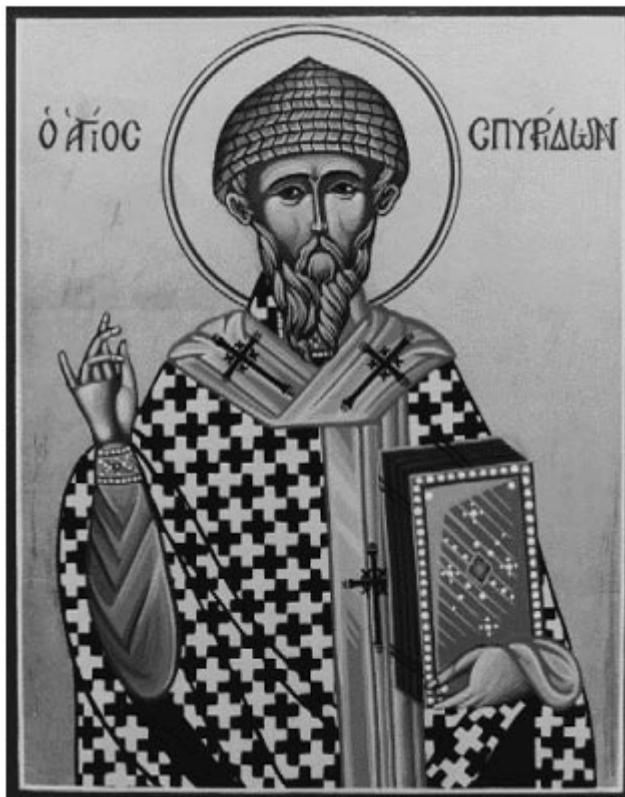

THE SAINT SPYRIDON VOICE
NOVEMBER 2008



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

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 THE PASTOR'S DESK



Let us Give Thanks Unto the Lord

Lord, I lift up my soul above the din and clamor of vanity on this Thanksgiving day; open my eyes, clarify my mind and motivate my spirit that I may recall my many blessings over the journey that I have traveled. Then, Surely, with a smile on my face, gratitude in my heart, sincerity in my thoughts and restful peace in my soul, I will thank Thee: FOR daily sustenance; the ability to walk into my home as a provider and to merit that rewarding look of a nourished child's face. FOR shelter that transforms the fearful thud of falling rain into a lullaby. FOR raiment that changes the frosty bite of winter into the caressing touch of comfort. FOR health that transforms painful agonies into hopeful pursuits. FOR faith and guidance which, like a candle, has led me out of the dark labyrinths of my transgressions into illuminated highways of Christian purposes. FOR peace of mind by day and restful sleep by night through the deliverance from my many sins. FOR banishing fear from my heart and preventing from happening the things that I came to dread. FOR lifting me with Thy Hand from the edge of the abyss of despair, and shining in my way the light of hope. FOR the church of my fathers; those who founded her, maintained her, enlarged her, beautified her, and enriched her, with their labors. FOR the country of my ancestry and the heritage she has bequeathed to me, which has worth and dignity. FOR this, my country, that fearlessly champions every God given right and every moral and humane cause; where the will of the people reigns supreme; where, even if the President dies, the Presidency never does. Where tragedy is succeeded by greatness, despair by decision, complacency by rededication. Where every man can make his contribution in freedom. FOR friends near and far who individually and collectively, personally, and nationally help me smile in my adversity, temper my disaster with their sympathy, warm my heart with their embrace. Grant that memories of sorrows consoled, catastrophes averted, joys experienced, and tears shed become no mere incidents on an aimless course, but permanent landmarks of Thy Exceeding Grace, on our way, in Jesus Christ our Lord. **FOR all these, Lord, I thank thee!**

FROM FATHER GEORGE'S COLLECTION ...

“We tithe, like all we do for Christ, out of love ...
out of love for the sacrifice He made for us.”

In late summer and early autumn we see the land resting after having yielded the grain and fruit of the season, if we live close enough to the farmland. In our developed societies we are not as tied to the land as those in agrarian societies. We do not suffer for lack of food at the grocery store, and perhaps are not as apt to pray in thanksgiving to God for the bounty just harvested.

