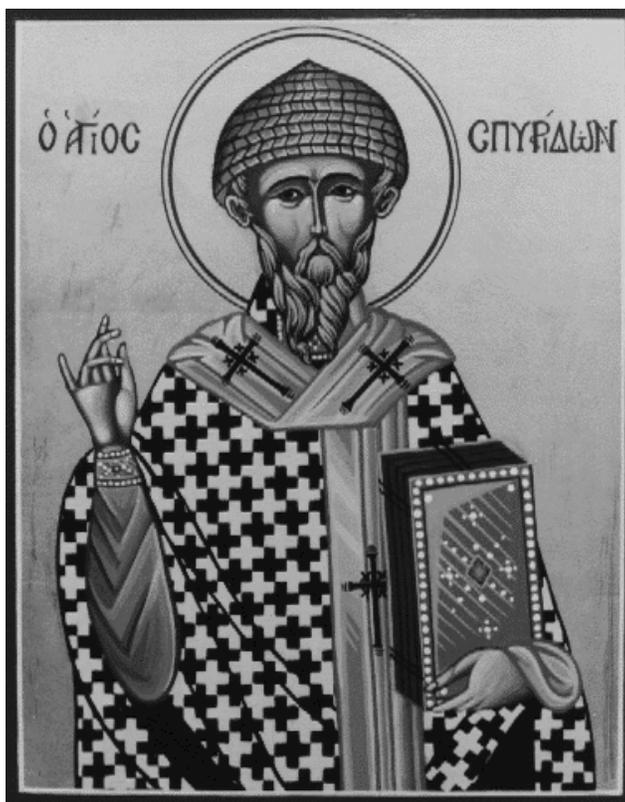

THE SAINT SPYRIDON VOICE
OCTOBER 2007



Saint Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church
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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:

Tom Nichols

Chanters: George Spiratos

Basile Panoutsopoulos

Choir Director: Paul Cotsoridis

Organist: Jane Iandolo

Religious Education : Marianne Menas

Stewardship: Zoe Adamedes

Philoptochos President: Elaine Brown

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 was written by Hierodeacon Nektarios of the Patriarchate of Jerusalem in 1990. I feel that it is important for all of us to realize and appreciate that the grace of the Holy Spirit is at work in the true Church of Christ. As the author states, the following is only a sampling of the many miraculous events taking place wherever the Orthodox faith is followed. I have slightly edited this English translation for obvious syntactical and incidental errors.)

Miracles of Our Faith

“You, who are searching for life and knowledge and are troubled from so many terrifying questions, we ask you to experiment and investigate with us some points which pertain to the Truth, which according to our opinion is one, and it is called Christ.

As you well know, the road of science is experimental and every scientific discovery is based on experiments. We suggest, therefore, an experiment which is very easy: Take water from wherever you like and close it into a small bottle. From biology and science, we know that this water in a short period of time will spoil and it will begin to smell.

Concomitantly, take the same amount of water from the Great Water Blessing (water which has been blessed by an Orthodox priest on January 6th, the day of Theophany) and close it in a small bottle and let it stand under the same conditions as the other water for the same period of time. You will soon discover that the blessed Water will remain unchanged; it will not spoil, smell, or develop worms.

We must tell you that Holy Water was found inside the walls of old houses kept by Orthodox Christians. When discovered, it was clear. The Holy Water had been placed there for centuries. Medical science tells us that distilled water, which is free of any microbes, can remain germ free for at least six months, then it spoils.

How then do you explain this phenomenon? As you see, it is impossible for the regular water to spoil and for the Holy Water to remain unchanged for 300 years just by chance. This happens with the few simple words and blessings given by an Orthodox priest, who, by the way, you at times may curse and be disrespectful.

You may possess the thought that there are many religions in the world – Christians, Moslems, Buddhists, Hindus, etc. Who has the Truth? But even Christians

are divided: Orthodox, Catholics, and Protestants...What would happen to all these other people? Are the Orthodox the only ones that have the Truth? Slowly, this way of reasoning will lead you first into the dark roads of doubt and finally into the channel of faithlessness.

