
THE SAINT SPYRIDON VOICE
MAY 2012



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



SAIN'T 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

Philotochos President: Zinovia Canale

Acolytes: Theodore Panoutsopoulos

GOYA President: Missy Mellekas

JOY Advisor: Sandy Giannopoulos

Soup Kitchen: Sofi Cofield, Penny Hiotas
and Jane Iandolo

Greek School:

Eleni Anagnostopoulos

Loula Eliopoulos

Thanasi Stefanopoulos

Adult Greek School: Basile Panoutsopoulos

Bulletin: Aliko Cooper

(alikooper@yahoo.com)

Affiliated Organizations

AHEPA President: Michael Sisak

Daughters of Penelope President:

Penelope Hiotas

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 THE PASTOR'S COLLECTION

His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios' Paschal Reflection

At this very moment we relive the Holy Resurrection, the central mystery of our Christian faith. We will shortly light our Paschal candles to boldly proclaim that “the light of Christ shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overtake it.” (John 1:5)

At this very moment “as the first day of the week dawns,” (Matthew 28:1) we mystically draw near to the life-giving tomb together with Mary Magdalene and the other Myrrh bearing women who discover that the great stone placed there has been rolled away, and that the body of the Savior is nowhere to be found. We overhear Mary Magdalene lament, “they have taken away the Lord from the tomb and we do not know where they have laid Him.” (John 20:2)

How sad it was for the myrrh bearers not to find the Risen Lord.

How sad it is that we cannot seem to find Him either. We cannot find Him in the world of politics or the world of finances. We cannot find the Risen Lord in our schools or in our judicial courts. We cannot find the Risen Lord in our homes. Sadly, some claim they cannot even find him in our churches.

The Risen Lord met the myrrh bearers as they were going to the disciples, and He said to them “Do not be afraid, go and tell my brethren to go to Galilee and there they will see me.” (Matthew 28:10) Like the myrrh bearers, we, too, are directed to go to Galilee to see the Risen Lord.

Galilee is Boston. It's Worcester and Springfield. It's Manchester and every city and town in America and throughout the world.

The Risen Lord awaits us in Galilee where the rich have removed God from their altar of worship, and placed instead their money and their perceived importance.

The Risen Lord awaits us in Galilee where the powerful plot to marginalize the church and muzzle its voice in society.

The Risen Lord awaits us in Galilee ----- in every corner of the earth ----- but especially where our fellow human beings are victims of human trafficking, of cultural wars, of crimes, of genocide, of ethnic cleansing and every other conceivable atrocity.

The Risen Lord awaits us in our personal Galilee to shine His mercy, His forgiveness and His love in our hearts. In the midst of our failures ----- in our emotional solitude, in our doubt and abandonment, on our spiritual death beds, in our tombs of doubt and disbelief ----- the Risen Lord comes to raise us up to experience our own Resurrection.

Let us greet Him in Galilee and boldly proclaim our faith in His Resurrection. Let us share the Light of the Risen Lord in a world that is steeped in every conceivable form of darkness, in a world which faces financial turmoil, in a world suffering from both spiritual and material poverty, in a world of violence and deprivation, of terrorism, of incivility and divisiveness.

Let us light our Paschal candles of hope and joy, and let us proclaim together with St. John the Evangelist “the light of Christ shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overtake it.” (John 1:5)

Come receive the light from the unwaning Light and glorify Christ who is risen from the dead.

*Metropolitan Methodios
Easter, 2012*

MEMORIAL DAY CEMETERY VISITS

On Memorial day, Monday May 28th, Fr, George will be at the following cemeteries to chant the trisagion prayers for our loved one who have fallen asleep in the Lord.

Island Cemetery Annex. - 10:00 a.m.

(for anyone with loved ones at the main Island Cemetery across the street, please meet at the Annex and we will proceed to the main cemetery after.)

Middletown Cemetery - 11:00 a.m.

FR. GEORGE WILL BE AWAY

Father George will be away from May 1st—15th. The archdiocese will send a visiting priest for the Sundays he is away. Please leave a message at the church in case of any emergency requiring a priest. We wish he and Presvytera a safe and happy trip!

