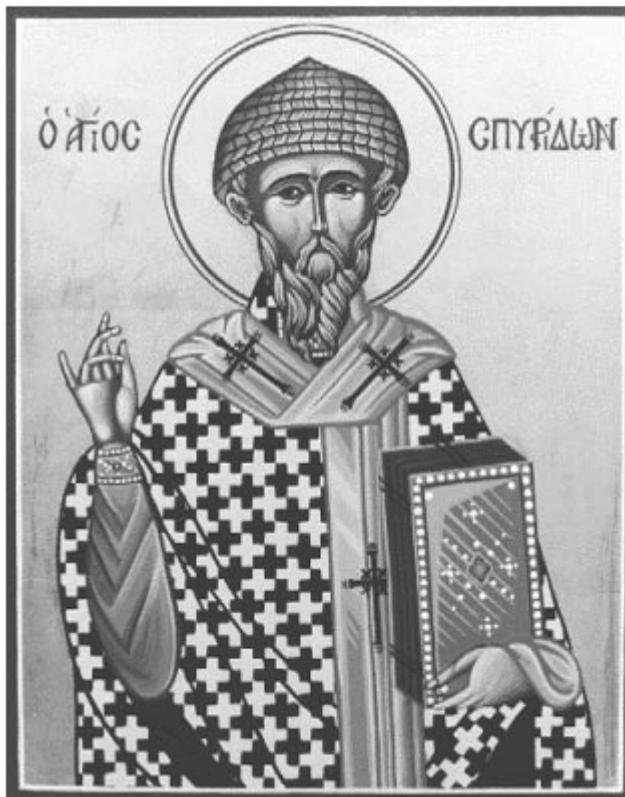

THE SAINT SPYRIDON VOICE
SEPTEMBER 2009



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) 474-7700 (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: Lily Wong-Panoutsopoulos

Philoptochos President: Elaine Brown

Acolytes: James Mellekas

GOYA President: James Mellekas

JOY Advisor: Sandy Giannopoulos

Soup Kitchen: Sofi Cofield, Rose Apostal
and Jane Iandolo

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 Summer Hours

Orthros 8:30 am

Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

Sunday Winter Hours (begin Sept. 13) Orthros 9:00 am

Divine Liurgy 10:00 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 COLLECTION

The beginning of the Ecclesiastical New Year: September 1st

The Civil New Year begins on the 1st of January, but this was not always so. During the early Roman Republic, the New Year began on the 1st of September, which for the Romans was the day of the beginning of the so-called Indication, a method of calculating time over a cycle of 15 years. The Indication, (from the Latin origin "indictiol"), is a proclamation.

The first Ecumenical Council of 325 AD decreed that the Church Year should begin on the 1st of September. "On that day, the Church gives thanks to God for the fruits of the earth, received in that summer and in summers past, and prays that the earth will bear further fruit." It is noteworthy that the festal year begins with the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos, 8 September, and ends with the celebration of the Feast of her Holy Dormition, 28 August.

The beginning of the Ecclesiastical New Year also has its roots in the Old Testament Feast of the Trumpets, held in the month of September, which for the Jews was the beginning of the civil year.

The Gospel reading for the Beginning of the Indication takes place in Jesus' home town of Nazareth (Lk.4, 16-22). It was at the time that Jesus went into his hometown synagogue and opened the Book of the Prophet Isaiah and read the words: 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind. To set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.'

What makes this reading all the more powerful is that when He closed the book, and with everyone watching Him, He began to speak by saying: 'Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.' The people of Nazareth probably could not believe their own ears; for Jesus to say that this Scripture was fulfilled meant that He claimed to be the Messiah - The Anointed One. He had come into the world to issue an in diction, to proclaim the Good News to the poor and the broken-hearted and to set us free from sin and death.

Kontakion: You who created all things in Your infinite wisdom, and set the times by Your own authority, grant Your Christian people victories. Blessing our comings and goings throughout this year, guide our works according to Your divine will.