Our ancestors in the bible knew that all they had came from God. What they had they held not as owners, but as stewards. Just as Adam was made steward, or caretaker, of creation, so they were merely stewards of their holdings. They also knew that God had decreed that a “tithe,” or 1/10 of all they harvested was to be returned to Him in thanksgiving and as appropriate worship.

“All tithes of the land, whether in grain from the fields or in fruit from the trees, belong to the Lord, as sacred to him ... The tithes of the herd and the flock shall be determined by ceding to the Lord as sacred every tenth animal.” (Leviticus 27:30,32)

What were God's people thankful for? Not only for the harvest, but primarily for the fact that God had rescued them from slavery in Egypt and was leading them to the Promised Land. They owed God their life.

Here we are a few thousand years later. Has anything changed? We are not God's people. Jesus, our Lord, has rescued us from slavery to sin and eternal death. He has opened to us the Gates of Heaven. We owe Him our life. Do we tithe? Did Jesus tell us to? If you answered “yes,” you have a very good memory. There is a passage in which Jesus uses the word “tithe.” In the passage He is calling the Pharisees to task. They have focused on keeping the law to the smallest detail, while missing the spirit they should be cultivating within.

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. Those you ought to have done without leaving the others undone” (Matthew 23:23).

Why did Jesus “preach tithing?” Jesus *presumed* that those listening to Him tithed. He told the scribes and Pharisees to open their eyes to justice, mercy, and faith, *while continuing to tithe.*

While there are those who say the Church should not talk about money, but rather about spiritual matters, the scriptures say, “No, worship of God, and sacrifice of material goods, has been our tradition since Abraham—a tradition that Jesus sanctioned.” Is not all we have from God? Salvation has come into the world, through Jesus Christ. We are the stewards of that salvation, and it is our responsibility to offer it to all people.

It is time to tithe, whether immediately, or in planned stages. Tithing will allow us to have stronger churches. Tithing will allow for the cross of Christ to be raised by mission parishes in every community. Tithing will help us meet the mandate of Christ, to “let our light shine” so others may come to know Him and be saved.

Is tithing easy? Is anything Christ asks of us easy? We tithe, like all we do for Christ, out of love. Out of love for the sacrifice He made for us, and out of love for those who are seeking the true faith.

- Carole Buleza

CHURCH CHRISTMAS CARD

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. Please use the form below and send it to the Church office as soon as possible. The deadline is December 1st. We would appreciate any extra donations toward the poinsettias that we use to decorate the church for the Christmas season. Thank you for your generosity.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD DONATION

NAME (please print) _____

Amount \$ _____

Telephone number _____

THE FATHERS SPEAK ON PHILANTHROPY

St. Justin in his First Apology for the Christian faith gives us a second century description of the Sunday Eucharis as a communal action that manifest three equally important and inseparable elements: the proclamation of the Word of God, the celebration of the Eucharist, and the sacrament of the poor brethren.



“And on the day named after the sun, all, whether they live in the city or the countryside, are gathered together in unity. Then the records of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read for as long as there is time. When the reader has concluded, the preside in a discourse admonishes and invites us into the pattern of these good things. Then we all stand together and offer prayer. And, as we said before, when we have concluded our prayer, bread is set out to eat, together with wine and water. The preside likewise, offers up prayer and thanksgiving, as much as he can, and the people sing out their assent saying the amen. There is a distribution of the things over which thanks have been said and each person participates, and these things are sent by the deacons to those who are not present. Those who are prosperous and who desire to do so give what they wish, according to each one’s choice, and the collection is deposited with the preside. He aids orphans and widows,

those who are in want through disease or through another cause, those who are in prison, and foreigners who are sojourning here. In short the preside is a guardian of all those who are in need.”

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Due to illness, there was no October Parish Council meeting. However, there are some corrections and updates of which the Parish family should be made aware. In last month's bulletin, I incorrectly valued the cost of the new church plantings (donated anonymously) at \$800. In actuality, the value is approximately \$1100. Also, the landscaping work was ably completed by Mr. Joe Aguiar, who not only did a great job, but he also planted numerous daffodils, which will hopefully naturalize over the years. The gutter extensions noted in last month's bulletin are only meant to be temporary and were installed by Mr. Aguiar so as to not hold up the plantings.

