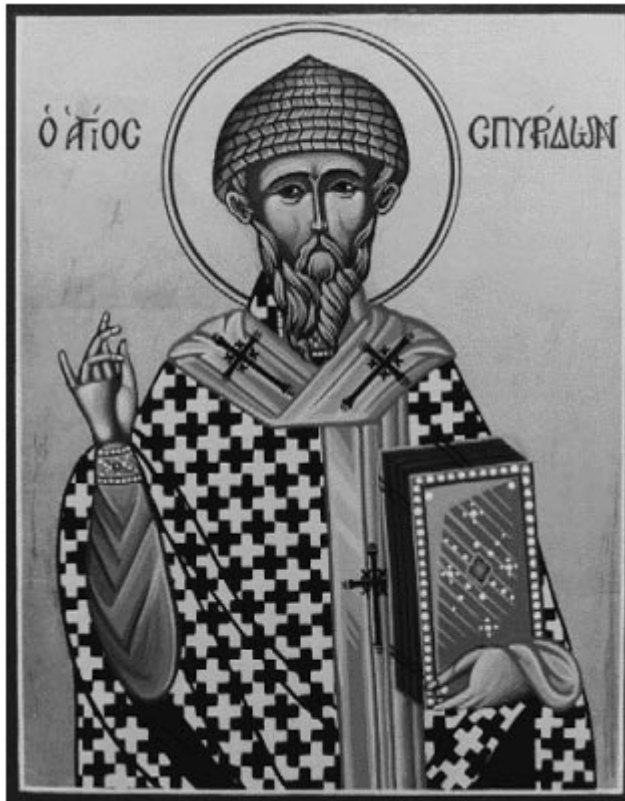

THE SAINT SPYRIDON VOICE
DECEMBER 2008



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 Dr. George E. Economou

frgeorge@stspyridonchurch.org

Office Hours

Priest: Tuesday & Thursday, 10 am—1 pm; For emergencies, call (401) 474-7770 (cell)

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

Parish Council President: Zoe Adamedes

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)

Soup Kitchen: To be announced

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

Weekday Festal Celebrations:

Vespers—7 pm*

Orthros—9 am

Divine Liturgy—10 am

* Note: Holy Confession is available by appointment.

FROM FATHER GEORGE

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

The uniqueness of the Christian faith is not found in the belief in God – other religions also have that, rather, the uniqueness of Christianity is to be found in the conviction that God is love, and that clearest revelation of this love is to be found in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus was born into midst of an oppressed and demoralized people who were searching for hope and validation. They needed to know that they had not been abandoned by the God of their fathers, and they found assurance of that continuing love at work in the person of Christ.

Christmas 2008 still finds us looking for the same assurances. We live in a difficult and oftentimes very dark world. We too need hope and validation as we make our way through these difficulties, and we need the knowledge that, in spite of our shortcomings, we remain worth loving. By coming into the world, Christ hoped to provide us with that upholding reassurance.

But it is not only important that Christ came into the world. How He came also has a great deal to teach us. He came into this world by being born in a stable. This humble beginnings was meant to teach each of us that no home was too simple or too poor to offer hospitality to the King of Glory. Even the simplest hut is grander than the stable that marked the start of Christ's earthly journey.

That is why Christmas is a joyous celebration. It tells us that God loves us enough to reach out over the unbridgeable chasm that separates us, through the life of Jesus Christ. No one of us, no, not one, is beyond the reach of that love. Christmas also teaches us that no human heart is so humble that it cannot offer hospitality to Christ. He was born in a stable so that each of us could accept in confidence his desire to be part of our lives.

The humility and love of Jesus Christ, however, allows for no coercion. Each of us is free to choose if we shall offer an invitation. As He came into the world He was refused many times until room was found in the stable, and He continues to be refused in many homes today. May God grant that in ours He finds a warm welcome.