If you think that the Truth for the Orthodox faith is of no significant matter, we suggest you make a trip to Jerusalem during the celebration of the Eastern Orthodox Pascha (Easter). There you will see with your own eyes a continuous miracle, that of the Holy Light. Although many centuries have passed, this miracle still continues. Every year a Divine Force ignites the Holy Light at the Holy Sepulchre.

Science, technology and logic cannot supply adequate explanations for this phenomenon because it is supernatural (beyond the laws of nature and the scientific methods of investigation). Thousands of worshippers from all over the world witness this great event. The moment the Holy Light appears it runs like lightning, or it flutters like a dove on the unlighted candles and oil lamps and lights them. When it first appears, it is blue, different from regular light. The first three minutes this light does not burn. You can touch it, put it on your face, your hair, without being burned. You can see priests putting it into their beard and it does not burn. It must be noted that only the Eastern Orthodox Patriarch receives the Holy Light. Those times that representatives from other religious groups tried to receive the Holy Light, it did not appear. The whole history of the Holy Light forced many to think, and finally, it led them into the faith, Christ and the Truth.

We now want to share with you other phenomena that one can experience at Mount Sinai. There you will find depicted in the rocks the image of Moses' burning bush. If you break any rock you will find the image of the burning bush inscribed inside the rock.

Also, we want to tell you about the fish, 'goulianos', which lives in the lake of Gennesaret. It has on its head and below the skin, the baptism of Christ depicted.

Another miracle one can see in the Monastery of Saint Savva in Jerusalem. When the monks die their bodies do not stiffen, neither smell like that of any other dead person. They do not bury the bodies in the ground, but simply they put them into a room as they are. There in that room, the bodies do not smell, they do not develop worms as they decompose, and then, through a miraculous way only their bones remain. How do you explain this event?

These are other occurrences which demonstrate the miracles within Orthodoxy...

If you could visit Mount Athos and the Monastery of Iviron, you would see an oil lamp hanging near the icon of Panagia, which over the years has moved by itself by a divine force to warn of an impending catastrophe in Greece or any other place in the world. These movements continued for several days as it happened during World War II, and in 1974 before Turkey invaded Cyprus, as well as many other times.

In the Peloponese, close to Tripoli, at the Monastery of Panagia Malevi, there is an ancient icon of Panagia which continuously and mysteriously gives forth myrrh, which is of a high quality. The fragrance of the myrrh is unusual and remains unchanged for many years, while the strongest fragrance evaporates within 48 hours. Scientists have attempted to explain this phenomenon through chemical analysis both in Greek and foreign university laboratories without arriving at a satisfactory explanation. 'Where did you find this fragrance?' a Bulgarian chemist asked someone who had supplied it for chemical analysis without telling him the source. When he was told of the source he was speechless. This myrrh is miraculous. Many people with serious and incurable diseases have been healed immediately after anointing themselves with it.

Let us also discuss a miracle that takes place on the island of Chios at the location situated next to the sea where Saint Markela died as a martyr. At this site, when the priest reads the supplication to the Saint, the seawaters begin to boil, steam and bubble as if someone has lit a fire. When the service of the supplication ends, the boiling stops and the water returns to its original state. If you wish, you can observe these events which occur each year on July 22nd during the Saint's feast day.

There are other miracles which happened during the last decades in many parts of the world, and in large numbers. Some of these events are related to the attempts to destroy Orthodox churches. The demolition of these churches was neutralized in a way that causes amazement.

