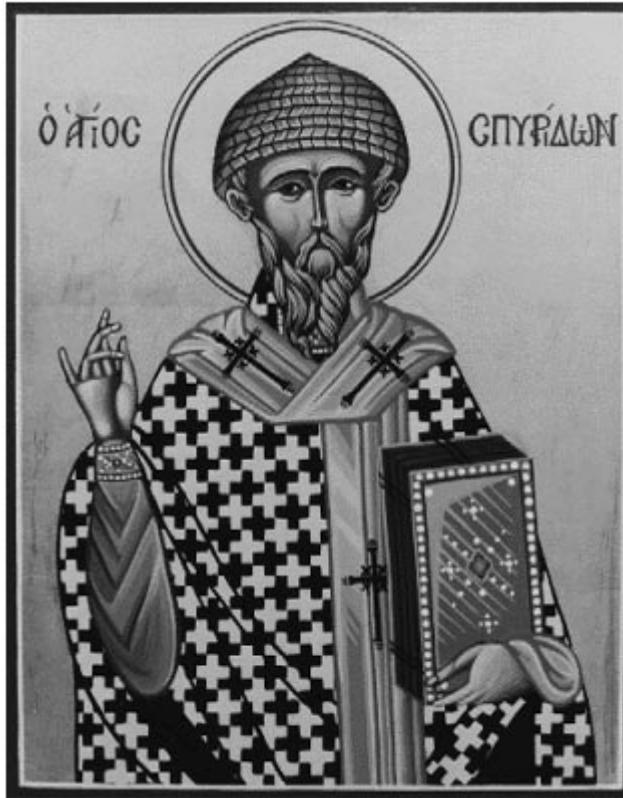

THE SAINT SPYRIDON VOICE
APRIL 2008



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

franthony@stspyridonchurch.org

Office Hours

Priest: Tuesday—Friday, 9 am—3 pm (during Lent, Fr. is off on Thurs. instead of Mon.)

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

Parish Council President: Zoe Adamedes **Greek School:**

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

Loula Eliopoulos

Basile Panoutsopoulos (adult classes)

Soup Kitchen: Presvytera Themmi

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

Service Times During Great Lent (see calendar for 1st week of Lent):

Mondays – Great Compline, 7:00 pm

Wednesdays – 9th Hour, 5:15 pm, Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 5:30 pm

Fridays – 9th Hour, 9:45 am, Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 10:00 am; Salutations to the Theotokos, 7:00 pm (up to 4/11)

Saturdays – Great Vespers, 6:00 pm

Note: During Great Lent, Holy Confession is available after all evenings services, except the Presanctified Liturgy, and during office hours by appointment.

FROM THE DESK OF FATHER ANTHONY

Beloved in Christ, as you receive this bulletin, we are at the mid-point of Great Lent. If we have been slow in getting into a lenten frame of mind, then let us stop and reflect on where we are on this annual spiritual journey called *Great Lent*.

First of all, let us look back at the three preliminary weeks that prepared us for the coming of Great Lent. This period contains four Sundays of thematic Scripture readings and hymns, which clearly remind us of the major themes during the coming Fast. The first two Sundays were dedicated to the parables of the *Publican and the Pharisee* and that of the *Prodigal Son*, respectively. With both of these parables, we are reminded of the centrality of humility and repentance that should be ever-present in the lives of Orthodox Christians. Secondly, we are reminded of God's unending mercy and forgiveness to those who sincerely repent, and who truly seek God in their lives.

The third Sunday of the pre-Lenten period is a poignant reminder of the second coming of Christ and our preparedness for that awesome event, according to how we live our lives in relationship to God and each other. The final Sunday before Lent begins, is known as the Sunday of Forgiveness, on which we also commemorate the expulsion of Adam from Paradise. On this day, we remember that our lenten experience will be fruitless if we cannot enter it with a humbled and forgiving heart. Secondly, we remember that we are part of fallen humanity seeking to regain Paradise as the first-formed man. During Great Lent, we become Old Testament "wanderers," seeking salvation through our Redeemer Christ, which comes through His awesome Passion, Death and Resurrection.

As we took leave of the three-week preparatory period and entered into Great Lent proper, we should have entered with joy and eagerness, even in the face of the rigorous fasting and frequent services. In fact, after the first and most intense week of Great Lent, the following Sunday is a joyous feast. On the Sunday of Orthodoxy, we celebrate the final triumph of Orthodox against heresies, specifically through the restoration of the holy icons. It is a day for us to remember, among other things, that we, too, are icons of God, having been created in His image and likeness. This day helps us truly see the need to cleanse ourselves through our lenten journey, in order to be worthy icons of God.