A BLESSED AND JOYOUS CHRISTMAS

Η ΓΕΝΝΗΣΙΣ ΤΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ

Το μοναδικό στοιχείο του Χριστιανισμού δεν είναι η πίστις στο Θεό, διότι όλες οι θρησκείες του κόσμου ασπάζουν αυτήν την αλήθεια. Μάλλον η μοναδικότης του Χριστιανισμού ευρίσκεται στην πεποίθησι ότι ο Θεός είναι αγάπη, και ότι η πιό άμεση έκφρασι και αποκάλυψι της αγάπης αυτής υπάρχει στο πρόσωπο του Ιησου Χριστού. Ο Χριστός εγεννήθη σε λαό τυραννισμένο και απηλλισμένον, ο οποίος ζητούσε ελπίδα και πεποίθησι. Ηθελε την βεβαίωσι ότι ο Θεός των πατέρων τους δεν τους είψε εγκαταλείψει, και την βεβαίωσι αθή της αγάπης του Θεού την ευρήκε στο πρόσωπο του Χριστού.

Και τώρα τα Χριστούγεννα του 2008 η ανθρωπότητα ακόμα ζητάει την ελπίδα και την πεποίθησι αυτή. Ζούμε σε δύσκολοθς καιρούς και σκοτεινό κόσμο, και χρειάζομεθα την γνώσι ότι παρά τας ελλείψεις μας, παραμένουμε άξιοι αυτής της αγάπης. Όταν ήλθε στον κόσμο μας ο Χριστός, ήθελε να μας προσφέρη την βεβαίωσι αυτή.

Αλλά δεν είναι σπουδαίο μόνον το γεγονός ότι ο Χριστός ήλθε στον κόσμο. Και ο τρόπος με τον οποίο ήλθε έχει πολλά να μας διδάξη. Εγεννήθη σε στάβλο μεταξύ αλόγων ζώων. Με την ταπεινή αυτή αρχή ήθελε να μας τονίση ότι δεν υπάρχει σπίτι τόσο απλό η φτωχό που δεν μπορεί να προσφέρη φιλοξενία στον Βασιλέα της Δόξης. Ακόμα και η τελευταία καλύβα είναι ανώτερη από το στάβλο που σηματοδεδυσε την αρχή της επιγείου πορείας του Χριστού.

Γιαυτό ο εορτασμός των Χριστουγέννων είναι τόσο χαρμόσυνο γεγονός. Μας λέει ότι ο Θεός έρχεται να γεφυρώση το χάσμα που μας χώριζε, με την ζωή και δράσι του Ιησού Χριστού. Κανένας απολύτως δεν βρίσκεται πέρα από αυτή την αγάπη, και τα Χριστούγεννα μας διδάσκουν ότι καμμιά ανθρώπινη καρδιά δεν είναι τόσο ταπεινή πο'θ δεν μπορεί να φιλοξενήση τον Χριστό. Γεννήθηκε σε στάβλο ώστε να μπορέση και ο τελευταίος μεταξύ μας να έχη βεβαία την πεποίθησι ότι ο Κύριος θέλει να είναι μέρος της ζωής μας.

Η ταπεινότητα και η αγάπη του Κυρίου όμως δεν επιτρέπει την βία. Ολοι είμαστε ελεύθεροι να αποφασίσουμε εάν θα προσφέρουμε την πρόσκλησι μας και την φιλοξενία μας στον Κύριο. Όταν ήλθε στον κόσμο ο Χριστός, πολλοί ήσαν εκείνοι που τον αρνήθηκαν και τον ωδήγησαν στον στάβλο, και η άρνησις αυτή συνεχίζεται σε πολλά σπίτια σήμερα. Ευχή μας είναι ότι όταν έλθη στα δικά μας σπίτια θα εύρη ζεστή και λαμπρά υποδοχή. Αμήν

ΚΑΛΑ ΚΑΙ ΕΥΛΟΓΗΜΕΝΑ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΑ

PARISH FEASTDAY

This year, the celebration of the feast of St. Spyridon will be as follows:

Thursday, 12/11, 7 pm – Great Vespers & artoklasia for St. Spyridon with visiting clergy, to be followed by Philoptochos-sponsored Lenten reception

Friday, 12/12, Feast of St. Spyridon – Orthros 9 am, Divine Liturgy 10 am

Please plan on attending the vespers of St. Spyridon in order to welcome our guests and to celebrate the memory of our beloved patron saint!