In conjunction with the annual September 1st Protection of the Environment Observation of the Greek Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, The Rhode Island Fellowship of Orthodox Churches will hold its annual:

PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT OBSERVATION

Sunday September 27th at 5:00 pm
Assumption Church in Pawtucket, RI

NEW CHURCH YEAR CELEBRATIONS

Tuesday, September 1st, we enter the New Ecclesiastical year. Following the Divine Liturgy the service of the Blessing of the Waters (Agiasmo) will take place. **Orthros 8:00 AM, Divine Liturgy 9:00 AM (please note different time)**

Sunday, September 13th: Beginning of our Sunday School Year. A special service will be celebrated at the end of Liturgy. (**SUNDAY WINTER HOURS START**—Orthros 9:00 am, Divine Liturgy 10:00 am)

FEAST OF HOLY CROSS SEPTEMBER 14TH

On the eve of the Feast of the Holy Cross - Vespers will be at 5:00PM at the Holy Cross Chapel in Brookline.

Wednesday, September 14th: Feast of Holy Cross will be celebrated in our church. Orthros 8:30 AM, Divine Liturgy 9:30AM, followed by the Procession.

Sunday, September 20th: Following Divine Liturgy, Father George will conduct a special procession and service of the Holy Cross for our children.

Flowers (Vasiliko) for Feast of Holy Cross: A reminder to our parishioners not to forget to bring Vasiliko and other flowers to decorate the Cross of our Lord for the Feast of Holy Cross. We will also need flowers for Sunday, September 20th for the service especially celebrated for the children. Please bring the Vasiliko Monday, September 14th, and Sunday, September 20th, during the Orthros, 8:30 – 9:30 AM.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION FOR OUR CHILDREN

Sunday, September 13th, is the official opening of the New Religious Instruction Year followed by Registration in the Community Center.

Children ought to attend Church with their parents and siblings may sit with or be up front (left side) with other children and teachers. Following Holy Communion, Father George will conduct the special procession and service of the Holy Cross for our children. Then he will welcome them, give them the blessed flowers and bread and the children and teachers will proceed to their classrooms while the adults remain in Church for the conclusion of service and the sermon.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION is of great importance, parents **do take** interest in this matter. Help your children to learn all about their Orthodox Christian Faith. Come together each Sunday to worship as a family, show them through your example the importance of our Christian Faith. Sacrifice your leisure time on Sunday morning and bring your children to Church.

Let them be well-grounded in their faith and love for the Lord. Teach them how to pray at home. Set your priorities in the right order. The dangers are many that lurk ahead for our children and unless we lay strong foundations while they are young, we are falling short of our parental Christian responsibilities and duties.

Remember the saying in the book of Proverbs; “**Train up the child in the way he should go and when he/she is old he/she will not depart from it**” (Prov.22:6). Which way do we want our child to go? Do we train them in the ways of the Lord, or only the worldly and secular ways, which leave feelings of emptiness and loneliness. Only when we seek the Lord and His ways, ours and our children's lives will be complete.

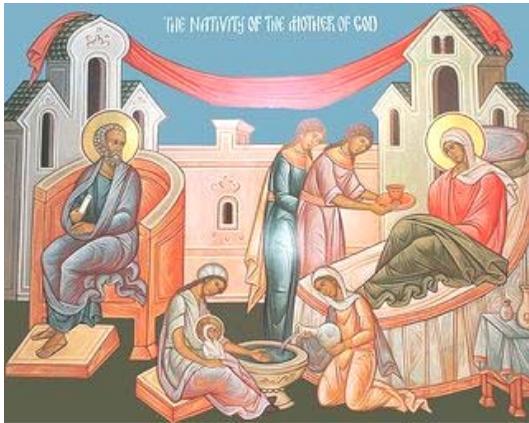
We give so much to our children—let's **not neglect to give them that which really counts**, in their present life and future—their faith and Christian Values.

Attend church every Sunday with your children; participate in the Holy Eucharist as often as possible if not every Sunday. Read the Bible with them at home every night, say your prayers before each meal, before going to bed at night and when you rise in the morning. Teach your children to cross themselves correctly and not be afraid to do their cross no matter where they are. Have family discussions about every moral and ethical issue, about sex, abortion, drugs, etc. and instruct them with our church's moral teachings on these. Don't let the public schools or teachers do your job. **Find out what they are being taught at school, be alert, question them.** Do all these with love and respect for them. Protect your child not by locking them up, but by opening up the lines of communication with them. Love them but be strict when you need to. Set rules and guidelines. Let them know the consequences if they fail to keep them. Be just in disciplining them. Make the punishment proportionate to the infringement. Remember the words of the Apostle Paul in his letter to the Ephesians, Chapter 6: 1-4. “Children, it is your Christian duty to obey your parents, for this is the right thing to do.” “Respect your father and mother” is the first commandment that has a promise added: “so that all may go well with you, and you may live a long time in the land.”

