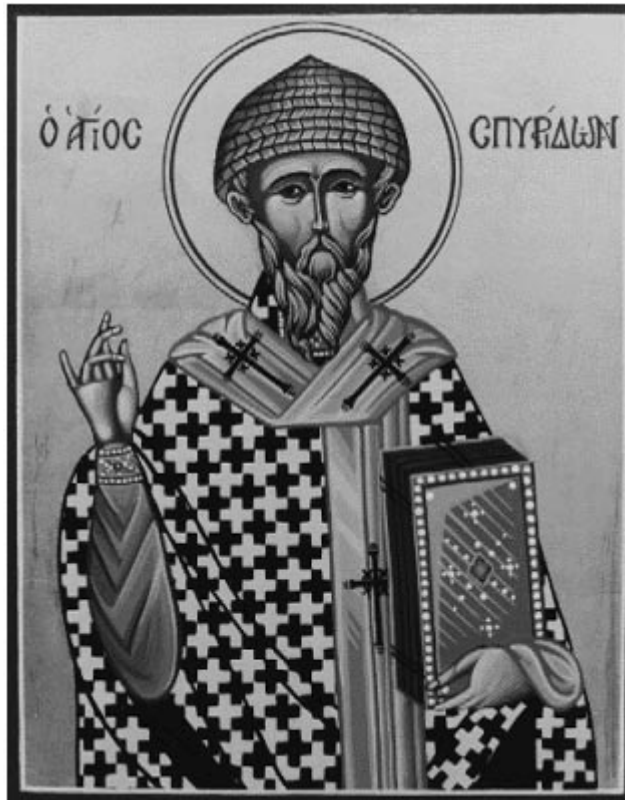

THE SAINT SPYRIDON VOICE
FEBRUARY 2011



Saint Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church
PO Box 427
Newport, RI 02840
tel: (401) 846-0555, fax: (401) 841-0960
www.stspyridonchurch.org



SAINTE SPYRIDON GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

www.stspyridonchurch.org

Reverend Dr. George E. Economou

frgeorge@stspyridonchurch.org

Office Hours

Priest: Tuesday & Thursday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; For emergencies, call (401) 474-7700 (cell)
Church secretary, Ellen Anagnostos: Tuesday & Thursday, 9 a.m.—1 p.m.

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: Theodore Panoutsopoulos

GOYA President: Missy Mellekas

JOY Advisor: Sandy Giannopoulos

Soup Kitchen: Sofi Cofield, Rose Apostal
and Jane Iandolo

Greek School:

Eleni Anagnostopoulos

Loula Eliopoulos

Basile Panoutsopoulos

Thanasi Stefanopoulos

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 9 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10 a.m.

Weekday Festal Celebrations:

Vespers—7 p.m.*

Orthros—9 a.m.

Divine Liturgy—10 a.m.

* Note: Holy Confession is available by appointment.

FROM FATHER GEORGE

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

Greetings to you and yours. Very often these days we hear, “We have no time – Our work doesn’t allow us – we have family commitments – we have responsibilities – we struggle day and night to make a living – life is very difficult nowadays.” **These are the responses habitually given to anyone who may have the kindness to express concern that we ought to pay more attention to our souls; to be more interested in our spiritual well being and life.** “Who has time for such things” we usually respond. “Maybe later”, we may say. As a result of this indefinite postponement we allow the days, months and years of our life to go by without any attempt worthy or courageous enough for our spiritual direction. Why this neglect? Where will it lead us? What kind of results do we expect? Have we ever thought seriously how swift the days of our lives go by and that the daily cares of life choke our souls hopelessly? No one can tell us not to work, not to be concerned for the well-being of our loved ones. The Holy Bible strongly teaches us that work is necessary and needed. However, there is a great gap between this admonition and the relentless pursuit of our daily cares. It is our duty to work. **But work and cares that alienate us from God are roads leading to death and are the devil’s trap.** You have not time you say, because you are drowning in so much work. And what is the gain from all this work? Will this fulfill or serve all your needs? Will it bring you the happiness that you seek? To be specific, no one really knows how things develop and what turn they will take. Maybe you will be very successful in your business and you’ll gain a lot. Even if your storehouses are filled to capacity and bursting at the seams, like that of the ‘Foolish Rich man’ of the Bible, even if, with your entrepreneuring mind, the whole world becomes your possession, what have you gained? Nothing really, **if in the meantime you have lost your soul!** Because, as the Lord said, “What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? What can a man give in return for his life? (Matt. 16:26) You have no time because of social commitments, an open house, you are obliged to invite people over or to visit others, to organize outings, take trips, take your children to soccer, football, hockey, baseball, etc., even though many of these events take place on Sundays or Feastdays. You live a secular life, distancing you from studying the Divine word, from Christian Fellowship, from Church, and from God! And furthermore, what gain do you receive from this lifestyle that has you willing to sacrifice all your time for but doesn’t leave you time to think about your soul? What remains after you have participated in these noisy encounters and events other than a sense of emptiness, despair, bitterness, disillusion, and even a revulsion and antipathy toward those with whom only yesterday

