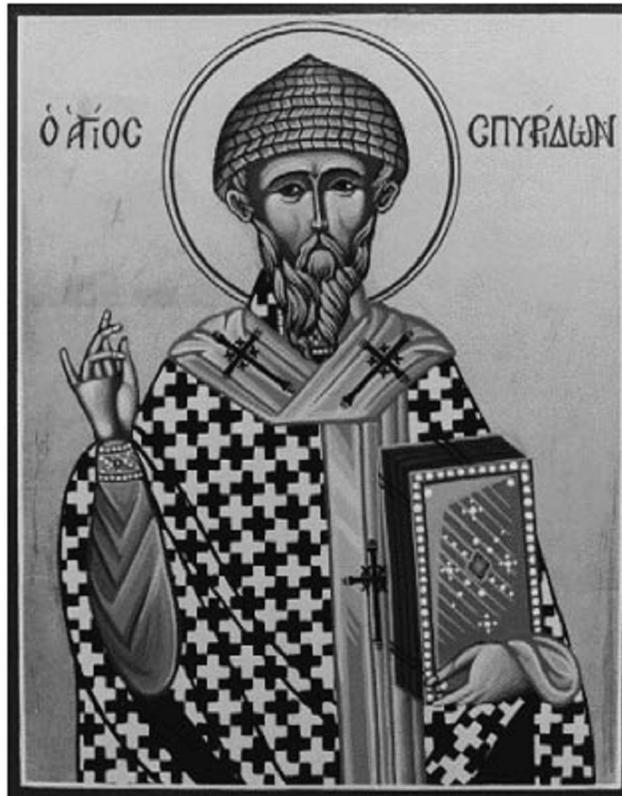

THE SAINT SPYRIDON VOICE
JANUARY 2008



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

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

Philotochos 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 has been reprinted from the January 2005 publication of the St. Spyridon Voice.)

After having celebrated the glorious feast of the Nativity of Christ, we immediately go into another great feast of our Lord – Holy Theophany – the *manifestation* of His divinity to the world. It is considered a feast of *light*, because in this feast, God who is the source of light, is physically revealed to the world as a *Trinity* for the first time in history. We are bathed in divine light as we celebrate this most solemn feast of our Church. What we should ask for in prayer at the feast of Theophany is *enlightenment*, so that we may *walk as children of light and not of darkness*. (Eph. 5:8).

As Isaiah the Prophet said, “*The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death, light has dawned.*” (Is 9:2). “*It is for our illumination that Christ plunged into the waters of the Jordan: now we receive the unfading light. We are henceforth made sons of God, sons of the day. The water gives us sight just as it did to the blind man at the pool of Siloam. We were blind because we did not know the true light, now we are healed and we see Christ.*” (*The Incarnate God, Vol. 1*, Catherine Aslanoff; SVS Press 1995).

Just over a week ago, we saw Christ in the mystery of the incarnation of God. We beheld the All-Powerful Creator as a helpless human baby – a miraculous image beyond human reasoning. In the feast of Theophany, we come face to face with the *God-man* – the *Theanthropos* – and see him as a mature adult. All Creation trembles and flees before the Master as He enters the waters of the Jordan River: “*The sea saw it and fled; Jordan turned back. The mountains skipped like rams, the little hills like lambs. What ails you, O sea, that you fled...? Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob...*” (Ps 114:3-7).

The symbolism of water is very central to the feast of Theophany. One cannot consider anything on earth as *living* without the presence of water, in some form or another. Therefore, it is so very logical that Christ should begin His public ministry by sanctifying all of Creation through His baptism in the Jordan. The Source of Life reclaimed all of Creation to Himself through this holy act, and then went out into the world to begin His public ministry. Christ gave new life to the world through His redemptive work, whose purpose was the salvation of fallen mankind.

“At the ‘Feast of Lights’ (a popular name for Theophany), priests bless water for the use of the faithful...Each person draws from it abundantly, to quench one’s thirst, to purify oneself, to cure diseases, and to bless homes. From the heart of the Church, the body of Christ, ‘flow rivers of living water’ (Jn 7:38).” (The Incarnate God, as cited above). Through the holy rituals of the feast, we are brought into the presence of the original holy mystery of Theophany, at which the rivers of living water began to flow. We too, in spirit, witness the voice of the Father proclaiming Christ as His beloved Son, and we see the Holy Spirit rest upon the Son in the form of a dove.