“Parents, do not treat your children in such a way as to make them angry. Instead, raise them with Christian discipline and instruction.”

As your priest I am looking forward to seeing you and your children in Church on Sundays.

NATIVITY OF THE MOST HOLY MOTHER OF GOD: SEPTEMBER 8



of the tribe of David and her mother of the tribe of Aaron, and so she was of royal blood from her father and priestly blood from her mother. By this, she foreshadowed Him who would be born of her as King and High Priest.

Her Parents were already old and had no children. In their humility, they prayed with tears that God would bring joy to their old age with the gift of a child, as he had once given joy to the aged Abraham and Sarah, giving them their son Isaac. God, almighty and all-seeing, gave them a joy far exceeding all their expectations and their wildest dreams, for He gave them not just a daughter, but the Mother of God; He illumined them not only with temporal joy but with eternal joy.

God gave them just one daughter, who later gave them just one grandson - but-what a daughter and what a grandson! Mary full of grace, blessed among women, the temple of the Holy Spirit, altar of the living God, table of living bread, ark of God's holy things, tree of the most delicious fruits, glory of the human race, praise of womanhood, fount of virginity and purity - this was the daughter given by God to Joachim and Anna. Born in Nazareth, after three years she was taken to the Temple in Jerusalem, whence she returned again to Nazareth and shortly afterwards heard the tidings of the holy Archangel Gabriel concerning the birth of the Son of God, the Savior of the world, from her most pure and virginal body.

The icon of the feast of the nativity of the Mother of God shows St Anne reclining on a bed with an attendant at her side. The Virgin is generally represented in swaddling clothes, and in the arms of a midwife who is seated on a stool. St Joachim is represented speaking with his wife. The midwife is reduced in size to focus attention on the holy parents and infant. In icons, the importance of a person is indicated by size. Size is not a physical feature of a person, but a quantitative element relating to importance. St Anne gazes downward upon her new-born daughter. The servant in the middle stands ready to assist the mother. Joachim and Saint Anna are honored by the Church on September 8th.

The church regards the birthday of Mary, the Mother of Jesus Christ, with special veneration because she was made the instrument whereby our Blessed Lord became Man. Tradition is the source for details surrounding the birth of the Mother of God. The birth of the Mother of God has come to us only from non-Scriptural sources, especially in two books known as "The Gospel of the Birth of Mary" and "The Pre-Evangelion of Saint James." The Church service for the feast day of the Nativity of the Theotokos is based upon the hymns and writings taken from these two ancient works.

The holy Virgin Mary was born of her aged parents, Joachim and Anna. Her father was

SOUP KITCHEN NEWS

In the Gospel of Matthew, 25th Chapter, Jesus tells his bewildered followers that when they feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, and clothe the naked that they are doing these things to Him. Our St. Spyridon Community strives to respond to our Lord's lesson in Christian hospitality by opening our doors and supporting our monthly soup kitchen in a most generous way. Members have donated gifts of time, money, and food specifically to this effort. We have also received anonymous donations of food and many hundreds of dollars from individuals and foundations, much coming from sources not even connected to our church. We have a dedicated team of workers who shop, set up tables, prepare and serve the meals, and clean up afterwards. Besides their time, these folks also donate some of the food. We welcome anyone who feels called to this ministry. Soup kitchen expenses do not come out of the general funds of the church. They come from monies and gifts given expressly for the soup kitchen.

We are serving increasing numbers of people who have lost their jobs. For many families, these are hard times with no end in sight. Your soup kitchen crew wants to convey to you the many smiling thanks we get from our guests every month. Please pray for all these folks who depend on the kindness of strangers for a dinner the second Monday of every month, and thank God that we are able to help them.

Thank you.

The Soup Kitchen Workers and Father George

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

As the new ecclesiastical year begins, the Philoptochos is honored to host a welcome dinner for Presvetera Elaine. The pot luck dinner will be held at the lovely home of Evie Spiratos which is located at 9 Sunnyside Place at 6 pm on September 16. All ladies of the St. Spyridon Community are invited to attend. Please RSVP to Evie by September 7 at 847-6713 to let her know what dish you would like to share. We are looking forward to seeing all the ladies there and to begin our year with energy and excitement.

More information about charitable events, activities, and the yearly calendar will follow.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Well, the summer is almost at an end and the Church organizations are getting ready to start up again. The Sunday School, as well as the Choir, and the Protulis Greek School will be starting shortly.