Another celebratory Sunday in Lent, is that of the veneration of the Holy Cross. If we haven't made much of a lenten effort by that Sunday, which is the mid-point of the Fast, it is now high time to pick up our cross and follow the Lord to His death and resurrection. For those who have been diligently following a lenten lifestyle, the feast of the Cross is a place of rest and a time for refreshment, to assist us in completing our ascetic struggle which leads to Golgotha and the Holy Sepulcher.

It is imperative to remember, however, that the true *telos* – the goal, the fulfillment of Great Lent, is *repentance*. The preparation for the coming of Lent, the fasting, our

intensified praying, the extra services, our charitable acts – all these things together, when fully practiced and understood, bring us to tears of repentance and the saving act of Holy Confession. However, when we insist, for whatever reason, to go year after year without truly repenting and confessing, then please know that our observance of Lent is in vain, no matter how much effort is put into any one or more components mentioned above.

When we were students, did we try our best to complete all our assignments and study diligently for exams, and then *not* show up to take them? Or did we do what was expected of us so that we could progress? When we see our physician in times of sickness, after being examined and receiving his counsel and a prescription, do we stay away from the pharmacy saying, “I’m just fine – I don’t need the medicine”? When we are baking a dessert, do we gather all the ingredients, pre-heat the oven, then follow the recipe as closely as possible, only to never put the item in the oven to bake? “Alright already, Fr. Anthony, we get it!”, you may be saying. But do we *truly* “get it?”

To help us understand the fruit of repentance that can be reaped during Lent, our Holy Church presents us with a most exemplary model of repentance on the fifth Sunday of the Fast – *St. Mary of Egypt*. If we’ve never fully read her life, we should make it point to do so this Lent. Her story will move you to tears – hopefully tears of repentance that will bring us to church for the cleansing of our soul prior to celebrating Holy Pascha.

Therefore, beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, let us see where we stand so far this Lent, and let us resolve to make the necessary adjustments in order to remain on the straight and narrow path. The true inner joy found in the celebration of the Resurrection of Christ, can only come after the tears and inner sorrow that lead us to the cleansing of both body and soul, during the saving time of Great Lent. May we all have a most blessed remainder of Lent, and a most joyous Holy Pascha!

In Christ’s love,
+Fr. Anthony

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.

ITEMS NEEDED FOR HOLY WEEK & PASCHA

Following are items that are still needed during 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

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!

MYRRHBEARERS FOR HOLY FRIDAY

Again this year, we invite young girls to assume the role of myrrhbearer for the solemn observances of Holy Friday. Girls available for the afternoon service at 3:00 pm will be part of the procession with the *Epitaphios*, carrying fragrant water and rose petals for the burial. In the evening service, the myrrhbearers throw rose petals upon the Tomb during the Lamentations, and take part in the procession. **In order to participate, girls need to be old enough to remain well-behaved, serious, and able to endure the long services and late hours.** All myrrhbearers need a white dress, and white hose and shoes. To participate, please contact the coordinator, Carissa Borodemos at 418-4580.

RETIREES LUNCHEON & PRESENTATION

Our March retirees program featured a DVD tribute to Archbishop Demetrios. Lunch was provided by the Amarant and Moisiades families, owners of *Aquidneck Pizza*. Our next gathering will be on **April 8th at 12:00 noon**. Please join us for good food and fellowship!

IN APPRECIATION

We would like to sincerely thank the Giannopoulos family for all the preparations – food and otherwise – toward the success of the *Apokriatiko Glendi*, as well as the Panoutsopoulos family who assisted with much of the effort. It was an enjoyable evening for all. We also thank Sandy Giannopoulos for her efforts for our in-house, elementary oratorical festival. Let us also express our gratitude to Michael Sisak for his many efforts as coordinator of the official St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival, together with Marianne Menas as director of Religious Education. We again wish to thank Sandy, as well as Mercedes Mellekas and Presvytera, for overseeing all our recent youth activities. We must also acknowledge Loula Eliopoulos and again, the Giannopoulos' for the great job in preparing our Greek School students and Hellenic Dancers for the in-house and State House Greek Independence Day observances. We also would like to thank our Philoptochos Society and the Daughters of Penelope chapter for their support of Vasili Tasikas, who has been deployed to Iraq. The Daughters have sent a “care package” of candies and Oreos (his favorite things), and the Philoptochos has made a monetary gift to the Tasikas family to buy him whatever he would like or needs.