Through Holy Theophany, we are illumined by the divine radiance of the Holy Trinity, in order that we may be spiritually renewed and cleansed as we turn toward the upcoming journey to Golgotha and the empty Tomb. Through this feast, darkness is dispelled so that we may easily re-find the path to Christ and salvation. May we all find time out of our busy schedules to celebrate this glorious feast of light, so that we may be sharers in the Divine Light of the all-holy, consubstantial, life-giving, and undivided Trinity!

In Christ’s love,

+Fr. Anthony

HOUSE BLESSINGS FOR THEOPHANY SEASON

As always, Fr. Anthony is available for the venerable tradition of the blessing of homes after Holy Theophany. He will commence house blessings on 1/8. Many of our parishioners have never taken advantage of this tradition, which is offered for the sanctification of your homes and families. Please call Fr. Anthony at church to arrange a mutually convenient time for your house blessing.

RETIREES LUNCHEON & PRESENTATION

Our December retirees program was held on the feast of St. Spyridon – 12/12. A DVD was viewed about the return of the relics of Sts. John Chrysostom and Gregory the Theologian by the Vatican to Constantinople. We extend our gratitude to Steve and Greg Mellekas of *Mel's Cafeneion* for providing the lunch. Our next gathering will be **on the feast of St. Anthony, Thursday 1/17, immediately after liturgy**. Please take notice of the half-hour adjustment of the service times on the calendar, in order to accommodate our luncheon and presentation.

SERVICE CANCELLATIONS

As we do each winter, service cancellations on bad weather days will be announced on the church's voicemail 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.

REFLECTIONS ON THEOPHANY

(The following is taken from The Year of Grace of the Lord, by “a Monk of the Eastern Church”, SVS Press, 1992.)

Epiphany (same as “Theophany”) is the first public manifestation of Christ. At the time of His birth, our Lord was revealed to a few privileged people. Today, all those who surround John, that is to say his own disciples and the crowd that has come to the banks of the Jordan, witness a more solemn manifestation of Jesus Christ. What does the manifestation consist of? It is made up of two aspects. On the one hand, there is the aspect of humility represented by the baptism to which our Lord submits; on the other hand, there is the aspect of glory represented by the human witness that the Precursor (St. John the Forerunner) bears to Jesus, and, on an infinitely higher plane, the divine witness which the Father and the Spirit bear to the Son...Let us bear this in mind: every manifestation of Jesus Christ, both in history and in the inner life of each man, is simultaneously a manifestation of humility and of glory. Whoever tries to separate these two aspects of Christ commits an error which falsifies the whole of spiritual life...

The aspect of humility in Epiphany consists of the fact that Our Lord submits to John’s baptism of repentance... Obviously Jesus had no need to be purified by John, but this baptism conferred by the Precursor, this baptism for the remission of sins, was a preparation for the messianic kingdom; and Jesus, before proclaiming the coming of this kingdom, wished to go through all those preparatory phases which He himself was to ‘consummate’. Being Himself the fullness, He wished to take into Himself all that was still incomplete and unfinished... He who was without sin made Himself the bearer of all our sins, of the sin of the whole world; and it is in the name of all sinners that Jesus made a public act of repentance... As far as we ourselves are concerned, repentance is the aspect of humility in Epiphany. And here we must go beyond the limited horizon of the Johannine baptism and remind ourselves that we have been baptized in Christ. Christian baptism has washed and purified us... Epiphany is, above all, the feast of baptism, not only of Jesus’ baptism, but also of our own. It is a wonderful opportunity for us to renew in spirit the baptism that we received, and to revive the grace which was conferred on us. For the sacramental graces, even if interrupted and suspended by sin, can become alive in us again, if we turn sincerely to God. At this feast of Epiphany, let us ask God to wash us

again – spiritually, not actually – in the waters of baptism; let us drown the old, the sinful creature in them, for baptism is a mystical death; let us cross the Red Sea which separates captivity from freedom and let us immerse ourselves with Jesus in the Jordan to be washed not by the Precursor, but by Jesus Himself...

This feast brings us, not only the grace of purification, but also the grace of illumination (in fact, baptism itself was formerly called “illumination”). The light of Christ at Christmas was but a star in the dark night; at Epiphany it appears to us as the rising sun; it will grow and, after the eclipse of Holy Friday, burst forth yet more splendid, on the morning of Easter; and finally, at Pentecost, it will reach its full zenith...