On behalf of the entire Church community, I would like to thank everyone who helped during the July Hellenic Fest—this includes those who participated in the cooking workshops, worked at the Festival, made donations, etc, etc. I would like to extend our special thanks to this year's Festival Chairmen: Peter Kyriakides, Leon Panteleos and Thanasi Stefanopoulos for the tremendous job they did. Also, I would be remiss if I did not recognize the efforts of Costa and Tom Gianetis of Coastal Electric, who, once again, donated their services in setting up the electrical system for the tent. The Festival's gross was in the order of \$80,000. We are awaiting the final invoices to determine the net. The final report for the Festival will be published in next month's bulletin. Although I may sound like a broken record, I cannot say how proud I was of our Newport Hellenic Dancers. They were the "hit" of the festival—a big thank-you to Vaggeli and Sandy Giannopoulos for their tireless work in instructing our children in this wonderful cultural activity. I would also like to thank Steve Kyriakides for his performances on the lyra and his singing—again, a special touch to the Festival. A special thanks as well to Ashley Cottrell who oversaw the Festival Ad Book, a new feature this year which netted approximately \$2,000, and Maria Stefanopoulos Johnson, who chaired the Grand Raffle. Despite the tough times, through the efforts of many (and ESPECIALLY Maria!) we were successful in selling \$100 raffle tickets, and even managed to clear approximately \$5000.

The Festival is a wonderful opportunity for us all to work together for the good of our community. Unfortunately, the festival weekend can also be a time when people are hot, tired, and, as a result, tempers can run short. Then, by the time the next Festival rolls around, all is forgiven and/or forgotten. I have since commented jokingly to Father George that perhaps after each Festival we should hold the Vespers of Forgiveness, such as that held the evening before Clean Monday of Great and Holy Lent. During this service, we ask each other for forgiveness for any slights, intended, or not. Let's keep this thought in the forefront of our minds

Over the summer, the Parish Council was officially sworn in. The officers for the 2009 year are as follows: President Zoe Adamedes, Vice President Chrissy Logothets, Treasurer Steve Mellekas and Secretary Elaine Holder. Rounding out your Council are Tom

Adamedes, Vaggeli Giannopoulos, Basile Panoutsopoulos, Harry Koulouvardis and Antigone Koulouvardis. You will have noticed that Harry Koulouvardis has stepped down from the Treasurer's position. We all thank him for not only his most recent service to the church, but for all the things he has done to support our community. Thank you Harry!

I think a good theme for the rest of this issue of Parish Council News is the subject of generosity. We have been truly blessed with recent examples of generosity which bear noting. First of all, because of a most generous gift by the Haralambidis family, the cleaning of the icons in the church has begun. The work is being done by an iconographer from Watertown and the results, even at this early stage, are amazing! It is really unbelievable how much soot has covered our holy icons over the years, and it is really interesting to see the areas which have already been cleaned and compare to those which have not. The cleaning has truly brought these icons alive! The work will continue until we run out of funds, which we hope and pray will not happen! The church needs another approximately \$15,000 to complete the restoration and cleaning. Please consider a donation (perhaps in memory of a loved one, or the continued health and well-being of your family) in support of this worthwhile effort.

The next gift I'd like to tell you of is courtesy of Costa and Tom Gianetis of Coastal Electric. They have obtained more energy efficient lighting and will be installing it in the classrooms and hall way in the basement. Thank you Costa and Tom!

And finally, our Parish has again been blessed by the generosity of All American Painting (Ted Kastanas and George), who have again offered to paint the outside of the church and the church hall, including the trim. Again, what a wonderful gift!

I erred in a recent bulletin when I stated that the Soup Kitchen has no chairmen. I was immediately corrected: this worthwhile service is coordinated by Sofi Cofield, Rose Apostal, Jane Iandolo and Steve Mellekas. Thank you for your gift of time in this effort!

The next Parish Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Sep 1st at 7:00 pm. 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.