SHALL I MAKE MY CHILDREN GO TO CHURCH?

(The following is taken from the March 2008 edition of the *St. Demetrios Observer*, the monthly publication of St. Demetrios Church, Fall River, MA)

“Yes”, is the answer with no further discussion about the matter. Are you startled? Why? How do you answer Junior when he comes to breakfast on Monday morning and announces to you that he isn't going to school anymore? You know! Junior goes! How do you answer him when he comes in very desmudged and says, “I'm not going to take a bath.” Junior bathes, doesn't he?

Why all this timidity, then, in the realm of his spiritual guidance and growth? Are you going to wait and let him decide what church he is going to go to when he is old enough? Quit kidding! You didn't wait until he was old enough to decide whether or not he wishes to remain dirty or be clean. Do you wait until he is old enough to decide if he wants to take his medicine when he is sick?

What will you say when Junior announces he does not like to go to church? That's an easy answer. Just be consistent. Tell him, “Junior, in our family we all go to church, and that includes you!” Your firmness and example will furnish a bridge over which youthful rebellion travels into rich and satisfying experiences in personal religious living.

COME TO CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY

LENTEN FASTING GUIDELINES

Clean Monday – Holy Saturday, 3/10-4/26 – *strict fast*: no animal products permitted, including fish*; wine (all alcohol) & olive oil also not permitted, except on Saturdays & Sundays*; shellfish permitted daily

Weekday fasting during Lent: some sources say that we should reduce the amount of food eaten, and if possible, take less than 3 meals per day

Weekend fasting: does not require a reduction of amount of food, or number of meals taken

*Three exceptions to the above are, 1) the feast of the Annunciation (3/25) on which we are permitted fish, wine & olive oil, 2) Palm Sunday, on which we are again permitted fish, wine & olive oil, and 3) Holy Saturday, a *strict fast* with neither olive oil nor wine permitted.

Again, let me remind everyone of the great spiritual benefit of fasting, ***only*** when combined with intensified prayer, and charitable works. In addition let us remember that the above rules are the traditionally accepted and most ideal for keeping the fast, for those without health concerns. Please see these as a *starting point* and revise as needed, especially the infirm, the elderly, expectant or nursing mothers, growing children, etc. Your spiritual father can guide you accordingly, to help you keep both a *spiritual and physical* fast.

+Fr. Anthony

FOCUS ON YOUTH

At the beginning of Great Lent, our JOY group baked the tasty lenten *koulourakia* which we will enjoy throughout the season. As a lenten service project, our Goyans assisted with the making of homemade white and wheat bread, and held a bake sale during a couple of coffee hours. The success of the sale allowed GOYA to cover the floral expenses for the Sunday of Veneration of the Holy Cross at \$300, for which they also did all the arranging of the flowers. In addition, our Goyans are currently planning two more fundraisers this month – a homemade *tsoureki* sale, and decorating and selling children's *lambades* for Holy Pascha. Thanks to all our children for these expressions of Christian stewardship! A reminder to all our youth: Please come and help weave palm crosses on the Saturday of Lazarus (4/19) immediately after liturgy. It would be helpful if parents brought in a few lenten luncheon items for all to share.

ON REPENTENCE AND CONFESSION

(The following is taken from the book *Making God Real in the Orthodox Christian Home*, by Fr. Anthony Coniaris, Light & Life Publishing Co. 1977. This is a very practical book for our beloved families to have in their home libraries. To give an idea of some of the topics covered, here is a selection of a few of the chapter titles: *Who is Raising the Children?; An Orthodox Family Practice for Saturday Evening; Tell Them About Death; Using Incense in the Home; When Are We in Condition to Receive Holy Communion; Make Lent a Spiritual Spring; Bring Christ into the Home; Helping Our Children Accept Themselves as Worthy Persons*. Since we begin Great Lent this month – the season of repentance – following is a selection from the chapter, *Tell Them About Confession*.)

(continued from March bulletin)

Why Confession?

“‘But why the sacrament of confession?’ you ask. ‘Can’t I confess directly to God?’ ‘Why confess to a priest who is subject to human weakness like myself?’ ‘Why confess to a man?’

The truth of the matter is that the Church urges us to confess our sins directly to God every day in our prayers. Confession of sin is a part of every true prayer. But in addition to this, God has given us the sacrament of confession. It was He Who gave His apostles the power to forgive sin in His name. His words to them were:

‘As the Father has sent Me, I also send you. Receive the Holy Spirit, whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven them; whose sins you shall retain, they are retained’ (John 20:20-23).