SOUP KITCHEN NEWS

Dear Friends,

Please call or email Sofi Cofield to sign up to help at this month's soup kitchen—this month it is on **Monday, May 14th**— (401 847 8593 / sofikip@aol.com)

Thank you for your help in our Ministry,
St. Spyridon Soup Kitchen Team
Jane Iandolo, Penny Hiotas and Sofi Cofield

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

We invite all members of the community to support the First Annual St. Spyridon Philoptochos Yard Sale which is scheduled for Saturday, May 12th. Please see the enclosed flyer.

LARGE CANDLES AVAILABLE

Large wedding and baptism candles are available in the church office. Please see Ellen Anagnostos for purchasing.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED OUR PARISH CELEBRATE LENT AND PASCHA

Christ is Risen!

On behalf of the entire Parish Council, we wish to offer a heartfelt thank you to everyone in our parish family who contributed in so many ways to make this Lenten season, Holy Week and Pascha so extra special and glorious!

So many people generously made donations and offerings of their time and talents and it would be impossible to list them all by name. Here is an attempt to remember everyone!

Thank you

- to all of our parishioners and readers who participated in the Salutations to the Virgin Mary Services and the Akathistos Hymnos. Also, many thanks to those who donated flowers to adorn the Icons during these services.
- to all the parishioners who donated flowers or who made donations which offset the cost of the flowers, candles, palms, and bay leaves used at this Holy Time, especially during the various Sundays during Lent and especially throughout Holy Week and Pascha.
- to all the members of our parish family who donated of their time to chant, and read during the numerous services held, especially during Holy Week.
- to our Chanter, Choir, Choir Director and organist who assisted in making this Pascha especially meaningful.
- to all the members of our parish family who coordinated the Good Friday Retreat for the youngsters of our parish. They are our future and we must nurture them!!
- to the talented people of our parish who helped decorate our Kouvouklion so that it would be worthy and beautiful enough to contain the Body of Christ.
- to all who assisted in preparing and training the myrrbearing girls for their Good Friday contribution. They did a beautiful job and how wonderful to see so many girls filling up four pews!
- to all who donated the eggs and those who helped to dye the eggs and then wrap them in netting and ribbons in preparation for Pascha!
- to all who brought food to our pot-luck Paschal Meal, which was enjoyed by all.
- to all who volunteered their time to assist with the distribution of the candles during Holy Week.
- to our acolytes who worked so hard during Holy Week. And “Worthy” to those acolytes who were honored to carry the body of Christ during the Good Friday procession.

And finally, a warm and heartfelt thank you to Father George who lead us all through our Lenten Journey this year, and also to his lovely Presvytera Elaine, who made sure Father kept up his strength, especially during the busy Holy Week schedule!!

Most sincerely and with love and affection:

Zoe Adamedes, Parish Council President. Evangelos Giannopoulos, Parish Council Vice President. Steve Mellekas, Parish Council Treasure, Elaine Parkos Holder, Parish Council Secretary, Thomas Adamedes, Chris Christopher, Steve Kyriakakis

A WORD ABOUT COFFEE HOURS---“SIMPLIFY, SIMPLIFY!”

We all enjoy the fellowship of one another on Sundays after Divine Liturgy. However, I think we all can see that our coffee hours have slowly evolved into something that bears absolutely no resemblance to what the original coffee hour was meant to be: the chance for the parish family to get together and have a cup of coffee (or soda, juice) and a snack and chat.

Therefore, the Parish Council is requesting that Coffee Hours be limited to coffee, juice, soda/water and paximadia, cookies or pastries, etc. For these type of Coffee Hours, there should be no reason to use the ovens.

Also, we ask that after the coffee hour, that any leftover items be brought home and not left in the church refrigerator or church kitchen. (This just leads to the accumulation of food which is ultimately spoiled and then has to be thrown out).

We also ask that when bringing items for your Coffee Hour that you carefully check the expiration date on purchased items. We must make sure that snacks presented for our parish family, and especially our children, are wholesome and fresh.

IMPORTANT NOTE: These guidelines do NOT apply for family memorials (makaries) or coffee hours put on by church organizations (Ahepa, Sunday School, etc). Thank you for your understanding and your cooperation!