you were having fun with? You forget the divine words that say, **“The world and everything in it that people desire is passing away; but he who does the will of God lives forever” (1 John 2:17).** You have no time because you are a scientist, philosopher, researcher, or intellectual, worthy pursuits and pleasing to God, because God has given the sciences, but, if your involvement in the human sciences do not allow you the time for the Wisdom of God, on the road of virtue you gain nothing. You waste your time and the eyes of the soul shut out the lifesaving heavenly light. You forget Paul’s profound message, “...I may have all knowledge and understand all the secrets, but I have no love, I have nothing.” Everything will be done away with. What remains, what is everlasting and the most beautiful adornment of the human being, is the treasure of the soul. Yet you say you have not time for it!!! Even if you are a powerful man or woman, governing nations, and the outcome of the Universe depends on you, you must not say “I have not time to be concerned for my soul.” **Nothing, absolutely nothing, ought to minimize or deaden our interest for our salvation and for knowledge of Christ our Lord in our lives.** In prioritizing our interests, the first place must be given to the care of our souls. The destructive and unfound excuse of “I have not time” ought not to even cross our mind. For many other things in life we may not find time. But for the wellbeing of our souls we must, at all costs, find the necessary time. For this reason, **God placed us in the world and blesses us with the days of our lives to work toward our salvation!**

SERVICE CANCELLATIONS

As we do each winter, service cancellations on bad weather days will be announced on the church’s voicemail system. Please call the church at 846-0555, and select #4 on the main menu: “Service Cancellations” 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.

A NOTE FROM OUR CUSTODIAN

I would like to thank everyone for the generous Christmas/Birthday gift that was presented to me by Ms.Ronna on Christmas Eve. I am grateful to Fr. George, the choir, the Greek School, the Sunday School, the Philoptochos, and the Ahepa and Daughters of Penelope chapters for remembering me in this way.

I truly enjoy everyone's friendship and kindness to me all year long. Thank you so much.

George Baker

THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD IN THE TEMPLE, FEBRUARY 2

Forty days after Christ was born he was presented to God in the Jerusalem Temple according to the Mosaic Law. At this time as well his mother underwent the ritual purification and offered the sacrifices as prescribed in the Law. Thus, forty days after Christmas, on the second February, the Church celebrates the feast of the presentation called the Meeting (or Presentation or Reception) of the Lord.

The meeting of Christ by the elder Simeon and the prophetess Anna (Luke 2:2-36) is the main event of the feast of Christ's presentation in the Temple. It was "revealed to Simeon by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ" (Luke 2:26), and inspired by the same Spirit, he came to the Temple where he 'met' the new-born Messiah, took him in his arms and said the words which are now chanted each evening at the end of the Orthodox Vesper service.

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy Word; for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation which Thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for the revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to Thy people Israel. (Luke 2:29-32)



At this time as well Simeon predicted that Jesus would be the "sign which is spoken against" and that he would cause "the fall and the rising of many in Israel." He also foretold Mary's sufferings because of her son. (Luke 22:34,35) Anna also was present and, giving thanks to God "she spoke of Jesus to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem" (Luke 2.33). In the service of the feast of the Meeting of the Lord, the fact emphasized is that Christ, the Son and Word of God through whom the world was created now is held as an infant in Simeon's hands; this same Son of God, the Giver of the Law, now himself fulfills the Law, carried in arms as a human child.