The priest is merely an instrument in confession – as he is an instrument in baptism and Communion – an instrument through which Christ our Lord pronounces His forgiveness to the penitent sinner. Forgiveness does not emanate from the priest; it emanates from Christ. That is why the priest does not say, ‘I forgive you...’ but ‘May our Lord Jesus forgive you...’

God chose priests not angels, said St. Chrysostom. He chose weak beings to forgive other weak beings because they would understand.

Also, when a person sins, he separates himself not only from God but also from the family of God – the Church. By confessing to another man – the priest – the sinner is

united not only to God but also to the people of God – the Church, and is accepted by them – made to feel that he is once more a part of the family of God.

There is no sin that God will not forgive. He forgave David who killed a man so that he could marry his wife; David who had committed murder and adultery. If He forgave David and surrounded his life with grace once more, surely He will forgive us. ‘Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow’ (Isaiah 1:18).

The only person who cannot be forgiven is he who thinks he has no sin and does not come to God for forgiveness. And it seems that this is the case with quite a number of people today. ‘Why should I come to confession?’ they say. ‘I haven’t killed anyone, I haven’t stolen.’ ‘If anyone should come to confession, it’s so-and-so who hurt me and did me such a great injustice.’

Who can say he is without sin when the Word of God says, ‘If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us’ (I John 1:8)? Who can say he is without sin when Jesus says, ‘If any one would sue you and take your coat, let him have your cloak as well; and if any one forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles’ (Matthew 5:40-41)? Have we kept these commandments? Who can say he is without sin? Only he who has not examined his life. Only he whom the devil has deceived, for Satan delights in hiding our sins and pointing out to us only the sins of others.”

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

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

Great Lent – after all evening services, except the Presanctified Liturgy, and by appointment during office hours

Holy Week – after each evening service through Holy Thursday, and 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. If possible, try to come before Holy Week for everyone’s expedience.

APRIL 2008

Sunday Winter Hou

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

*strict fast thru 4/26 – no animal products;
wine & olive oil permitted on Sat. & Sun.*

1

2

9th Hour, 5:15 pm, Liturgy
of the Presanctified Gifts,
5:30 pm

3

6

St. John Climacus; Pan-
Orthodox Lenten Vespers
at St. John the Baptist –
Woonsocket, 5 pm

7

Great Compline 7 pm

8

9

9th Hour, 5:15 pm, Liturgy
of the Presanctified Gifts,
5:30 pm

10

Great Cano
@ St. Greg
Theologian
MA 6:30 pm

13

St. Mary of Egypt; Pan-
Orthodox Lenten Vespers
at Sts. Mary & Mena
Coptic Church, 5 pm

14

Great Compline 7 pm

15

16

9th Hour, 5:15 pm, Liturgy
of the Presanctified Gifts,
5:30 pm

17

20 Palm Sunday

21 Holy & Great Monday

22 Holy & Great Tuesday

23 Holy & Great
Wednesday

24 Holy &
Thursday

Please see enclosed Holy Week schedule for times of service

*(fish, wine & olive oil
permitted)*

27

HOLY PASCHA

28

Bright Monday,
St. George the Great
Martyr, Orthros & Lit.

29

Bright Tuesday

30

Bright Wednesday,
Paschal Vespers 7 pm

Renewal Week—no fasting; all foods permitted daily.

Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10 am

Fri

Sat

4
9th Hour, 9:45 am, Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 10:00 am; Salutations to the Theotokos, 7:00 pm

5
Great Vespers, 6:00 pm

11
n of St. Andrew 9th Hour, 9:45 am, Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, 10:00 am; Akathist Hymn, 7:00 pm

12
Great Vespers, 6:00 pm

18
Fr. Anthony on pilgrimage

19
Saturday of Lazarus, Orthros & Lit., followed by palm cross weaving; Great Vespers, 6:00 pm

Great 25 Holy & Great Friday 26 Holy & Great Saturday

ces.

Upcoming Events

April 1—Parish Council Mtg, 7 pm

April 6—Greek Independence Day Parade in Boston, 1 pm (see entry)

April 8—Retirees Luncheon & Presentation, 12 noon

April 8—Daughters of Penelope Mtg, 7 pm Ahepa Housing

April 14—Soup Kitchen; setup 4 pm, meal 5 pm

April 20—Palm Sunday Fish Dinner

Regular Events

Religious Education—Sundays, immediately after Holy Communion

Adult Religious Education (not held during Great Lent)

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

Adult Greek School—Mondays, 5-6 pm

During Great Lent, Holy Confession is available after all evenings services, except the Presanctified Liturgy, and during office hours by appointment.