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

SEPTEMBER 2009

Sunday Summer
Sunday Winter H
 (begin Sept. 13th)

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU
		1. Ecclesiast. New Year Orthros: 8:30 a.m. Div. Lit. 9:30 a.m. <u>Office Hours.</u> P.C . Mtg. 7:00 p.m.	2. Mamas Martyr John Pat. Of Constan.	3. Anthimos Nicomedeia, T stus and Euth <u>Office Hou</u>
6. 13th of Matthew. Calodote the Martyr Orthros: 8:30 a.m. Div. Lit. 9:30 a.m.	7. Labor Day. Forefeast of Nativity Of Theotokos. Soson Martyr.	8. Nativity of the Theotokos Orthros: 8:30 a.m. Div. Lit. 9:30 a.m. <u>Office Hours</u>	9. Joachim and Anna Severianos Martyr.	10. Menodora, M Nymphodora ria the Emp <u>Office Hou</u>
13. <u>Winter Hours</u> Before Holy Cross. Orthros: 9:00 a.m. Div. Lit. 10:00 a.m. Sunday School	14. <u>EXALTATION OF HOLY CROSS</u> Orthros: 9:00 a.m. Div. Lit. 10:00 a.m. <u>Office Hours</u>	15. Nikitas Great Martyr. Philotheos the Righteous	16. Euphemia, Great Martyr. Melitina the Martyr.	17. Sophia, F Hope, Love M <u>Office Ho</u>
20. After Holy Cross Orthros: 9:00 a.m. Div. Lit. 10:00 a.m. Sunday School Fellowship	21. Apodosis of the H.oly Cross. Quadratus Apostle	22. Phocas, Bishop of Sinope. Phocas the Gardener. <u>Office Hours</u>	23. Conception of St. John the Baptist. Xanthippe & Polyxene	24. Thekla E Apostles. St. Orthros. 9:00 Div. Lit. 10:00 <u>Office Hou</u>
27. 1st Luke. Orthros. 9:00 a.m. Div. Lit. 10:00 a.m. Sunday School Fellowship	28. Chariton the Con- fessor Alkison.	29. Kyriakos of Pales- tine Petronia Mart. <u>Office Hours.</u>	30. Gregory, Bishop of Armenia Mardo -nios and Stratonikos.	Fathers Em Tel # 401-4

Hours Orthros 8:30 am Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
Hours Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

	FRI	SAT.
of Theocti- ymius. <u>rs</u>	4. Babylas Hieromart. Moses the Prophet and Godseer	5. Zacharias and Elizabeth. Urban, Theodore & Medimnos
etrodora, , Poulche press. <u>rs.</u>	11. Theodora of Alex- andria. Euphrosynos the Cook.	12. Autonomos Hiero- Martyr. Cournoutos, Bishop of Iconium.
faith, Martyrs. <u>rs</u>	18. Eumenios, Bishop of Gortyna. Ariadne the Martyr.	19. Trophimos, Sab- batiος and Dorymedon
equal to Silouan 00 a.m. 00 a.m. <u>rs.</u>	25. Euphrosyne of Alexandria Paphnoutios and his 546 Companions.	26. Falling asleep of St. John the Evangelist.
ergency 74-7700		

Upcoming Events

September 1st—Parish Council Meeting

September 9—Daughters of Penelope meeting, 7 pm

September 13—First day of Religious Education

September 16—Philoptochos hosted Welcome Dinner for Presvytera Elaine, 6 pm

September 21—Greek School begins

September 27—Protection of the Environment Observation, 5 pm, Pawtucket

Regular Events

Religious Education—Sundays, immediately after Holy Communion

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

Adult Greek School—Mondays, 4-6 pm

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Hello Families,

Welcome to the new 2009-2010 academic year! First, a big thank you to Ourania Stefanopoulos and Aliko Cooper for helping out with the summer Religious Education Day in August. Thirteen children, ages 5 to 10, came to learn about the Transfiguration. Father George spoke to them first then activities followed on the topic.

Our Religious Education program will begin on September 13th. If you haven't done so, please submit your registration form to me. If you need a form, please let me know. Class formats will be the same as last year. Please have your child sit in the front pews before communion so that Father may speak to him/her. After communion, the children will proceed downstairs.

Let's pray for a wonderful year!
Marianne Menas

GREEK SCHOOL NEWS

The new school year for the St. Spyridon Greek School will be begin Monday September 21st. We request that you contact us and register in order to finalize the class assignments. A registration form will be available in the St. Spyridon website, or by email (e.giannopoulos@verizon.net). We will hold a final registration at church on Sunday September 13th, during the coffee hour. This is a great opportunity to have the youth of our community learn the basics of the Greek Language.

In addition to the program for the children, adults classes are taught by Dr. Basile Pannoutsopoulos. For those adults that are interested in learning, or brushing up on their Greek please lets us know or contact Dr. Panoutsopoulos at basile.panoutsopoulos@verizon.net.