One example is the church of Saint Petka (Paraskevi) located in a central point in the city of Sofia, Bulgaria. In 1963 the city leaders decided to widen the street and therefore, the church was targeted for destruction in the name of progress. The demolition team arrived with their bulldozers, but each time they approached the church with their powerful machinery, something would break or the engines would unexplainably stop. They tried many times, but the bulldozers continued to break down

before reaching the church. When the official responsible for the street project heard of these incidents, he thought they were all nonsense. Arriving at the scene, he very angrily and with a loud voice started to curse, climbed up to a bulldozer and tried to drive it himself and with great speed toward the church. Suddenly the engine broke, the bulldozer stopped and the driver was found dead. Observers were shaken with fear and terror after witnessing this supernatural phenomenon. They could not do anything but to change the demolition plans, and the church is still standing there today. One trip to Sofia, Bulgaria will provide the proof for the above incident.

A similar incident occurred in the village of Franlouleika of Aitolia. A church dedicated to Saint George was selected for demolition to facilitate the construction of an interstate highway between Ioannina and Antirio. Through mysterious means the church could not be destroyed, and an unplanned detour of the road had to be constructed. Similar events took place in many other churches all over Greece, to clearly demonstrate the unbeatable and indestructible power of the Church of Christ.

There are so many miracles and supernatural phenomena which take place, especially during the last few years within the Orthodox Church. In this short article, we have chosen to communicate a small sampling of these events.

We have tried to help you know the truth, which is Christ and the Orthodox Church, which is systematically, persistently persecuted, attacked and kept hidden. The situation based on the events of our times, as you can clearly see, is difficult, and another world war threatens mankind. God wants us to repent, to confess our sins, and to change our lives...There is only one way. Faith and repentance is what our Lord is asking, and to change our lives and give glory to God.

‘COME AND SEE.’ (John 1:46).’

Thanks for your patience in reading this article. May we all be enlightened by its message.

In Christ’s love,
+Fr. Anthony

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We will commence adult religious education on **Wednesday, 10/3, immediately after vespers**, scheduled for 7 pm. The format will be as in past years – small vespers, which last about one-half hour, followed by a one-hour class conducted as an open discussion. The class begins with a scriptural reflection, and questions are always encouraged. This is an excellent opportunity for anyone wanting to learn more about the faith, as well as inquirers and potential converts. Please join us!

ST. SPYRIDON COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD & POINSETTIAS SIGN UP

Once again we will be printing a Community Christmas Card as a small fundraiser for our parish. As in previous years, the cost to have your name printed in the card will be \$10 per line. We also request an extra donation to defray the cost of the poinsettias that will decorate the church. As everyone knows, prices for everything have risen considerably since last year. Please use the form below and send it to the Church office as soon as possible. The deadline is December 2nd.

Thank you for your generosity.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD & POINSETTIA DONATION

NAME (please print) _____

Amount \$ _____

Telephone number _____

OCTOBER 2007

Sunday Winter Ho

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
	1	2	3 Small Vespers 7 pm followed by Adult Religious Education <i>(fast day)</i>	4
7 3 rd Sun. of Luke Altar Team B	8	9	10 Small Vespers 7 pm followed by Adult Religious Education <i>(fast day)</i>	11
14 The Fathers of the 7 th Ecumenical Council Altar Team A	15	16	17 Vespers of St. Luke the Evangelist 7 pm followed by Adult Religious Education <i>(fast day)</i>	18 St. Luke, Orthr
21 6th Sun. of Luke Altar Team B	22	23 St. Iakovos, Brother of the Lord, Orthros & Lit.	24 Paraklesis 7 pm followed by Adult Religious Education <i>(fast day)</i>	25 Vespers for St. the Great Marty
28 7th Sun. of Luke, Holy Protection of the Theotokos Altar Team A	29	30	31 Vespers of the Holy Anargyroi, Cosmas & Damian 7 pm , followed by Adult Relig. Educ. <i>(fast day)</i>	

Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10 am

Fri

Sat

5

6

Great Vespers 6 pm

(fast day)

12

13

Great Vespers 6 pm

(fast day)

19

20

Orthros & Lit.

Great Vespers 6 pm

(fast day)

26

27

St. Demetrios
Orthros, 7 pm

St. Demetrios, Orthros &
Lit.