MAKE LENT MEANINGFUL AT HOME

Great Lent is the most significant time of the year in the spiritual life of Orthodox Christians. As parents, we have an opportunity to teach and reinforce its importance and significance to our children, so that they may always love and appreciate this holy period. Here are some things to consider...

- Purchase an Orthodox prayer book if you don't have one, and use it.
- Plan which services you can realistically attend each week as a family (try for at least one).
- Parents, read a book on Great Lent to understand it better (see Fr. Anthony for suggestions).
- Try as much as possible to keep the fast in an appropriate way for your family (perhaps try keeping a strict fast on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays if you can't do more).
- Curb or eliminate television, movies, etc.; replace with biblical movies, or read Scripture or other spiritually edifying materials.
- Periodically light incense and keep a lit candle or vigil lamp in front of the holy icons (help create a more spiritual atmosphere at home as much as possible).
- Plan on going to confession as a family during Lent (parents are the example in everything to their children – don't rob them of this spiritually beneficial opportunity).
- If properly prepared, receive Holy Communion more frequently as a family during Lent.
- Choose one or more charities that the family would like to support financially or otherwise (involve children as much as possible with this process).

SAINT SPYRIDON BOOKSTORE

The Saint Spyridon Bookstore is well into its second decade of operation as an ongoing activity of our Community. The Bookstore offers the community a wide selection of religious books, bibles, prayer books, cookbooks, cultural, ethnic and history titles, books for children, as well as icons, sacred music recordings, crosses and other religious items. We are open every Sunday during the coffee hour following the Divine Liturgy. We invite you to stop by and visit us. Meet our volunteers and browse through our offerings.

See the next page for our St. Spyridon's Bookstore Book of the Month.

A Lenten Cookbook for Orthodox Christians. \$10.00.

Prologue from the book: "Many of our faithful are converts who have not grown up in an Orthodox environment where lentils, beans and seafood and other "fast-foods" were essential parts of their diets. Often to a new convert, especially a mother, the problems of "what do you eat?" assumes gigantic proportions during the Great Lent or on Wednesdays and Fridays. To encourage and revitalize fasting within our Orthodox household, our parishioners have prepared this cookbook with the generous contributions of many throughout the world whose help and encouragement we gratefully acknowledge." (From St. Enactors Orthodox Church).

"They have some great recipes like *Broiled Fish Fillets; Fish Plaki; Shrimp Marinara;* and in my "opinion" their *Lenten Chocolate Cake* recipe is FABULOUS!!!! We have only a few copies left at the bookstore; please feel free to drop by and look through this wonderful book! And while you're there don't forget to pick up other books to fill up your Easter baskets!!!!" (Comments by Lily Wong)

GREEK 4 KIDS 2ND ANNUAL BENEFIT CONCERT

An Independent Greek Language School and Cultural Center for Children & Adults Presents...

"The Greek Music Ensemble"

A Concert of Authentic Contemporary Greek Music

Saturday, May 10, 2008 @ 7:00 pm

Maliotis Cultural Center, 50 Goddard Avenue, Brookline, MA 02445

Music (www.greekmusicensemble.com) , Traditional Greek Folk Dances (www.sdag.wikispaces.com), Complimentary Appetizers & Refreshments

Adults: \$50 Students: \$35 Children under 12: *Free*, Checks payable to Greek 4 Kids
For Ticket information and or Sponsorship opportunities call (617) 953-9092

SUPPORT A SCHOOL THAT IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN GREEK EDUCATION!

BOSTON GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE

The annual Greek Independence Day Parade will take place this year on Sunday, 4/6 at 1:00 pm. The parade route is from Boylston Street to Charles Street. A celebration will follow at Boston Common. More details can be found at www.fhasne.com.



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Monthly Parish Council meeting was held on Tuesday, March 8th.

At the meeting, heartfelt thanks were given to ALL who helped to make the Apokreatiko glendi such a success! Food donations were received from Steve and Gregory Mellekas, Angie Farias, Zoe Adamedes, Ourania Stefanopoulos, Connie Psilos, Eleni Giannoutsos, Presvytera Themmis, Basile and Lily Panoutsopoulos and of course, Sandy and Vaggeli Giannopoulos, who also donated the paper products. Again, we wish to thank the Giannopoulos and Panoutsopoulos families for chairing this wonderful event, and the Newport Hellenic Dancers who put on a wonderful show!