FEBRUARY 2011

Sunday Wi

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU
Fathers Emergency Tel .401-474-7700		1.Forefeast of the Presentation. Tryphon Martyr. <u>Office Hours</u> P.C. Meeting 7:00 p.	2. PRESENTATION OF THE LORD. Orthros: 9:00 a.m. Div. Lit. 10:00 a.m.	3.Symeon and Stamatios,John Nicholas Mart <u>Office Hours</u>
<u>6. 17th Matthew</u> St.Photios Patr.Con Orthros: 9:00 a.m. Div. Lit. 10:00 a.m. Sun.Sch./Fellowship	7.Parthenios Bishop of Lampsakos and Luke the Righteous Soup kitchen	8. Theodore General Zachariah Prophet <u>Office Hours</u>	9. Leavetaking of the Feast of presentation Nicephoros of Antioch	10. Haralambo Orthros. 9.00 a Div. Lit.10.00 <u>Office Hour</u>
<u>13. 10th Luke.</u> <u>Publican/Pharisee</u> Orthros: 9:00 a.m. Div. Lit. 10:00 a.m. Sun Sch/Fellowship	14.Auxentios of the Mountain and Cyril Enlightner of Slavs. <u>FAST FREE WEEK</u>	15. Onesimus of 70. Anthimos of Chios. <u>Office Hours</u>	16. Pamphilos and Companions. Flavianos Patr.of Constantinople	17. Theodore c <u>Office Hou</u>
<u>20. 17th Luke</u> <u>Prodigal Son</u> Orthros. 9:00 a.m. Div.Lit.10:00 a.m. SunSch/Fellowship	21.Timothy Righteous John III Patr.of Con.	22. Relics of martyrs Eugenios,Thalassios and Baradatus. <u>Office Hours</u>	23. Polycarp Bishop of Smyrna	24. St.John Ba <u>Office Hou</u>
<u>27. Meat Fare Sun.</u> Orthros. 9:00 a.m. Div. Lit. 10:00 a.m. Sun Sch/Fellowship	28. Basil Confessor Kyranna of Thessaloniki Neo Martyr. Proterios Hieromart		<u>For emergencies please call Father at 401-474-7700</u>	

Winter Hours Orthros 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10 a.m.

HU	FRI	SAT.
and Anna ,John and Martyrs <u>Hours</u>	4. Isidore of Pelusion Nicholas Confessor	5. Agatha Martyr Polyeuktos Patrirach
mbos Mart .00 a.m. 0.00 a.m. <u>Hours.</u>	11. Vlassios Martyr Theodora Empress	12. Meletios Archbp Antonios Archbp <u>The Book of Triodion begins tonite and ends Holy Saturday.</u>
ore of Tyro <u>Hours</u>	18.Leo Pope of Rome Agapetus Confessor	19.Philimon /Archi- pos. Philothei Matr
n Baptist. <u>Hours</u>	25. Tarasios of Con. Reginos of Skopelos <u>Office Hours</u>	<u>26. Saturday of Souls</u> <u>Ψυχοσάββατο</u> Orthros. 9:00 a.m. Div. Lit. 10:00 a.m. Trisagion Prayers.

Upcoming Events

February 7—Soup Kitchen

February 9—Daughters of Penelope Meeting, 7 pm, Ahepa Housing

February 26—Apokreatiko Glendi

Regular Events

Religious Education—Sundays, immediately after Holy Communion

Children’s Greek School—Monday-Thursday, 4-6 p.m.

Adult Greek School—Mondays, 4-6 p.m.

IN OUR PARISH

Death

The husband of Ronnie (Mellekas) Kastritis, *Paul James Kastritis*, passed away on December 23, 2010 in Sun City, California. Mrs. Kastritis is formerly of Newport and is the sister of parisioners James and John Mellekas. Our sympathies go our to the Kastritis and Mellekas families. May his memory be eternal.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Dear Families,

February is the month for the older students to get ready their speeches for the Oratorical Festival. Those students in Mr. Mike's class should be writing and practicing their speeches for the festival in March.

Also, after February vacation, Orthodox Christian Missionary boxes will be going home. We raised over \$200 last year and hope to raise more this year.

God bless!
Marianne

PHILOPTOCHOS

A heartfelt THANK YOU to all of those who baked Vasilopites for our annual celebration. We also very much appreciate all of those members who contributed to the luncheon. The annual Vasilopita tradition was a wonderful success. The next meeting will be a General Meeting to be held on February 16 at 6:30 in the church hall. Please make every effort to join us.