ASSUMPTION CHURCH 100TH ANNIVERSARY

The Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in Pawtucket is celebrating their 100th anniversary this year and are asking everyone to join them at the Providence Performing Arts Center on May 19th for a live show featuring the return of "Yanni". A block of seats have been reserved so please see the poster in the church hall for all the details including ticket prices and contact information.

TASTE OF GREECE

A Taste of Greece, A Festival of Flavors will be held at St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church on Saturday, May 5 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday, May 6 from noon to 7 p.m. Take out is available and there will be a raffle with cash prizes. Please see the poster in the Church hall.

HELLENIC FEST

Hellenic Fest dates have been set for **July 20, 21 and 22.**

The next meeting for Hellenic Fest is set for May 21, at 6 pm at the Atlantic Beach Club. We ask everyone who possibly can help to attend.

The decision has been made for the grand prize raffle. The grand prize is \$10,000 and only 200 tickets will be sold at \$100 each.

Marianne Pylotis Fox has come forward to chair the publicity committee. We still are looking for help with pastires

We still need volunteers so please come to the next meeting and give your support and your ideas. Thank you so much.

HELLENIC COLLEGE 75TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

Hellenic College Holy Cross will host "**75th at the Pops**" on Saturday, May 12, 2012, a George Gershwin concert by the Boston Pops at Symphony Hall in Boston. This event is part of the celebration of the school's 75th anniversary. We invite friends and supporters of HCHC to join us on this joyous occasion. This event promises to be a sell out. A limited number of tickets are available. **For reservations please contact Mrs. Patricia Dukakis at 508-545-2471.** For more information, look for the letter in the church hall or visit http://www.hchc.edu/hellenic/about/news/news_releases/75_at_the_pops.html .

SUMMER GREEK LESSONS

Dear Friends of the Hellenic Language and Culture.

I plan to conduct lessons in modern language and culture (communicative skills, etc.) and lessons in Mathematics (algebra) and Physics (Mechanics) in Greek. Younger kids can watch videos in Greek while parent are in class. I shall be available after May 20th until September for at least one day or two per week. I am open to suggestions on the topics, time, format, etc. We still need to find a place for the meetings (public school or public library or a house with appropriate space?) The activities are free and open to anybody interested. Sincerely, Basile (Contact me at: Basile.Panoutsopoulos@verizon.net)

Thank you,
Basile

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The April Parish Council Meeting was held on Tuesday, April 3rd 7:00 pm. Here are a list of topics discussed at the meeting:

Holy Week: Naturally, Holy Week was on the top of the hit parade—making sure all was ready for the Feast of Feasts! Donation envelopes had been mailed out to parishioners and Treasurer S. Mellekas reported that the response was truly heartwarming, with donations exceeding those of last year. Thanks to all who helped in this ministry!

Repairs: Father George made contact with someone who will be doing some repairs inside the church over the next few months. This gentleman will be repairing the crumbling plaster which fell off the church ceiling some time ago, as well as repairing the damaged drywall in the balcony. He will also be doing some painting repairs in the Pangari. Also, we'd like to acknowledge the efforts of Vaggeli Giannopoulos and John Johnson, who cleaned and painted the old priest's office in the balcony. This room will now be used as a storage space for Greek costumes. Thank you also to the Giannopoulos family for donating the storage materials needed to hang the costumes. The outside repairs will be tackled as the weather warms up. Oh, and thank you to Eleni Anagnostopoulos for planting some lovely bulbs in front of the church. They are blooming now and look lovely!

One new item which came up at the last meeting was the issue of the elevator. It has some type of intermittent failure which, if we want it fixed, will cost approximately \$250 per hour (just for the labor). In addition, we also need to have the elevator certified on a yearly basis which would cost the church \$600. (Every 3 years, the certification tests would have to be performed with weights which would cost \$1100 and just so you are aware, the State of Rhode Island is really clamping down on the inspections of elevators, etc). The entire council agreed that this was just ridiculous so the decision was made to look into installing a "chair lift" along the wall abutting the elevator, as well as installing some ramps. This would still keep our church handicap accessible but keep things more affordable. Mr. T. Adamedes is getting costs on this option for discussion at the next meeting.