Father Anthony provided Pangari Duty Guidelines to all the Parish Council Members so that all Members are aware of their duties and responsibilities when serving at the Pangari. These Guidelines were most helpful. Father Anthony also requested that the Parish Council consider nominations for the upcoming Laity Award. This will be discussed in more detail during the next meeting.

As was discussed within the February Bulletin relative to the roof repairs, three (3) bids have been received. They are now being closely reviewed to ensure that all bids meet with the Church's minimum requirements. The roofs (both the Church and the Hall) have not been replaced in many years, and the four (4) chimneys are ready to collapse. Because these repairs are costly, a Special General Assembly will be convened in order to familiarize the Parish with the nature of the repairs, the costs involved, as well as how to finance the project. The goal of this Special General Assembly will be to obtain approval from the General Assembly to proceed with these repairs. The date for this special meeting has not been set, but all stewards will be notified as to the time and place in accordance with our Parish by-laws.

The condition of the basement was reviewed. The recommendations were to repair the dropped ceiling, which in some areas are stained and warped. The side walls and ceiling leading down the stairs from the church hall also need repair. The carpeting and paneling were found to be in good condition, but they are in need of cleaning. It was suggested that in order to finally get a handle over the humidity problem in the basement that dehumidifiers which automatically empty of water be pursued. Bids to perform this work will now be solicited.

The Parish Council is continuing to work on re-organizing the Parish Hall so as to improve its appearance. The Council is still looking into obtaining a "portable" stage for use by our

various organizations (but especially for use by our Sunday School and Greek School). If any parishioners can assist in the location of such a stage, please contact any Parish Council Member.

Steve Mellekas has graciously volunteered to Chair this year's Hellenic Fest. The dates for this year's festival will be July 18, 19 and 20th. I'm sure that Steve can count on all of us to help out in whatever way we can to make this most important fundraiser as successful as possible.

The Parish Council made a donation to help offset expenses for the Reception at the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church following the "State House Salute to Greek Independence Day". Children from our Protulis Greek School, our community at-large, as well as from our Newport Hellenic Dancers participated in this wonderful celebration.

During a Special Parish Council meeting held on March 16th, the four vacancies on the Endowment Fund Committee were filled. The Parish Council appointed Mr. Peter Kyriakides, Mr. Leon Panteleos, Mr. Steven Jennings and Dr. Joanne Hologgitas. We wish them as well as the entire Endowment Fund Committee success as they continue to oversee the Church's investments. At the same time, we wish to thank Mr. George Menas, whose term just recently expired for his service on this Committee.

The next Parish Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 1st 7:30 pm. (Yes, I know—it's April Fool's Day!!!). Again, these meetings are open to all members of the St. Spyridon family and all are welcome to attend. In the meantime, should any parishioner have any item of concern or any matter they wish to have placed on the next meeting's Agenda, please contact any Parish Council member, or the undersigned.

In future reports, I will be providing the Church's monthly financial information (income and expenses). For the January-February time period the reported income was \$19,523. The expenses incurred during this period were \$36,586. A transfer of \$20,000 from the interest earned on the Protulis Fund was made in order to keep the church "in the black". Please keep these figures in mind when considering your 2008 Stewardship Pledge for 2008.

Respectfully submitted,
Zoe Adamedes
Parish Council President
274-1316
zadamedes@yahoo.com

STEWARDSHIP FOR 2007

On behalf of the St. Spyridon family, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the 2007 Stewards who have generously and graciously supported the work of our beloved parish with financial gifts. If your name has been inadvertently omitted from the following list, please accept my sincerest apologies and contact me as soon as possible so that any omissions may be included in next month's bulletin.

At the same time, we must also thank our many devoted Stewards who give every day of their time and talent in meeting the needs of our church, many times anonymously, and sometimes (unfortunately) without thanks. Thank you once again!!

The Stewardship packages for 2008 will be in the mail very shortly, so please keep a look out for them, and try your best to return them to the church office as soon as possible.