For more information please contact Evangelos Giannopoulos at (401) 667-2984, e.giannopoulos@verizon.net

NEW SCHOOL YEAR CELEBRATION AND BLESSING

On Sunday September 13th we will hold a blessing, artoclasia, and welcome back to school reception for the Sunday School, Greek School, Newport Hellenic Dancers, Joy and Goya clubs, Alter Boys and Junior Choir. We invite everyone, especially families with Children, to participate, since this will be a way to introduce and sign children up to the various activities that our community offers. If you know other families that might be interested and have not participated in the past, please let them know and invite them to attend.

NEWPORT HELLENIC DANCERS NEWS

For those of you that had a chance to attend our festival and see our dancers, I am sure you agree that our children did a wonderful job. This year we had over twenty children in two groups having fun, while performing dances from all over Greece. Our dancers were happy and proud of their work, as well as their new costumes.

We thank them for their hard work in preparing and performing at the festival, as well as for their participation in other festival activities. Most everyone worked hard to prepare and serve pastries and food and refreshments.

We also extend our thanks to the parents, grandparents and friends for bringing the children to practices, dressing them for performances, and overall for encouraging them to be part of the community dancing group.

We are very proud of all of our dancers and we are looking forward to another fun filled year. We will start again in the last week of September (Sunday September 27th after coffee hour). We normally send out notices via email, so if you want to be contacted just let us know. We welcome everyone to the group no matter what the skill level.

For more information feel free to contact Evangelos and Sandy Giannopoulos at (401) 667-2984, or at Xanthoula@verizon.net, e.giannopoulos@verizon.net.

EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS: SEPTEMBER 14TH

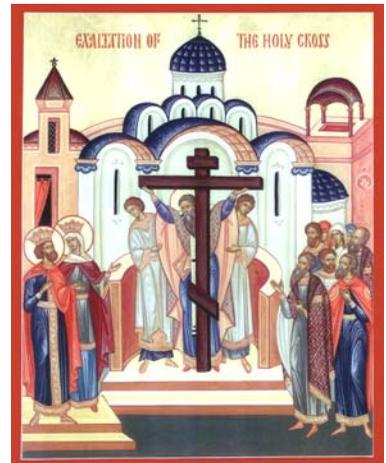
The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross is one of the most important celebrations of the Orthodox Church. It is on this day that we pay special tribute to the precious Life-Giving Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ

The first emperor of the Roman Empire who became a Christian was Constantine the Great. Before the final battle which brought him victory over his enemies and absolute rule over the entire Roman Empire, he saw a beautiful vision in the sky above the battlefield. His vision was a vision of the Christian Cross. Below the Cross were the words 'Em Touto Nika,' which means "in this sign conquer." Constantine was encouraged by this sign and ordered his soldiers to prepare crosses on their armor before going into battle. Constantine's victory was complete and decisive.

Constantine was intrigued by the vision and asked his saintly mother, Helen who was a Christian, to journey to the Holy Land and search for the true cross of Jesus Christ. Although 325 years had passed since the crucifixion of Christ, Helen did not lose hope of finding His Cross. She searched diligently with her little band of soldiers for many months; finally one bright morning on September 14th in the year 325, the Cross was found. It was buried deep in the earth where Golgotha was once located. A strange but fragrant flower was growing at the spot where they found the cross. This flower is now called Vasiliko (Basil), which means the flower of royalty.

The Persians captured the city of Jerusalem in the year 614 AD and they made off with the precious Cross of Christ. The Byzantine Christian Emperor Heraclitus led an army of faithful Christian soldiers from Constantinople to recapture the holy city and retrieve the Holy Cross of Christ. The war waged for over fifteen years and victory was finally achieved. The Cross was once again returned to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. This great event was joined with the Feast Day of the "Finding of the Cross" by St Helen; and together on Sept 14th we celebrate "Elevation of the Holy Cross"

A special feature of the Church services on this day, is the procession in which the Cross is borne aloft on a tray of flowers and placed in the midst of the church. The priest then elevates it to the four corners of the compass, blessing thrice with it as he does so, and praying that God will protect and preserve the President and civil authorities of our country and armed forces, and guard and guide the hierarch and clergy of the Church, as well as protect and preserve all His faithful people from every evil.