NATIVITY FAST GUIDELINES

We continue our observance of the Nativity Fast with the following traditional guidelines:

Up to 12/12: no animal products permitted, including eggs & dairy; fish, wine & olive oil permitted daily, except for Wed. & Fri. (it is tradition to consume fish, wine & olive oil on a parish's feastday, regardless of the day of the week, which for us is Fri. 12/12)

12/13-12/24: strict Lenten fast on weekdays (no animal products, fish, or alcohol permitted); wine & olive oil permitted on Sat. & Sun. (some only follow this stricter fast for one week prior to the Nativity)

Note: shellfish is permitted daily throughout the entire fast

Remember, these are guidelines for following an *ideal* fast as prescribed by the Church. Any attempt, small or large, to follow these guidelines will be spiritually beneficial to us, but *only* if our fasting is accompanied by *increased prayer, frequent church attendance, and charitable works*. We remind everyone again, that fasting is always reduced accordingly for expectant mothers, growing children, and in the case of illness or compromised health.

SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

Wednesday 12/24 – the Eve of the Nativity

Great Hours, 9am (a vigil for the feast of the Nativity)

Vesperal Vigil Liturgy, 5:30pm (the continuation of the vigil of the feast)

Thursday 12/25 – the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord in the Flesh

Orthros, 9am, Divine Liturgy, 10am, followed by traditional carols by our Choir

May you all have a most blessed celebration of the Nativity of our Lord!

DECEMBER 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
	1	2	3	4 St. John of the Baptist Barbara Great Martyr Orthros 9:00 a.m. Div. Liturgy. 10:00 a.m.
<i>Nativity Fast Continues</i>				
7 10th Luke St. Ambrose of Milan Orthros. 9:00 a.m. Div Liturgy 10:00 a.m.	8	9	10	11 Great Vespers St. Spyridon Reception to
<i>Nativity Fast Continues</i>				
14 11th Luke Of the Forefathers Orthros. 9:00 a.m. Div. Lit. 10:00 a.m.	15	16 Boston Metropolis Clergy meeting Metropolis Center 10.30 a.m.	17 Prophet Daniel Three Holy Children St. Dionysios Orthros. 9:00 a.m. Div. lit. 10:00 a.m.	18 Fr. George the shut-ins a.m. on. Please call the names
<i>Nativity Fast Continues</i>				
21 Before the Feast of the Lord's Nativity. Orthros. 9:00 a.m. Div. Lit. 10:00 a.m. Christmas Pageant	22	23	24 Eve of the Lord's Nativity. St. Eugenia Gr. Hours 9:00 a.m. Vespers Div. Liturgy of Nativity 5:30 p.m.	25 THE NATIVITY OUR LORD. CHRISTMAS Orthros. 9:00 a.m. Div. Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
<i>Nativity Fast Continues</i>				
28 After the Feast of the Lord's Nativity. Orthros. 9:00 a.m. Div. Liturgy. 10:00 a.m.	29	30	31	JANUARY 1 NEW YEAR St. Basil the Great Orthros. 9:00 a.m. Div. Liturgy. 10:00 a.m.

Fri

Sat

Damascus St. 5
 t
 a.m.
 10:00a.m

6 St. Nicholas
 Wonderworker
 Orthros 9:00 a.m.
 Div.Liturgy 10:00a.m

pers of 12 ST.SPYRIDON 13
 7:00 p.m. WONDERWORKER
 follow Our Patron Saint
 Orthros.9:00a.m.
 Div.Liturgy10.00a.m.