ST. SPYRIDON BOOKSTORE

Stop and have a look at the rich selection of our Bookstore. The Bookstore just received **60 new icons!**

The bookstore has many items available such as books, icons, compact discs, incense, etc. The available items are related mostly to the Orthodox Christian faith and there are a few on Hellenic culture. Most of the items are difficult to find in the local bookstores. The prices are printed on the items. If you need an item that is not available, ask Basile or email (Basile.Panoutsopoulos@Verizon.net) for further information.

New items are ordered regularly. The bookstore operates on the honor system; please leave the money or your check (payable to St. Spyridon, with the indication Bookstore) in the basket located in the middle of the two tables of the Bookstore.

JANUARY 2008

Sunday Winter Hour

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
		1 Circumcision of Christ, St. Basil the Great (no services)	2 (no services)	3
		<i>Fr. Anthony on vacation</i>		
		<i>No fasting through 1/4; all foods permitt</i>		
6 Holy Theophany, Great Blessing of Water Altar Team A	7 Synaxis of St. John the Forerunner, Orthros & Lit.	8	9 Small Vespers 7 pm, fol- lowed by adult rel. ed.	10
			<i>(fast day)</i>	
13 Sunday. after Theophany Altar Team B	14	15	16 Great Vespers of St. An- thony 7 pm, followed by adult rel. ed.	17 St. Anthony the Orthros 9:30 ar 10:30 am
			<i>(fast day)</i>	
20 The 12th Sunday. of Luke Altar Team A	21	22	23 Small Vespers 7 pm, fol- lowed by adult rel. ed.	24
			<i>(fast day)</i>	
27 Sunday. of Zaccheus Altar Team B	28	29 Gr. Vespers of the Holy 3 Hierarchs, 7 pm	30 The Holy 3 Hierarchs, Orthros & Lit.; Paraklesis 7 pm	31
			<i>(fast day)</i>	

Hours Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10 am

Fri

Sat

4
Great Hours of
Theophany, 10 am

5
Eve of Theophany & 1st
Blessing of Water, Orthros
& Lit; Gr. Vespers of
Theophany, 6 pm

Permitted daily

11

12
Great Vespers, 6 pm

(fast day)

by the Great,
30 am, Lit.

18
Sts. Athanasios & Cyril,
Orthros & Lit.

19
Great Vespers, 6 pm

(fast day)

25

26
Great Vespers, 6 pm

(fast day)

Upcoming Events

January 8—Parish Council Meeting, 7 pm; Daughters of Penelope Meeting 7 pm

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

January 17—Retirees Luncheon & Presentation, after liturgy of St. Anthony

January 20—Philoptochos Vasilopita

Regular Events

Religious Education—Sundays, immediately after Holy Communion

Adult Religious Education—each Wednesday after Vespers

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

Adult Greek School—Mondays, 5-6 pm

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

CRUCIFIED CHRIST TO ADORN ICONOSTASION ONCE AGAIN

Another enhancement to our holy temple is the replacement of an integral part of any iconostasion, which is the Crucified Lord that should adorn the top. As you all know, there used to be such an icon, which for some reason was removed and apparently given away. Fr. Anthony came across a crucifixion scene at the studio of a Boston-based iconographer, that is in the same style as our church's iconography. The icon, which was in a state of disrepair, is from another church that was renovated in the Byzantine style. The iconographer gifted the icon to our church, and only charged for its repair and restoration, which brought it back to its original luster. The Logothets family has lovingly directed funds collected in memory of the late *Constantine Logothets*, to cover the cost of the restoration of the icon of the Crucifixion, which now adorns our iconostasion in memory of Costas.

IN APPRECIATION

We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the following: Costas Gianetis of *Coastal Electric*, for replacing all of the bulbs of the chandeliers of our church hall; Greg and Steve Mellekas and their families for graciously setting up and preparing the meal which was sponsored by our Parish Council, for the celebration of the visit of Metropolitan Methodios and our patronal feast day; our Philoptochos Society for sponsoring the St. Spyridon Vespers reception; Vangeli and Sandy Giannopoulos for baking and overseeing the sale of pastries for our dance group's fundraiser; and Ellen and George Anagnostos for once again overseeing the fundraising, and for printing our annual parish Christmas card. Make God bless all of these faithful stewards!