Father George and Presvytera Elaine will be taking a well deserved vacation in the beginning of May and we wish they have a wonderful time! In case of emergencies (God forbid), Father will leave instructions in the church office. The next Parish Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 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

On the lighter (and sometimes profound) side, here are a few examples of Orthodox Bumper Stickers for you to enjoy!

- Lord have Mercy! (40X)
- Orthodoxy: For kids who love to stay up all night, drink wine, and play with fire!
- Not so close! I may need to do prostrations!
- The Orthodox Church: Not only standing for the Truth, but never sitting down either!
- Have you kissed your Mother's Icon today?
- I'd rather be censing.

STATE HOUSE RECEPTION—A SINCERE THANK YOU!

Although we just celebrated Pascha, we can't forget that at the end of March, we celebrated both the Feast of the Annunciation as well as Greek Independence Day. As you recall, this year was our turn to host the reception following the celebration at the Rhode Island State House. On behalf of the Parish Council and the entire parish family, I would like to offer my sincere thanks for the outstanding job done by members of our community in support of the reception. Cash donations were received from the Ahepa, Daughters of Penelope, Philoptochos as well as the Sunday School. In addition, everyone really came through with the donations of desserts and drinks. I think it would be fair to say that our little church out-did itself! And, the youth of our community were truly something to be proud of. Those who recited poems were well prepared and did an excellent job, and all the youth who sang at the State House were so inspirational. And, of course, our dancers at the reception put on a truly professional presentation. So, once again, a big THANK YOU to those who made this event possible and truly memorable!!!

MAY 2012

Sunday Winte

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU
<p>Father George will be away May 1 –15</p>	<p>Metropolis will send clergy for Sunday Liturgies.</p>	<p>1. Jeremiah Prophet</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Office Hours</u></p> <p>7:00 p.m. PC mtg.</p>	<p>2. Removal of Relic of St. Athanasios. Hesperos and Zoe the Righteous.</p>	<p>3. Timothy, M Martyrs. Peter Wonderworke</p>
<p>6. Sun. of Paralytic Orthros: 9:00 a.m. Div. Lit. 10:00 a.m. Sun Sch/Fellowship</p>	<p>7. Conon of the Precious Cross Cyril of Jerusalem</p>	<p>8. John the Theologian Arsenius the Great.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Office Hours</u></p>	<p>9. Mid-Pentecost. Isaiah the Prophet Chrystopher Martyr No Liturgy. Fr. George Away.</p>	<p>10. Simon the and Apostle. Lawrence of E</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Office Hours</u></p>
<p>13. Sun. Samaritan Mothers Day Orthros. 9:00 a.m. Div. Lit 10:00 a.m. Sun Sch/Fellowship</p>	<p>14. Isidore Martyrof Chios. Therapon Hieromartyr. Soup kitchen</p>	<p>15. Pachomios Great Martyr. Achilios, Bishop of Larissa</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Office Hours</u></p>	<p>16. Theodoros Sanctif Peter Martyr</p>	<p>17. Androniko Junia the Mart Nectarius of V</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Office Hours</u></p>
<p>20. Sun. Blind Man. Orthros. 9:00 a.m. Div. Lit. 10:00 a.m. Sun. Sch/Fellowship</p>	<p>21. Constatine/Helen Equal to Apostles Orthros: 9:00 a.m. Div. Lit. 10:00 a.m</p>	<p>22. Basiliskos Bishop of Comana. Demetrios & Paul of Tripolis</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Office Hours.</u></p>	<p>23. Michael Bishop of Synada. Mary Myrbr .</p>	<p>24. Symeon & Vincent of Le</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Office Hours</u></p>
<p>27. Fathers of the 1st Ecum. Council Orthros; 9:00 a.m. Div. Lit. 10:00 a.m. Sun. Sch./Fellowship</p>	<p>28. Memorial Day Trisagion Prayers 1. Island Cemetery Annex 10.00 a.m. 2. Middletown 11:00</p>	<p>29. Theodosia of Tyre Theodosia of Constantinople</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Office Hours.</u></p>	<p>30. Isaakios founder of Monast Dalmatos. Emelia mother of St. Basil the Great</p>	<p>31. Hermias & Comana Eusel Haralambos</p>

inter Hours: Orthros: 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy: 10 a.m.