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 from 10:00

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 a.m.
 10:00 am

*No fasting
 December 25—January 4*

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 10:00 a.m.

Upcoming Events

December 4—Philoptochos Christmas Gathering, Mainstay Inn, 6pm

December 7—General Assembly following Liturgy

December 8—Soup Kitchen, setup 4 pm, meal 5 pm

December 11—Philoptochos hosts reception following St Spyridon Vespers

December 21—Christmas Pageant following Liturgy

Regular Events

Religious Education—Sundays, immediately after Holy Communion

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

Adult Greek School—Mondays, 4-6 pm

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

We thank all of the members of our community who supported the Annual Penny Social this year, which we are happy to report was a success. We would also like to inform the community that the Philoptochos is donating a reclining wheelchair to the Rehabilitation Unit at the Newport Hospital to be used for transporting patients to other parts of the hospital.

The Philoptochos Christmas Gathering will be on Thursday, December 4th at the Mainstay Inn at 6:00pm. We invite all ladies of the community to attend. Please call Elaine Brown by December 3rd at 849-3480 if you are planning to join us.

Finally, the Philoptochos as is the tradition, will host the Coffee Hour following St. Spyridon Vespers on December 11th.

A most Blessed Holiday Wish is extended to the community and a wish for a Happy and Healthy New Year!

IN OUR PARISH

Baptisms: The daughter of April and Bradley Sjosten was baptized on November 1st and given the name *Constantina* by her godparents Rachel George and Eric Sardinha. Proud grandparents are Pam and David Sardinha and great grandmother is Barbara Parkos. May she live many years!

The daughter of Melissa and Todd Siebens was baptized on November 2nd and given the name *Kyra Ann* by her godmother and aunt Melanie Ann Morin. May she live many years!

Alexander Batrakov, son of Janna Batrakov and grandson of Zina Bashlayeva, was baptized on Sunday, November 16th. His sponsors were Michael Sisak and Ellen Spielberg. May he live many years!

The son of Ourania and Athanasios Stefanopoulos was baptized on November 22nd and given the name *Christos* by his godparents Evangelos and Xanthoula Giannopoulos. Proud grandparents are Chris and Sofia Stefanopoulos. May he live many years!

Death: Long time parishioner Peter K. Lazar fell asleep in the Lord on October 30th. He is survived by two sons, Robert of Middletown and Paul of Winchester, MA, nine grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. May his memory be eternal.

SOUP KITCHEN NEWS

The fall harvest brought us lovely donations for November and December: sweet potatoes, onions, squash, apples, bananas, and herbs, those items in addition to the donations that appear without fail every month. We've also received generous gifts of cash this fall. We served about 80 turkey dinners in November. The December soup kitchen meal is scheduled for Dec. 8th. Our date is always the second Monday of each month. We set up at 4 pm and serve at 5. If you'd like to help in any way, please talk to Jane Iandolo or Sofi Cofield.

SPEND FIRST NIGHT WITH THE NEWPORT HELLENIC

The Newport Hellenic dancers have been invited to participate at the First Night celebration in Newport this New Year's Eve, at the Newport Visitor Center from 6:00-6:45. We are both excited and happy that our children will have the chance to showcase their talents and enthusiasm. We believe that this is a good opportunity for our church community to show Newport during this festive night a small part of our Greek Heritage and Culture. Our children will perform a full program with dances from all over Greece wearing their traditional costumes.

We invite all in the community to join us together with their families, friends and neighbors to celebrate the coming of the New Year. We are looking for full participation so please let us know if you would like to join us. Sandy and Vaggelis Giannopoulos (667-2984)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND GREEK SCHOOL PROGRAM

Our Christmas Pageant this year will be on Sunday, December 21st. Greek School and Religious Education will be combined for the pageant. Mike and Sandy's classes will be reading lines for our play. The younger children will be our angels and shepherds for the play. All classes will be singing Away in a Manger, Hark the Herald, and We wish You a Merry Christmas. We hope the whole community will plan to join us for this special celebration!