Zoe Adamedes
274-1316
zadamedes@yahoo.com

A

Mr. & Mrs. Tom Adamedes
Ms. Zoe Adamedes
Mr. John Agias
Mr. & Mrs. Telly Amarant
Mr. & Mrs. George Anagnostos
Mr. & Mrs. David Anagnostos
Drs. Peter & Ellen Antonopoulos
Mrs. Estelle Parkos Antonio

B

Mrs. Ionna Bairos-Moreau
Mr. & Mrs. Canelo Bartis
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Bitzileos
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Bonafas
Mr. & Mrs. Demo Borodemos
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Borodemos
Mrs. Elaine Brown

C

Ms. Joanne Cadenazzi
Mr. Steve Caminis

Mrs. Zinovia Canale
Mrs. John Caragianis
Mrs. Mary Champion
Mr. Chris Christopher
Mrs. Frances Christopher (of
blessed memory)
Mr. & Mrs. Dino Christy
Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Christy
Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Cofield
Mr. Michael Cofield
Mr. & Mrs. Jon Cooper
Mr. & Mrs. Dino Cotsoridis
Mr. & Mrs. Ted Cotsoridis
Mrs. Irene Cotsoridis
Mr. Paul Cotsoridis
Mrs. Elaine Cunningham

D

Ms. Mary Daglis
Mr. Bill Dedreux
Mr. & Mrs. James Demetriou

Mr. Harold Demopoulos
Mr & Mrs. Steve Diomandes
Mr. & Mrs. Lucian Dobrot
E
Mr. & Mrs. Demetri Economos
Mr. & Mrs. Aristides Eliopoulos
Fr. & Pres. Anthony Evangelatos

F

Mr. & Mrs. David Farias
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Fowler
Mr. Michael Fowler

G

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Mr. Aristotle Gatos
Mr. Jim George
Mr. & Mrs. Costa Gianetis
Dr. & Mrs. Evangelos Giannopoulos

H

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Ms. Penny Hiotas

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Holder
 Ms. Maria Holder
 Mr. Gus & Dr Joan Hologgitas

J

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 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Janaros
 Mr. & Mrs. David Jasinski
 Mr. & Mrs. Steve Jennings
 Mrs. D. R. Jex
 Mr. & Mrs. John Johnson

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 Mrs. Katherine Karanikolas
 Mr. & Mrs. Nick Karanikolas
 Mr. Steve Karapatakis
 Mrs. Angela Kempenaar
 Mr. & Mrs. Kyril Korolenko
 Ms Catherine Koulouvardis
 Mr. George Koulouvardis
 Mr. & Mrs. Harry Koulouvardis
 Mrs. Christine Kronos
 Mr. Peter Kronos
 Mrs. Rose Kutsaftis
 Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Kutsaftis
 Mr. Michael Kutsaftis
 Mr. James Kutsaftis
 Mr. & Mrs. Harry Kyriakidis
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Kyriakidis

L

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 Mr. Peter Lazar
 Mr. & Mrs. Gerard Levesque
 Mr. James Lewis
 Ms. Marea Lewis
 Mr. T. Theodore Lewis
 Mr. Constantine (of blessed
 memory) & Mrs. Mysine
 Logothets
 Ms. Christine Logothets

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 Mr. & Mrs. Denis Martland
 Mr. & Mrs. Brian McKeon
 Mr. & Mrs. Spyridon Meares
 Mrs. Kay Medeiros
 Mrs. John Meiczinger
 Mr. & Mrs. John Mellekas
 Mr. & Mrs. James Mellekas
 Mr. & Mrs. Steve Mellekas
 Mr. & Mrs. George Menas
 Ms. Marianne Menas
 Ms. Francine Menas
 Mr. Arthur (of blessed memory)
 & Mrs. Mary Michael
 Mr. John Michael
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Mihos
 Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Moisiadis

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Mrs. Helen Nelson
 Mr. Thomas Nichols

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 Mr. & Mrs. Leon Panteleos
 Ms. Jaclyn Parkos
 Mr. & Mrs. Greg Parkos
 Mr. & Mrs. Doukas Pasyanos, Sr
 Mr. Nick Pasyanos
 Ms. Gail Perry
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 Mr. & Mrs. George Petropoulos
 Mr. Christy Petropoulos
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Petrou
 Mr. & Mrs. Chris Psilos
 Mr. & Mrs. Haralambos Psilos

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 Mrs. Beatrice Rozes
 Mrs. Joan Rozes

Dr. James Rozes
 Mr. Komes Rozes
 Mrs. Mary Rozes

S

Mr. & Mrs. Sailes
 Mr. John Schindler
 Mr. Michael Sisak
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Soliozy
 Mr. Anthony Spiratos
 Mr. & Mrs. George Spiratos
 Mr. & Mrs. Adam St. Peter
 Mr. & Mrs. Athanasios
 Stefanopoulos
 Mr. & Mrs. Chris Stefanopoulos
 Ms. Georgia Stefanopoulos
 Mrs. Eva Stoupis
 Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Sullivan