The installation of the ventilation in the school rooms in the basement has been completed, with the electrical service being hooked up.

The date for the Fall General Assembly will be set at the November Parish Council Meeting. Along with the budgetary items to be considered and various reports to be presented, the Parish family will be requested to review the changes proposed by our Parish's By-Law Committee. If you recall, this committee was appointed last year to review the Parish By-Laws for compliance with Archdiocese Uniform Parish Regulations, propose changes where necessary to bring the document into compliance, and to propose additional changes which may streamline parish operations. As part of the mailing prior to the General Assembly, all Stewards will be receiving the proposed changes for review prior to the General Assembly.

As the end of the year fast approaches, all Stewards are kindly requested to review their financial giving to the church for 2008 and, where necessary, send in their pledge today! Recent financial upheavals in the market only help to illustrate that we cannot count solely on savings and interest to carry us through difficult times. We must also step up to the plate and make our prayerful contribution.

As of this writing, our church has not received official notification from the Metropolis of an assignment of a priest for our parish. Until such official notification is received, our parish will be served by Fr. George Economou, recently retired from the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in Pawtucket. Once formal notification is received, each parishioner will receive a special mailing notifying everyone of the assignment. In the meantime, should an emergency arise which requires a priest (God forbid), please call the church office and speak to either Ellen Anagnostos, or listen to the answering machine message which provides information on who to call in case of need.

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

NOVEMBER 2008

Sunday Winter Ho

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu

2 3 4 5 6
 5th Sunday of Luke

(fast day)

9 10 11 12 13
 7th Sunday of Luke St. John Chrysostom, Lector
 Orthros 9, Liturgy 10

(wine and oil allowed)

16 17 18 19 20
 Matthew the Apostle & Evangelist

Nativity Fast Continues

23 24 25 St. Katherine the Great 26 27
 9th Sunday of Luke Martyr, Orthros 9, Liturgy 10

Nativity Fast Continues

30
 Andrew the First-called Apostle

Nativity Fast Continues

Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10 am

Fri

Sat

1

7

8

(fast day)

14

Prothesis,
Liturgy 10

15 FAST OF THE
NATIVITY OF OUR
LORD BEGINS

(fast day)

Nativity Fast Begins

21 Entrance of Theotokos, 22
Orthros 9, Liturgy 10

28

29

Upcoming Events

November 10—AHEPA Meeting

November 11—Soup Kitchen, setup 4 pm, meal 5 pm

November 11—Daughters of Penelope Meeting, 7 pm, AHEPA Housing

November 12—Philoptochos General Meeting, 6:30 pm, Church Hall

November 15—Doxa Conference, St. Spyridon Cathedral, Worcester, MA

Regular Events

Religious Education—Sundays, immediately after Holy Communion

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

Adult Greek School—Mondays, 4-6 pm

SAINTS OF NOVEMBER



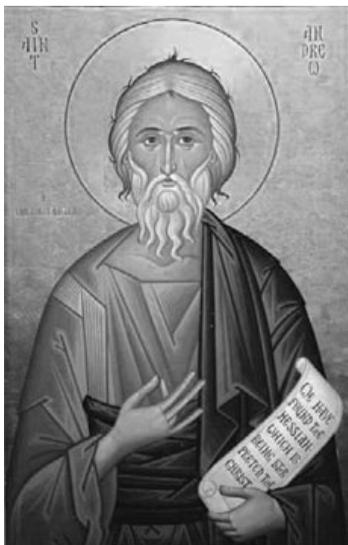
The Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple. Five of the great feast in the church calendar are dedicated to the Theotokos: her birth, her presentation into the temple, the annunciation, the presentation of Christ in the temple, and her Dormition. Joachim and Anna were childless for many years and prayed fervently for a child that they would dedicate to God. When the Theotokos was three years old, she was taken in a procession to the temple. Her parents, relatives and maidens, all bearing candles, led the way to the first step of the temple, and from there she ran up the remaining fourteen steps. Zacharias, father of Saint John the Baptist, took her by the hand into the temple. He was

instructed by divine inspiration to pass through the second curtain into the Holy of Holies, where only the high priest enters once a year. Joachim and Anna visited her often until their death. The Theotokos wished to remain a virgin in the temple her entire life. However, the Jewish law would not permit this, nor had this ever been heard of. For this reason, Zacharias chose an elderly relative to whom she was betrothed but not married, to protect her virginity. Joachim and Anna are buried at the base of the Garden of Gethsemane, about fifty steps down a cement staircase, and the empty tomb of the Theotokos is fifty steps below.