Great Vespers 6 pm

*(fast day—wine & olive
oil permitted)*

Upcoming Events

October 2—Parish Council Meeting, 7 pm

October 8—Soup Kitchen; setup 4 pm, meal 5 pm

October 18—Retirees Luncheon & Presentation, immediately after liturgy of St. Luke

Regular Events

Religious Education—Sundays, immediately after Holy Communion

Adult Religious Education—each Wednesday after Vespers (**begins October 3rd**)

Children’s Greek School— Monday-Thursday, 4-6pm

Adult Greek School—Mondays, 5-6 pm

Holy Confession is available after each evening service, and by appointment during office hours.

FROM THE LIVES OF THE SAINTS

October 20 – Memory of our Holy God-bearing Father Gerasimos the New

Our holy Father Gerasimos came from the Peloponnese. In his youth, his devout parents put him to the study of sacred literature, in which he showed outstanding ability. As a young man, he left home for the island of Zakynthos and traveled thence all over Greece. From Thessaly he made his way to the Black Sea, Constantinople, the Propontus and Chalcedon. Everywhere he went, he sought out men who, begin perfect in the ascetic life, could teach him ‘the Art of arts and the Science of sciences’.

He arrived, at last, on Mount Athos, where he gathered nectar from all the flowers of the virtues that he found flourishing among the many ascetics he visited, in order to produce within himself, the honey of purity of heart. He spent a good while on Athos among the servants of the Mother of God. He received the great angelic Habit there and was devoted to the practice of all the virtues of the monastic life: perpetual fasting, all-night vigils, tears, the elevation of the intellect, tending to God in *hesychia* and purity of heart.

After some years, he went on pilgrimage to the Holy Places. At Jerusalem he was ordained subdeacon, deacon and priest by the Patriarch Germanos I (1537-79)... Eventually he left Jerusalem and continued his pilgrimage. He lived for a time at Mount Sinai, then at Alexandria, and traveled widely in Egypt. After that he passed on to Antioch and Damascus, took a ship to Crete and returned, finally, to Zakynthos. He settled there in a remote cave where, lacking bread and salt, he lived on nothing but a few vegetables. Despite his sequestered life, he was soon discovered by the faithful and many came to receive his blessing and spiritual counsel. Saint Gerasimos was well aware of the saying of the holy Fathers that nothing is as perilous for a monk as the praise and esteem of men, and so he decided to look for another hiding place. He found a little cave on the island of Cephalonia, where he stayed for about six years...

Here God made him know for a certainty that the time had come to accept disciples. Twenty-five young women came asking him to take them under his spiritual direction and to transform the little church into a monastery. He saw, therefore, that he must give up the way of life he preferred above all other, for the sake of sharing with his disciples the graces and spiritual experience that he had received in full measure from the Lord.

Saint Gerasimos lived to be very old, and was forewarned of the day of his death. He gathered about him all his spiritual daughters, gave them his final counsels, blessed them, and with joy and in great peace, gave up his soul into the hands of his Lord and God. He died in 1579, on the feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God. His memory is kept on 20 October, being the day of the translation of his relics.

Until the present day, the body of Saint Gerasimos remains complete and incorrupt, as if he were asleep. It distills a heavenly fragrance and works many miracles. The Saint has become the Patron of the island of Cephalonia, the protector of all the inhabitants and their powerful intercessor before God...

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Dear Families,

I pray that all the children are settled into their classrooms now and are busy learning about the Orthodox faith. Please look at your calendars and note that there will be no classes on Sunday, October 7th, due to the Columbus Day weekend.

God Bless, Marianne

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Council met on September 4th, and will meet again on October 2, 2007. Please feel free to contact any member of the Council with items for the agenda.

We expect to have final results for this year's Hellenic Fest shortly, but preliminary numbers indicate it was a great success! Thanks to all who participated in this important annual event.