T

Mr. & Mrs. James Tasso
 Mrs. Koula Tsaparas

V

Dr. & Mrs. Ernest Violet
 Mr. & Mrs. James Violet
 Mr. & Mrs. Melachrino Violet
 Mrs. Stella Volpicelli
 Ms. Angela Volpicelli
 Mr. Andrew Vouras

W-Y-Z

Mrs. Mersina Christopher Walsh
 Mrs. Kathryn Williams
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Wingert

PAIDEIA'S CORNERSTONE CEREMONY

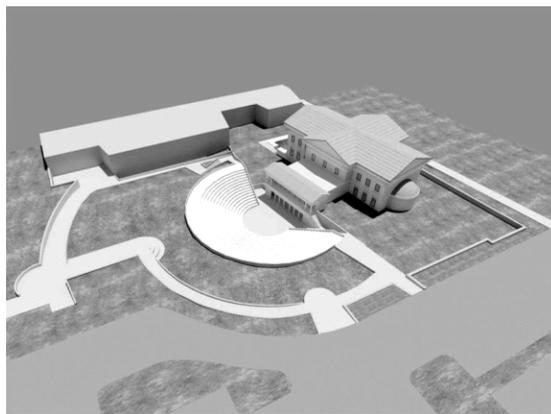
On Saturday, April 19th, The Hellenic Society PAIDEIA, during a very special ceremony will place the cornerstone for the construction of the "Rodos" Cultural Center and a Greek amphitheater on the grounds of the University of Rhode Island. The "Rodos" Center will occupy over 27,000 sq. ft. and will provide facilities for the Hellenic Studies Programs, as well as the Center of Humanities programs of the University.

It will also include the "Ayios Loukas" chapel that will fully illustrate to the students and faculty of URI and the State of Rhode Island, in general, Byzantine architecture, art, and history in an authentic venue.

An outdoors Classical Greek Amphitheater and a Socratic Corner will be constructed simultaneously adjacent to the Center.

Please join us for this momentous occasion, become part of the history of this magnificent project, and ensure its future. Join us, Saturday, April 19th, as we lay the cornerstone with the presence and blessing of our Metropolitan Methodios.

For more information, contact: John Lyssikatos at 401-728-4452



Renderings of the planned "Rodos" Cultural Center and Greek Amphitheater

IN OUR PARISH

Engagement: *Marianne Pylotis & Brett Fox* were recently engaged to be married. Their wedding is set for 10/5/08. We congratulate them as they prepare to bless their union in the Holy Orthodox Church!

AHEPA NEWS

Summer Programs in Greece: AHEPA and Paideia organizations offer numerous summer opportunities for students of all ages to explore Greece and immerse themselves in the society and culture. The AHEPA Journey to Greece Program is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to earn college credit while learning about ancient and modern Greece. The Paideia Summer programs offer various opportunities for children in age groups ranging from 8 to college age students. For more information, visit their respective websites: <http://www.ahepa.org/journey/> and <http://www.paideiaonline.org/>

Photo and Video Workshops: Photo and video editing tutoring continues to be offered free of charge in the fellowship hall on select Saturdays from 4:30 PM until 6:00 PM. The Saturday workshops currently planned are April 5, April 19, May 3, May 10, May 17, and May 31.

AHEPA Housing: The mission of AHEPA National Housing Corporation (ANHC) is to provide affordable housing for low-income elderly and disabled persons, and to insure that they receive the services designed to meet their physical and social needs. In Newport, there are currently two AHEPA houses. For more information: <http://www.ahepahousing.org/RhodeIsland.asp>

DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE NEWS

The chapter has sent two boxes of goodies to "Our man in Iraq" LCDR Vasilios Tasikas. Anyone interested in sending Vasilios Easter greetings, please contact Ellen Anagnostos.

Tickets for the Palm Sunday Fish Dinner are being sold at the coffee hours at church or from any officer. Please help us to continue in our charity work.

The next meeting will be held on TUESDAY, APRIL 8th at 7 pm at the Ahepa Housing. Plans for the Fish Dinner will be finalized at that time.

<p><i>In loving memory of</i> Grego Vincent Volpicelli</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.com The Wedding and Baptism Store Offering elegant accessories Visit us at www.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</p>	<p>A-1 Pizza 306 Broadway Newport <i>Free Delivery</i> 849-2213</p>	<p>Rhea's Bed & Breakfast <i>Accommodations with 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>All American Foods, Inc.</p>	<p><i>Compliments of</i> A Friend</p>	<p><i>In loving memory of</i> Anthony & Dorothea Rozes</p>