THU	FRI	SAT.
ny, Maura Peter the orker	4. Pelagia the Nun martyr. Hilarion the Wonderworker <u>Office Hours</u>	5. Irene Great Martyr of Thessaloniki Neophytos, Gaius and Caianus
n the Zealot, tle. of Egypt <u>Hours</u>	11. Renewal of Constantinople Mokios the Holy martyr	12. Epiphanius of Cyprus. Germanos Patr. of Const/nople
onikos and Martyr of Valaam <u>Hours</u>	18. Peter, Dionysios, Andrew, Paul, Julian. Martyrs	19. Patrikios Bishop of Proussa. Memnon the Wonderworker
on Stylite f Lerins <u>Hours</u>	.25. 3rd Finding of the Head of St. John Baptist	26. Carpos and Alphaeus of the 70 Ap. Alexandros of Thess
ias Martyr of Eusebius and os		Fathers Emergency Tel. 401-474-7700 For other matters call office and leave message. Thank you.

Upcoming Events

May 1—Parish Council Meeting, 7pm

May 4-6—Ahepa District Convention

May 9—Daughters of Penelope
meeting, AHEPA Housing, 7pm

May 12—Philoptochos Yard Sale,
9am-1pm

May 14—Soup Kitchen

May 20—AHEPA Sunday

May 21—Hellenic Fest Meeting, 6pm

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.

THE HOLY EMPEROR CONSTANTINE AND THE EMPRESS HELENA

May 21st

Constantine's parents were Emperor Constantius Chlorus and the Empress Helena. Chlorus had other children by another wife, but from Helena he had only Constantine. After his coronation Constantine fought three great battles: one, against Maxentius, a Roman tyrant; the second, against the Scythians on the Danube and the third, against the Byzantines. Before the battle with Maxentius, while Constantine was greatly concerned and in doubt about his success, a brilliant Cross appeared to him in the sky during the day, completely adorned with stars and written on the Cross were these words: "By this Sign Conquer."

Astonished, the emperor ordered a large cross to be forged similar to the one that appeared to him and that it be carried before the army. By the power of the Cross he achieved a glorious victory over the enemy who was superior in members. Maxentius was drowned in the Tiber river. Immediately after that, Constantine issued the famous Edict of Milan in the year 313 A.D. to halt the persecution of Christians. Defeating the Byzantines, Constantine built a beautiful capital on the Bosphorus which from that time on was called Constantinople.

Before that, however, Constantine succumbed to the dreaded disease of leprosy. As a cure, the pagan priests and physicians counseled him to bathe in the blood of slaughtered children. However, he rejected that. Then the Apostles Peter and Paul appeared to him and told him to seek out Bishop Sylvester who will cure him of this dreaded disease. The bishop instructed him in the Christian Faith, baptized him and the disease of leprosy vanished from the emperor's body.

When a discord began in the Church because of the mutinous heretic Arius, the emperor convened the First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea, 325. A.D., where the heresy was condemned and Orthodoxy confirmed.

St. Helena, the pious mother of the emperor, was very zealous for the Faith of Christ. She visited Jerusalem, discovered the Honorable Cross of the Lord, built the Church of the Resurrection on Golgotha and many other churches throughout the Holy Land. This holy woman presented herself to the Lord in her eightieth year in 327 A.D. Emperor Constantine outlived his mother by ten years. He died in Nicomedia in his sixty-fifth year in 337 A.D. His body was interred in the Church of the Twelve Apostles in Constantinople.



MAY REFLECTION

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christ is Risen! Χριστός Ανέστη! If you are anything like I am, you never tire of those words. Whenever I hear them or say them myself, I feel as though Christ's victory has just occurred, as if He just won the greatest battle over evil that could ever be. In fact, while we may be separated by 2,000 years and thousands of miles from Jerusalem, it would not be wrong to say that Christ continues His victory lap even today and even in your hometown Church. Whenever a heart is turned to Christ, whenever a life of selfishness is turned to selflessness, whenever a child is baptized and nurtured in the faith that Christ has brought us, He conquers sin and death once again and overcomes the power that still lurks in the darkness.