God Bless!
Marianne

AHEPA NEWS

Next AHEPA 245 Meeting

The December meeting of the local AHEPA Chapter is traditionally taking place with the Daughters at a local restaurant.

The January meeting of the local AHEPA Chapter will take place the Second Monday of January. We plan to have a dinner at a local restaurant. The place and time will be announced on time.

AHEPA Kafenio

Fellowship, “paraia”, refreshments, and Greek movies will be offered in the community hall by the AHEPA 245 and Daughters of Penelope on selected Saturdays.

Saturday, December 6 at 7 PM.

A Girl in Black directed by Michael Cacoyannis.

(Synopsis from Netflix) Pavlos (Dimitri Horn), a talented but unsuccessful writer, takes up residence in the neglected house of an impoverished widow on the sunny island of Hydra. The widow soon becomes the focus of a scandal, but Pavlos still falls for her timid daughter, Marina (Ellie Lambetti) -- even as local hostility threatens to tear them apart. This 1956 drama from director Michael Cacoyannis brought international attention to the Greek film industry.

All the members of the community along with their friends are invited. FREE Admission.

AHEPA Lecture:

The local Chapters of AHEPA and Daughters of Penelope sponsored a lecture by Mr. Christo Papoutsy, titled “Ships of Mercy”, an important contribution to the account of the CATASTROPHE OF SMYRNA that took place at the hands of the Turks following the First World War. Mr. Papoutsy described in graphic detail the events that led up to the disaster and offered newly discovered information emphasizing the important role played by Americans in the humanitarian effort of that period, while at the same time dispelling various myths associated with the disaster.

AHEPA and Daughters Memorabilia Project

For anyone interested in photo, video, & audio editing tutoring will also be offered free of charge during the Kafeneio. Michael Sisak will share his knowledge of Adobe Photoshop Elements, Adobe Premiere Elements, Pinnacle, Adobe Audition, and Sony Acid Studio software. Bring your pictures to preserve them. They will be returned to you.

BOOKSTORE SALE!!! 20—40% OFF

All books prices are 20-40% off the suggested retail price!!

Will make GREAT Christmas gifts for the ones who love to read; for young children; for history buffs; etc.. The bookstore also carries icons, incense, cds and tapes; children's books in Greek

Come check them out!!!! Remember, all monies go back to the Bookstore to purchase new items; support your Bookstore!!!!

DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE NEWS

The Daughters of Penelope wish everyone a Blessed Holiday Season. The first meeting of the new year will be on Tuesday, January 13, 2009.

HOLY CONFESSION

It is a pious tradition to participate in the Holy Mystery of Confession during the four major fast periods of the year, as well as anytime there is a particular need to do so. Confession is available by calling the office during office hours to arrange with Fr. George a date and time.



A
Blessed
Christmas
To All

<p><i>In loving memory of</i></p> <p>Grego Vincent Volpicelli</p>	<p>Order of AHEPA Maud Howe Elliott Chapter No. 245</p> <p>Daughters of Penelope Ares Chapter Number 49</p>	<p>Mel's Cafenio 25 Broadway Newport 849-6420</p>
<p><i>With compliments of...</i></p> <p>Dr. Joanne and Mr. C. Gus Hologgitas</p>	<p>Aquidneck Pizza Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner 27 Aquidneck Avenue Middletown</p> <p>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</p> <p><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></p> <p>Island of Skiathos Organization Established 1967</p>	<p>Flo's Drive-In <i>Portsmouth</i> Flo's Clam Shack <i>Middletown</i></p> <p><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>Steve H. Jennings Certified Senior Advisor, CSA Advanced Planning Associates Retirement Planning Phone: 401.247.9882 E-mail: sjplanner@aol.com</p>	<p><i>In loving memory of</i></p> <p>Anthony & Dorothea Rozes</p>