Great Martyr Katherine. Katherine was the daughter of a governor of early fourth-century Alexandria. Her mother took her to a holy man, who told her to pray all night before an icon of the Theotokos. When Katherine fell asleep, she saw a vision of the Theotokos and Jesus, but He would not look at her, saying that she was contemptible. Jesus told her to return to the elder for instructions, which she did. He baptized her and sent her to keep vigil all night and to fast and pray. Again, she saw the vision, but Jesus said that she was now resplendent to behold. He gave her a ring, which was also on her finger when she awoke and remains on her finger to this day. Emperor Maximinus commanded a festival to be held to the gods. Katherine went to the emperor and told him that his

gods were only men and that there was only one God, whose Word maintains the world. Maximinus, fearing that she would embarrass him, assembled 150 rhetoricians to debate her. She refuted the rhetoricians with the word of their poets, who foretold the times of Jesus Christ. The emperor condemned the 150 to death by fire. Before they died, Katherine sealed each one with the sign of the cross, as she had converted them all. They all died, but not even a hair on their head was singed. Katherine was beaten and imprisoned. The emperor's wife, his military commander, and two hundred soldiers visited Katherine in prison, all became Christians, and all were beheaded by the emperor. The emperor asked Katherine to be his queen if only she would worship his idols. When she refused, she was beheaded at the age of eighteen. Her fragrant relics were transported by angels to Saint Katherine's Monastery on Mount Sinai.



Apostle Andrew, the First Called. After Pentecost, Andrew taught in Byzantium, Thrace, Scythia, Epiros, and Peloponnesus. In Sinope, he prayed for the imprisoned Apostle Matthias, his chains fell from him, and the cell door opened. The people beat Andrew, breaking his teeth and cutting his fingers, and left him for dead in a dung heap. Jesus appeared to him and healed him, telling him to be of good cheer. When the people saw him the next day, they were amazed and believed. In Patras, Andrew healed the wife of the proconsul Aegeates of an incurable disease of the eyes. He healed a paralytic, lepers and all manner of disease. Aegeates heard all of this and arrested Andrew. He tried to compel him through beatings to sacrifice to idols and so restore idolatry to his country. When Andrew refused, he was tied to a cross upside down so that he would live longer and suffer more. Twenty thousand of the faithful stood by and

mourned. Even then, Andrew taught them and exhorted them to endure temporary sufferings for he kingdom of heaven. Out of fear of the people, Aegeates came to remove Andrew from the cross. Andrew, however, said that Aegeates could still become a Christian, but that he had already seen Jesus and he would not allow himself to be removed from the cross. Suddenly, a heavenly light illumined Andrew for about half an hour, and then he gave up his spirit. Andrew's relics are housed in the Church of the Holy Apostles in Constantinople.

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Reminder to All: Please join the Philoptochos on November 5th at Fenner Hall (on Fenner Avenue) for our annual Penny Social. Doors will open at 5:30 pm, tickets are \$8.00, and dinner will be served shortly thereafter. The members of the Philoptochos have been very busy organizing their major, annual fund raiser and look forward to making it a huge success. In addition to all of the varied items and gift certificates available for raffle tickets, remember there will be beautiful and hearty Themed Baskets available as well. All proceeds benefit the many charitable organizations which the Philoptochos supports both nationally and locally. We look forward to the St. Spyridons' community supporting and enjoying this truly pleasurable event.