INSIDE OF CHURCH PAINTED GRATIS

For those who have not yet seen or heard, the inside of our beloved temple has been painted *gratis – both labor and all materials* – by Mr. George Tofias, a contractor who works for *All American Inc.*, owned by Mr. Theodore Kastanos. Mr. Kastanos is sharing the cost of the materials with Mr. Tofias. This incredible gift of Christian love was offered as a memorial to the late parents of George Tofias, and late father of Ted Kastanos. As most of you have seen, the ceiling of the church has been brought back to the color blue, which is the liturgically correct color traditionally used in the domes and ceilings of Orthodox churches. In addition, the light blue will enhance the lighting of our church, which is quite dim. Besides the painting, many needed repairs and other preparations preceded this project, again, free of charge. We are overwhelmed by this extremely generous offer by these two gentlemen, which has dramatically improved the look of our church, and has saved our parish several thousands of dollars (estimated to be upwards of \$35,000). May God bless both of these gentlemen, and grant rest to the souls of their late parents!

PHOTO AND VIDEO WORKSHOPS

Photo editing and video editing tutoring, sponsored by AHEPA, 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 January 5, January 12, January 26, February 2, February 9, and February 23, weather permitting.

IN OUR PARISH

Baptisms: The daughter of John & Kathryn (Michael) Williams was baptized on 12/2, and was given the name *Maria*. Her sponsor is Kathryn McKeon. May she live many years!

The daughter of Dr. Christos & Amy Kapogiannis was baptized on 12/22, and was given the name *Sofia*. Her sponsors are her uncle and aunt, Jeff & Eleni Baxter. May she live many years!

Milestone Anniversaries: Charles & Elaine Holder celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on 12/3. We congratulate the Holders' and wish them many more years together!

George & Ellen Anagnostos celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on 12/29. We congratulate the Anagnostos' as well, and also wish them many more years together!

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

The Philoptochos wishes the community a Happy and Healthy New Year. Please plan to join us on January 20th for the community Vasilopita.

Of course with the new year, we continue to invite the ladies of our community to join us as we complete our charitable work. Senior citizens (70+) and new brides may join for free.

Philoptochos Membership Dues Form 2007-08

Name _____

Amount Enclosed _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____

I would be happy to help with the following: (Please Check)

- Philoptochos Sponsored Coffee Hour
- Penny Social
- St. Spyridon Vespers Reception
- Philoptochos Sponsored Soup Kitchen
- Vasilopita
- Philoptochos Sponsored Lenten Dinner
- Social Dinner Meetings
- Other _____

Checks should be written to: St. Spyridon Philoptochos Society
Dues of \$20.00 may be sent directly to:

Mrs. Ionna Bairos-Moreau
96 Sherwood Terrace
Portsmouth, RI 02871

AHEPA NEWS

The local chapters of AHEPA and the Daughters of Penelope will receive a letter from their respective secretaries with details on the January meeting.

St. Spyridon Memorabilia

Please provide anything of related with our history, books, photographs, memoirs, etc. AHEPA and Daughters will soon have an exhibition of collected material.

For further information contact a brother or sister, or email: AHEPA245@verizon.net

A copy of a photograph is on display, on the AHEPA board, in the Community Hall, thanks to our sister Penny Hiotas. We are asking your help to identify the persons on the photograph. Please see Basile or Michel Sisak.

Journey to Greece Program

The AHEPA Journey to Greece Program was a great success in 2007. We Invite You To Join Us for the 2008 Journey to Greece Program. It is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to earn college credit while learning about ancient and modern Greece.

Visit the AHEPA web site: <http://www.ahepa.org/> and select "Journey to Greece".

PAIDEIA

Meetings have been taking place by the RI PAIDEIA Chapter. The construction work for the URI Center Of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies will start sometime during the Spring. You can see a tentative design of the building on the AHEPA NEWS board in the Community Hall.

DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE NEWS

The next meeting will be held on the Tuesday, January 8, 2008 at 7 pm.

We wish everyone a blessed New Year!.

<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.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 847-2750</p>	<p>A-1 Pizza 306 Broadway Newport Free Delivery 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 Newport 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>



Saint Spyridon
Greek Orthodox Church
Post Office Box 427
Newport, Rhode Island 02840

Address Service Requested

**Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
P A I D
Newport, RI
Permit Number 5**