The Philoptochos Annual Scholarship applications are now available. Please note that this year all students who are interested in applying need to contact Elaine Brown at 849-3480 to obtain the application. The deadline for completed applications is April 10, 2011.

Please remember dues for 2011 are now due. Anyone who joined the organization at the fundraiser in November will be credited for 2011. Please send checks to Ionna Bairos Moreau, 96 Sherwood Terrace, Portsmouth, RI 02871.



Apokreatiko Glendi

(Pre Lenten Party)



Date: Saturday February 26th, 2011

Place: St. Spyridon Church Hall

Time: Doors open at 5:00 PM

Come join us to celebrate the coming of Lent.
Bring family and friends for a joyful relaxing
event, full of music, food and fun

Performance by the
Newport Hellenic Dancers

Buffet Dinner served at 6:00 PM

For More Information Call:
Evangelos or Xanthoula Giannopoulos
Phone: 667-2984
Email: vaggelis.giannopoulos@gmail.com

***This event is sponsored by the Families of the Newport
Hellenic Dancers
"Free Will Offering" will support the group***

HELLENIC DANCERS NEWS

Happy New year to all. We want to thank you for supporting our holiday fundraiser. We especially want to thank all of you that donated, helped us bake, package and distribute the pastries.

We are starting practices again for the New Year. Practices will be held on Sundays after Liturgy on January 30th, February 6th and February 13th. This is a great time to join the group. Our focus for next month will be getting ready for the Apokreatiko (Pre-Lenten) party. See the ad on page 9 of this bulletin and please join us for a night of fun. For more information please feel free to call us or email us.

Xanthoula and Vaggelis Giannopoulos

Phone: 401-667-2984, Email: Vaggelis.giannopoulos@gmail.com



On December 12, 2010, we were blessed to have His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios with us to celebrate the Feast Day of our church. As an added blessing, our acolytes were tonsured.

PROTULIS GREEK SCHOOL NEWS

On January 30th, the students of the Protulis Greek School sang The Hymn of the Three Hierarchs (Ύμνος των Τριών Ιεραρχών) during Divine Liturgy. We congratulate them on a fine presentation and look forward to making this a tradition in our church for the Greek School students. Additionally, the students presented a brief history of the Three Hierarchs (in Greek and English) to the community.

Also that day, several Greek School families traveled to the Maliotis Cultural Center on the campus of Hellenic College/Holy Cross in Brookline, MA to participate in the Metropolis Three Hierarchs program. We thank those who participated as they represented our community with distinction.

Looking ahead... the March 25th church celebration will be held on Sunday 3/27 in the church hall. Please save the date and remember the Hellenic Dancers will also be part of this program. Further details will be forthcoming in the March newsletter. The date for the Rhode Island State House GID program has not yet been set and will also be announced in the March newsletter.

The February Σαββατιάτικη Παρέα (Saturday Gathering) for all Protulis Greek School students will be Saturday, February 26th. Time and details will be emailed to the families as we may try something new this month.

Of note... the Greek School is seeking donations of a new laptop computer and a flat screen television/monitor that will facilitate the use of on-line and interactive DVD teaching materials for the children and adult students. If you are interested in making a donation toward this endeavor, please contact Thanasis Stefanopoulos at 846-7086.

DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE AND AHEPA NEWS

The next meeting of the Daughters of Penelope will be held on WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9 at 7 pm at the Ahepa Housing.

<p><i>In loving memory of</i></p> <p>Gredo 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 Take out orders: 849-3356 Daily 7am-12am, Fri & Sat 7am-2am</p>	<p><i>In loving memory of</i></p> <p>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></p> <p>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></p> <p>Island of Skiathos Organization Established 1967</p>	<p>Flo's Drive-In Portsmouth Flo's Clam Shack Middletown <i>Voted Best in Rhode Island!</i></p>	<p>The Mainstay Inn 151 Admiral Kalbfus Road Newport 849-9880</p>
<p>All American Foods, Inc.</p>	<p>Steve H. Jennings Advanced Planning Associates Advanced Tax & College Planning Retirement & Asset Protection 401.247.9882 SJennings@AdvancedRI.com www.advancedri.com</p>	<p><i>In loving memory of</i></p> <p>Anthony & Dorothea Rozes</p>