Kontakion, Fourth Tone: Lifted up on the Cross by Your free will, Christ God, grant mercies to the new commonwealth that bears Your name. Gladden our faithful rulers by Your power, giving them victories over their adversaries. May Your alliance be for them a weapon for peace, an invincible standard.

THE EXTRAVAGANCE OF LOVE

Women in Palestine often carried little phials of highly concentrated, very precious perfume, worn on a chain around their necks. These phials could cost as much as 40 pounds. The perfume perfumed the whole body, and it was so concentrated and so precious that it was meant to be used one little drop at a time. The woman came as a spectator and listener at this mean. She did the only thing she could do to show the devotion of her heart; she would give to Jesus the only precious thing which she possessed. She poured, not a single drop, but the whole of her precious phial of perfume on His head, and then broke it.

This story tells us a great deal about the love which delights the heart of Jesus.

(i) There is a certain extravagance in love. The alabaster phial of perfume was meant to be used drop by drop; it was meant to last for years, perhaps even for a life-time; but in a moment of utter devotion the woman poured it on the head of Jesus. Love does not stop nicely to calculate the less or more; love does not stop to work out how little it can respectively give. With a kind of divine extravagance love gives everything it has, and never counts the cost. Calculation is never any part of love.

(ii) Love knows well that there are certain moments in life which come and which do not return. There were endless and limitless opportunities to help the poor, but, if that woman had not seized that moment to make known her love to Jesus, the opportunity would never have come again. There are moments in life which do not come a second time. Impulses to devotion, impulses to reformation, impulses to decision enter the heart, and if they are not acted upon at once, they may never return. Love is ever ready to seize the moment to declare itself.

(iii) Love puts into the world a fragrance which time cannot obliterate. To this day the story of that woman's devotion moves the heart. A lovely deed is not only a thing of the moment; it leaves something in the world which time cannot take away. Love adds a permanent legacy of loveliness to life.

William Barclay



HELLENIC FEST 2009
Thank you for another wonderful year!



Thank you to Marianne Pylotis Fox and Gabi & Lucian Dobrot for sharing their photos!

IN OUR PARISH

Birth:

Leon and Poppy Panteleos welcomed *Antonis Leontis* on July 13, 2009. Antonis joins his sisters Kristalia and Alexandra in the Panteleos family. Proud grandparents are Antonis and Cristalia Panteleos and Athanasios and Alexandra Gatos. Congratulations to all! May he live many years!

Baptisms:

The son of Lindsey and Joshua Rego was baptized on June 14, 2009 and given the name *Cole (Konstantinos)*. Godparent is Caitlin Koutsogiannis.

TWINS: The children of James and January Arnall were baptized on July 18, 2009. Their daughter was named *Fotini* and her godparents are Leah and John Ketcham. Their son was named *Theodosios* and his godparents are Rachel and Jim George.

The daughter of Vyiacheslav and Olga Timokhin was baptized on August 8, 2009 and given the name *Maria Stava* by her godparents Chris and Teresa Young.

MAY THEY ALL LIVE LONG AND HEALTHY LIVES!

Graduation:

James Canale, son of Greg and Zinovia Canale, graduated this past May from Fairfield University with a degree in International Business. Currently, he is strenuously seeking employment and is willing to move anywhere in the world!

Weddings:

On July 17, 2009, *John Kendall Ketcham and Leah Antonio Ketcham* of Los Angeles were married in our church. Their sponsors were Thomas and Estelle Antonio of Newport and Florida.

On August 16, 2009, *Joshua Brian Rego and Lindsey M. Koutsogiannis* of Swansea, MA were married in our church. Their sponsors were Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Kyriakakis.

MAY THEY HAVE A LONG LIFE TOGETHER!

Anniversary:

Congratulations to Thomas and Estelle Antonio of Newport and Florida who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a special service in our church in July.

1ST ANNUAL ANNUNCIATION GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 1st Annual Golf Tournament hosted by the church of the Annunciation of Greater Providence will be held on **Sunday September 27, 2009 at 1 pm** at Metacomet CC, East Providence RI.

Register online at www.annunciationri.org - deadline September 18, 2009. Call our church office for more details.



FILM FESTIVAL NEWS

Seven films were screened at this year's Saint Spyridon Orthodox Christian Film Festival on Saturday, 11 July, in the church hall. In the Junior Division, the Saint John of Damascus Award went to **Toula Mellekas** for her film entitled "A Tribute To My Grandma". **Ana Dobrot** took the Saint Kassiane Award for her film entitled "Where is God". Ms. Dobrot also earned the Saint Constantine the Great Award for Best New Entrant. **Alexander Antonopoulos** won the Saint Marcian Award for his film entitled "The AHEPA Academy". And **Michael Antonopoulos** won the St. Theodore the Studite Award for his film, "Presentation of Mary".