During the recent Lenten season, we had the opportunity to experience the power and beauty of our Church's Lenten services. From the Compline (Apodeipnon) to the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy to the poetic Salutations we sang to the Theotokos and, of course, to the liturgy of St. Basil, we heard the words of the prophets, the Psalms, the wisdom of Proverbs and the Church Fathers speaking to us of the eternal significance of Christ. If we have attended these services with any regularity, we know that the Church continues to hold Him up as the ultimate example of what we can become: gods (with a small 'g'), partakers of the Divine nature, participants in the life of Christ, and even temples of God.

St. Basil the Great stated that "becoming a god" is the highest goal of all. St. Gregory the Theologian urged us to "become gods for (God's) sake, since (God) became man for our sake." All of this may sound very foreign to some of us -- even polytheistic -- but, in fact, it's very Christian and completely biblical (Psalm 82:6). What most of us miss by listening only to popular culture is the concept of true holiness or, better yet, true godliness that the Church and Christ are asking us to acquire. With many not knowing what godliness even means, my greatest fear is that our Churches will simply become places where we gather socially and look more for the food at the Coffee Hour than the food that comes from Christ: His divine good news and His Body and Blood.

If the Lenten services accomplished anything, it is that they brought us first into the House of God with the Body of Christ. Beyond that, the services allowed us the opportunity to slowly ease into another way of thinking about and acting toward the events that fill our days at work, at home or at school. They urged us to do and not simply to believe. They filled our hearts with words of love and mercy while, at the same time, they reminded us that these are not simply feelings but also actions -- charity and almsgiving.

So, as we continue to shout out that beautiful expression at every service with a sense a victory accomplished, let us also remember that Christ's true victory comes when hearts are enlightened, when lives are transformed and when communities of Christians lift Him up as their first and only model. Let us all continue to be the Church, the Ecclesia, the people called out by God to accomplish His will on earth as it is in heaven. Truly He is Risen!

Fr. Christopher Stamas



Religious Education's Good Friday Retreat



The myrrhbearers on Good Friday evening

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Dear Families,

As we enter the month of May, we slowly end our Sunday School classes with 60 children registered during the 2011-2012 academic year. What a wonderful number and great attendance each Sunday. Thank you to the families for bringing the children. Thank you too to the teachers/parents who teach every Sunday about our Orthodox faith. On May 6th, we look forward to Ms. Sandy's class, grades 3-6, entering the elementary oratorical festival. It will be held in the church hall after liturgy. No classes will be held Memorial Day weekend and graduation will be the first Sunday of June.

Marianne

NEWPORT HELLENIC DANCERS

Dear Friends,
Hristos Anesti,

Now that Easter has passed, we are starting to focus on preparations for the Hellenic Festival. This will be our 10th year performing at our festival. Our group has grown over the years to include over 30 dancers. We look forward to this milestone and we invite everyone who is interested in joining our group to please attend these important practices. This month, we will be teaching basics steps and fundamentals to all. After May we will not be accepting new members for the festival performances since time is short and we will not have time to re-teach the basics. We will be holding two practices for our younger dancers (Groups A and B). If you are a new to the group, please join us at 12:30 and we will assign you to the right group.

Sunday May 6th Group A 12:30-1:00
 Group B 12:30-1:30

Sunday May 20th Group A 12:30-1:00
 Group B 12:30-1:30

Feel free to contact us if you have questions.

Sandy and Vaggelis Giannopoulos
e.giannopoulos@verizon.net
Phone: 667-2984

GREEK SCHOOL NEWS

The year-end Greek School program will be held on Sunday, June 3rd after Divine Liturgy in the community hall. The Greek School families will be sponsoring the coffee hour that day.

There will be a rehearsal for the year-end program on Saturday, June 2nd at 10 a.m. for all Greek School students.

The last week of classes for this school year will be the week of June 11th. The focus for the final two weeks after the year-end program will be conversational Greek without text books and homework.



Congratulations to Melina Johnson and Sofia Stefanopoulos who represented Newport this year in the RI State House Greek Independence Day Program.