Thank you,
Tom Nichols
Parish Council President

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

The Board Meeting for October will be held at the home of Ionna Bairos-Moreau. The next General meeting will be held on October 17 at the Church Hall.

Please make the following change to the calendar mailed out in the September Bulletin. The March 12th meeting is changed to March 18th.

All meetings begin at 6:30 pm unless otherwise noted. Remember we are always encouraging new members to join.

Penny Social Update

The annual St. Spyridon Philoptochos Fall Social will be held on Thursday Evening, November 8 at the Church Hall. Tickets cost \$5.00 which includes a light supper with a beverage and dessert. For this price you will also receive some raffle tickets. Raffle tickets for the baskets will be sold separately. The doors open at 5:30pm. Our community has been extremely supportive in the past and we look forward to seeing all of you once again this year. As a reminder all proceeds benefit our philanthropic endeavors.

The Philoptochos will sponsor a coffee hour to be held on October 21 where the baskets will be on display. Tickets for purchase will be available then.

We invite anyone who would like to donate new items or a monetary contribution for the Fall Social to contact Elaine Brown at 849-3480.

Some Other Information

We are proud to report that the St. Spyridon's Philoptochos has committed to our community outreach program \$15,00.00 for the purchase of a Reclining Chair for the Newport Hospital.

Additionally, we have sent a \$250.00 donation to the fire victims in Greece.

Finally, mark your calendars for our Holiday Dinner meeting to be held on December 13.

RETIREEES LUNCHEON & PRESENTATION

We will restart our monthly retirees program on **Thursday, 10/18, immediately after the liturgy for St. Luke.** The main presentation is pending, however, we plan on showing a short video done by Michael Sisak, which is a scanning of a picture from an Ahepa clam-bake many years ago, set to Greek music. You will enjoy figuring out or immediately recognizing the many faces in the photo. Make it a point to come to liturgy, and then break bread together.

A note to our regular attendees: Please invite some new faces to enjoy these pleasant gatherings!

SOUP KITCHEN NEWS

Thanks to Lucian and Gabriella Dobrot, who together with Gabriella's father, sponsored last month's soup kitchen in memory of her mother Steluta. The Dobrot's hosted over 65 guests for a chicken dinner, which was enjoyed by all. Next month's soup kitchen will be held on Monday, October 8. We'll be setting up at 4 and serving dinner from 5 to 6. Feel free to join us!

IN OUR PARISH

Birth: A baby girl, *Sofia Nicole*, was born to parishioners Chris & Amy Kapogiannis on 9/5. We congratulate the parents and wish her many years!

Death: *Helen Demessianos Schuergy* fell asleep in the Lord on 9/22. She was the sister of Paul and Dennis Demessianos, and is survived by her husband, children, and grandchildren. The funeral took place in Rockledge, Florida. May her memory be eternal!

DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE NEWS

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 9th at 7 p.m. at the Ahepa housing on Girard Avenue. Hope to see you all there.

PAIDEIA EVENT

As of the date of this publication, there are tentative plans for the blessing of the cornerstone of the “Rodos” Hellenic Studies Center on the campus of URI, which has been in the planning stages for a number of years and is now becoming a reality. “Rodos” will be a resource center for Hellenic studies, and will also house an Orthodox chapel to be dedicated to St. Luke the Evangelist. The blessing is scheduled for the morning hours of Saturday, 10/27, with the presence of His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios. More information will be forthcoming.

On the evening of 10/27, a dinner-dance will be held at the church of the Annunciation in Cranston – cocktails, 7 pm, dinner, 8 pm, with tickets at \$35 per person. All proceeds will benefit the “Rodos” center. This event will definitely take place independently of the cornerstone blessing.

For more information, please call the *Paideia* office at (860) 429-8518, or e-mail at paideia@snet.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>
<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 <i>Newport</i> 849-9880</p>
<p>This space available. Call church office.</p>	<p><i>Compliments of</i> A Friend</p>	<p>This space available. Call church office.</p>



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