Philoptochos Meeting Calendar 08-09

Wednesday, November 12 - Regular Meeting, 6:30pm, Church Hall

Wednesday, January 14- Board Meeting, 6:30pm, Janice Tasso's house

Wednesday, February 11 - Regular Meeting, 6:30pm, Church Hall

March Meeting - To be announced

Wednesday, May 20 - Board Meeting, 6:30pm, Helen Nelson's house

Wednesday, June 24 - Dinner Meeting, Location to be announced

*Philoptochos will also be hosting one of the Soup Kitchens this year - details to follow.

IN OUR PARISH

Weddings:

Constantine Aramant and *Kristin Deveault* were married on October 4th with Fr. George Economou officiating. Koumbaro was Demitri Moisiades. May they live many years!

Marianne Pyliotis and *Brett Fox* were married on October 5th with Fr. George Economou officiating. Koumbaro was Marianne's brother, George Pyliotis. May they live many years!

COFFEE HOUR

Don't depend on others to provide the goodies and work for Sunday coffee hour! We need you! Volunteer to set up or clean up. Provide juice and milk. Bring in goodies. Contribute cash. Our table will never be bare if everyone helps. In response to our recent request, generous folks have come in with goodies we are saving in the freezer for use when needed. Thank you! Please keep this hospitality in mind when you shop. Individuals, families, and organizations often undertake the entire effort of a coffee hour for the enjoyment of all, but when there is no sponsor, the rest of us must step up. You can check the sign-up sheet on the kitchen door for information about when these special coffees are scheduled so that you can offer your much-appreciated help for the empty Sundays.

SOUP KITCHEN NEWS

DeCastro's in Portsmouth kindly donated 25 lb. of tomatoes for our September soup kitchen! Our guests enjoyed delicious tomato salad with this generous gift. In October, we received the makings of a special slaw salad. The soup kitchen also received (as donation) apples for everyone in Oct, as well as many vegetables to augment the November meal. Every month, we receive donations of corn bread, desserts, margarine and milk, as well as some soda and juice. We need shoppers and other helpers. If you would like to help, please call Jane Iandolo 847-4437 or see her at church. Our core staff are making the Nov and Dec holiday turkey meals. We welcome your assistance! The Parish Council and Philoptochos have signed up to do the Jan and Feb meals. The Soup Kitchen ladies will be doing the July and August sandwich and salad meals. Who has ideas for Mar, Apr, May, and June?

DOXA CONFERENCE

On Saturday, November 15th, from 9am—3pm, the Metropolis of Boston will host the Doxa Fall Conference for Teachers & Directors at St. Spyridon Cathedral in Worcester, MA. The theme of this year's conference will focus on "Best Practices" in our Sunday Church School programs. All grade levels will be represented from elementary through middle school as well as high school. Please see Marianne Menas with any questions.

Please register by November 7th (forms available from our church office). A light breakfast and lunch will be served. Child care will be available on site upon request.

AHEPA NEWS

Next AHEPA 245 Meeting

The next meeting of the local AHEPA Chapter will take place the Second Monday of November at the Clubroom of the AHEPA 245 Apartments, 87 Girard Avenue, Newport.

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 this autumn.

Saturday, 22 November at 7 PM.

Electra (also directed by Michael Cacoyannis).

The kingdom of Mycenae has fallen into anguish: Their leader, Agamemnon, has been brutally murdered; his son, Orestes (Yannis Fertis), has fled the city; and his daughter, Electra (Irene Papas), has become a prisoner in her own castle. But when Electra speaks with a sacred oracle, she begins her bloody quest for justice - and revenge. Greek filmmaker Michael Cacoyannis retells Euripides's classic tragedy with style and grace. (Synopsis from Netflix)

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

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 back to you.

Celebration of OXI Day

The local Chapters of AHEPA and Daughters of Penelope sponsored the coffee hour to honor the celebration and remembrance of OXI (NO) day, 28th of October 1940.

DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE NEWS

The next meeting of the Daughters of Penelope will be held on Tuesday, November 11th at 7 pm in the Ahepa room at the Ahepa Housing. Plans will be finalized for the Christmas party and details will be mailed out to all members. Anyone wishing to join the Daughters may contact Ellen Anagnostos, President.

Last month we were happy to initiate several new members—see photo below.



<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>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> Anthony & Dorothea Rozes</p>