Students of the Greek School and the Newport Hellenic Dancers participate in the Greek Independence Day celebration at the State House and at the reception.



THANK GOD FOR MOM!

The greeting card industry invented Mother's Day as an excuse to sell more cards, candy, and flowers... but the appreciation that the secular world shows for its "Mom" on one Sunday in May can be so much more! Mother's Day can be a special day for your family to thank God for everything Mom, and Grandma, and Great-Grandma do throughout the year, almost an unofficial "feast".

Here are some ideas for celebrating it, with a Christian twist:

- Attend Liturgy and sit together as a family, and partake in Communion together. Include your Godmothers as well, if they attend the same parish.
- Enlist Dad's help to prepare a Mother's Day brunch for Mom (and Grandma and Great-Grandma if you are blessed to have them with you) after Liturgy. Pancakes, waffles, or Sunday Oatmeal (hot cinnamon oatmeal topped with vanilla ice cream and caramel or maple syrup) are good, easy choices.
- Sing "Many Years" for Mom at brunch or dinner.
- Remember any Grandmothers, Great-Grandmothers, and Godmothers who are deceased by singing "Memory Eternal." Visit the cemetery if possible, and bring along fresh flowers.
- Read and/or talk about what Christ's Mother, the Theotokos, did that was so special to all of us... include the prayer to the Virgin in your blessings for Mother's Day.
- Skip the store-bought greeting cards, and make one of your own, with a prayer for Mom, and a list of things she does that you're thankful for...
- Enlist Dad's help again to plant a flowering tree, rose bush or a whole garden, or erect a bird feeder for Mom. [The bird feeder can be store-bought, or constructed from sticks, tin-pans, or plastic milk jugs and dowels.]
- Complete the one chore that Mom has to remind you about the most ALL WEEK without being told; when she notices, say "Many Years, Mom!"

Happy Mother's Day to all Mothers, Grandmothers and Godmothers!

© 1996 by Orthodox Family Life and the original author(s).

URL: <http://www.theologic.com/oflweb>. This web site is donated and maintained by TheoLogic Systems, which provides software and information tools for Orthodox Christians and parishes world wide.

AHEPA NEWS

Newport AHEPA Maud Howe Elliot Chapter 245 and Daughters Ares Chapter 49 are hosting this year's District 7 AHEPA Convention, Friday, May 4 through Sunday May 6, at the Mainstay Inn. As part of the schedule, convention participants, as well as all local community members, are invited to enjoy a fun-filled evening at the Newport Playhouse. The evening consists of a bountiful buffet, a comedy play and a cabaret. This Friday event was attended by 50 persons last May and all enthusiastically enjoyed the evening. For full details and reservations please contact Steven Jennings immediately at SJPLANNER@aol.com, 439-0840 or 247-9882.

The schedule also has a dinner dance on Saturday evening, May 5, and everyone is invited to attend and enjoy the music and dancing. Many did so last May. Social begins at 6 p.m., dinner of Roast Prime Rib at 7 p.m., a short program and dancing to 11:30 p.m.

Contact Steve as above or George Anagnostos at 683-4275, or Michael Sisak at 848-5352.

The third Sunday of May, the 20th, is designated as AHEPA Sunday. The Daughters of Penelope and AHEPA will offer the coffee hour, will distribute books to the children, and have a memorial service for our departed Sisters and Brothers. Any non-members are invited to join the AHEPA and the Daughters. The purpose of AHEPA is to foster and preserve Hellenic values and ideals.

DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE NEWS

The May meeting of the Daughters of Penelope will be held Wednesday, May 9th, 7 pm at the Ahepa Housing Complex.

Many thanks to all the Daughters who helped make our Palm Sunday Fish Dinner so successful. And a special "Thank you" to our brother Ahepans for their help. Our chairman, Ellen Anagnostos, will present a report at the May meeting. Discussion will be held for a June dinner meeting.

The Ahepa District Convention is being held at the Mainstay Inn on May 4,5,6. Please contact Penny Hiotas at 847-1807 if you are able to attend or if you would like more information. Xpistos Avesti!

<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 <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 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>