Yianno Pantazelos of St. Vasilios Greek Orthodox Church in Peabody, Massachusetts won the Saint Luke the Evangelist Award in the Senior Division for his film entitled "Mission to Tanzania". **Gabriela** and **Lucian Dobrot** took home the Saint Theodora the Empress Award for their film "House of God". For this film, the Dobrots also earned the Saint Symeon the Translator Award for Best Theological Research. And the Saint Andrei Rublev Award went to **Marianne Menas** for her film "The Philoxenia House".

Before the competition, the Festival Committee presented a short film entitled, "A portrait of the Congregation of 1928".

Following the videos and the luncheon, participants and audience members alike enjoyed the annual festival boat ride, this year on the Rumrunner II. The motoryacht took the party out near Brenton Point to see the annual Newport Kite Festival. Views were stunning. The weather was perfect.

Special thanks go out to this year's judge, **Andrew Kalford** from Holy Resurrection Bulgarian Orthodox Church in Boston.

A Special Thanks to **Ellen** and **Peter Antonopoulos**, **Zina Bashlayeva**, **Gabriela** and **Lucian Dobrot**, **Marianne Menas**, and **Arthur** and **Oourania Stefanopoulos** for their luncheon donations.

AHEPA NEWS

Next AHEPA 245 Meeting

The next meeting of the local AHEPA Chapter will take place the 2nd Monday of September at the Club Room of the Newport AHEPA Housing. The initiation of new AHEPA members will take place before our regular September meeting. Food will be provided.

What is AHEPA?

The American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA) is the largest and oldest American-based, Greek heritage grassroots membership organization. AHEPA was founded on July 26, 1922 in response to discrimination that emerged in early 20th century American society. It also helped Greek immigrants assimilate into society. Today, AHEPA brings the ideals of ancient Greece, which includes philanthropy, education, civic responsibility, and family and individual excellence to the community. Although a majority of the membership is composed of Americans of Greek descent, application for membership is open to anyone who believes in the mission of the organization.

Mission

The mission of the AHEPA Family is to promote Hellenism, Education, Philanthropy, Civic Responsibility, and Family and Individual Excellence. The AHEPA Family works as a unit toward the fulfillment of a common mission. Combined, the four organizations have contributed well over a billion dollars to national projects throughout their history.

- The Daughters of Penelope is the Women's Affiliate of AHEPA. One of its crowning achievements is Penelope House, a shelter for battered women in Mobile, Alabama. It is the first shelter for battered women and their children in that state.
- The Sons of Pericles is the Junior Men's Auxiliary of AHEPA.
- The Maids of Athena is the Junior Women's Auxiliary of AHEPA.
- The two youth groups have combined to contribute to such worthy causes as: Muscular Dystrophy, Deborah Heart and Lung Foundation, the Special Olympics, St. Basil Academy and Cooley's Anemia research.

Invitation

An invitation is extended to all people of our Community and all Philhellenes to join both the local chapters of AHEPA and Daughters. For more information contact a local member or email: AHEPA245@Verizon.net. AHEPA family web site: www.ahepa.org

DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE NEWS

The first meeting of the new calendar year will be held on WEDNESDAY, September 9th at 7 pm at the Ahepa Housing building #1. Please note the day change. Members are asked to be on time. Thank you.

<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><i>In loving memory of</i> Stelios and Frangoula Christopher</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><i>Compliments of the</i> ATLANTIC BEACH CLUB 53 Purgatory Road Middletown 847-2750</p>	<p>A-1 Pizza 306 Broadway Newport <i>Free Delivery</i> 849-2213</p>	<p>Rhea's Bed & Breakfast <i>Accommodations with</i> <i>jacuzzi's available!</i> 120 West Main Road Middletown 841-5560</p>
<p><i>Compliments of</i> Island of Skiathos Organization Established 1967</p>	<p>Flo's Drive-In <i>Portsmouth</i> Flo's Clam Shack <i>Middletown</i> <i>Voted Best in Rhode Island!</i></p>	<p>The Mainstay Inn 151 Admiral Kalbfus Road <i>Newport</i> 849-9880</p>
<p>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>