

Christian Light

March 2022 — Vol. 34



Fr. Philip's March Message

Great Lent and Prayer

Great Lent begins on March 7th this year. This is an important period in the Church year that leads to Holy Week and the celebration of Pascha.

What is the true pastoral purpose of this period that takes up so much of the Church year? While some might ignore this period altogether, others might have a vague feeling that this time of year is good for us but they don't know exactly why. For many this is just a period of deprivation, a time when we sacrifice certain things we like ("what am I going to *give up*" for Lent this year?"). However, it turns out that this is a gross misunderstanding of the true meaning of Lent for, rather than a period of deprivation, it is meant to be a period of restoration, of building up, a period of growth and not just sacrifice for sacrifice's sake. All of the things that characterize Great Lent, the increased prayer, fasting and longer services, in fact all serve to clear away the many extra things that have accumulated in our life which make us forget its true purpose.

During Lent we get down to the basics in order to remember our true birthright and purpose: to be an icon of the glory of God in our bodies and souls and to remember that "man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" (Matt. 4:4).

Lent, then, is fundamentally a time for us to rekindle our forgotten relationship with God. All the things we do during Lent are supposed to serve this purpose. How? Let us take the simple example of prayer. Not everyone is called to pray in exactly the same way (i.e., there is not one proper "Orthodox" way to pray), but we are called to pray somehow — and more so during Lent. For many, perhaps the same prayers we teach our children will continue to be the best prayers. Remember that Christ said that we must be like children to enter the Kingdom of God (Matt. 18:3). So one can turn to God with simple prayers like the "Our Father," or "Holy God, Holy mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us." Or one can turn to God with his own words telling Him his troubles, joys and private thanks and requests; asking Him to take care of us and our loved ones. So we just pray the best we can — but we pray — we make some kind of concerted effort to communicate with

*Assumption of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church
97 Walcott Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860*

Reverend Dr. Philip Zymaris
Protosphyter



E-mail: pzymaris@hchc.edu
(401) 725-3127 Phone (401) 725-9270 Fax
(857) 204-9021 Emergencies
Web Site: www.assumptionri.org

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Orthros 8am and Divine Liturgy 9:30am

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Monday-Friday 8:30am to 1:30pm
Elizabeth Lazouras
secretary@assumptionri.org

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God in a way that works best for our particular character and situation. This means a lot and can be a huge sacrifice of love for God in a society where we spend so much time doing other things that are deemed either “practical” or “entertaining,” but the second we are compelled to give a little time to God who gave us the ability to do the above mentioned tasks that take up all our time, we get edgy and uneasy. God asks so little of us: all he wants is for us to be real with him and give him a little “quality time.” This is why any form of prayer — even prayer that seems very simple — can be the highest form of prayer in our specific situation. However, if prayer becomes a mere reciting of words to fulfill an obligation automatically, it is in fact something other than turning to God and has lost its meaning and purpose. In other words, to “say our prayers” by rote from a book in order to fulfill a “necessary duty,” in such a way that we are more aware of ourselves praying than of the presence of God, is a waste of time. This is not to demean prayer books: of course, if we do this in a sincere effort to be with God, prayer books are extremely valuable because they put tested words of wisdom in our mouths that the Fathers of the Church have experienced as efficacious if used correctly. Quality, not quantity, is essential here. As our Lord said, “Not everyone who says. . . ‘Lord, Lord’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father in heaven” (Matt. 7:21). And elsewhere He says: “when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words” (Matt. 6:7).

In the Orthodox practice of prayer, then, the bottom line is sincerity and simplicity. Many are tempted to make prayer and the Christian life too exotic and complicated. In other words, many think they should climb the ladder of spiritual life in one leap because they are not patient enough to do things in their proper order, but this is impossible and harmful. We tend to forget that our Lord himself became incarnate in a very simple way as a commonplace person — he was born in a cave and grew up in an insignificant village far from the capital and

centers of power. In keeping with this simplicity, true prayer is simple, heart-felt prayer that can be done at any time. If some are called to do more due to their gifts and situation, that is a blessing as long as they do not become judgmental and compare themselves to others as the Pharisee did. Rather than being interested in God, the Pharisee was more interested in himself and how great he was because he fulfilled all his spiritual "obligations."

We are all called simply to be men and women of deep compassion and prayer. As the Lord said we should be like little children in order to enter the Kingdom of God. To do this we must be willing to take the first step that is presented to us in our lives. Great Lent is such an opportunity which is offered to us. May we use this and all such opportunities in our lives to remember the "one thing needful!"

A blessed Great Lent to everyone and καλή ανάσταση!



Μήνυμα π. Φιλίππου

Ἡ Μεγάλη Τεσσαρακοστή καὶ ἡ Προσευχή

Ἡ Μεγάλη Τεσσαρακοστή ξεκινᾷ φέτος στὶς 7 Μαρτίου. Εἶναι μία πολὺ σημαντικὴ περίοδος τῆς λειτουργικῆς χρονιάς ποὺ καταλήγει μὲ τὴν Μεγάλη Ἑβδομάδα καὶ τὸν ἑορτασμὸ τοῦ Πάσχα. Ποιὸς ὅμως εἶναι ὁ ποιμαντικὸς σκοπὸς τῆς περιόδου αὐτῆς ποὺ ἀπασχολεῖ τὴν ἐκκλησία γιὰ τόσο πολὺ καιρὸ; Τί προσθέτει στὴν ζωὴ μας καὶ στὴν πνευματικὴ μας πορεία; Ἐνῶ μερικοὶ δὲν ἐνδιαφέρονται καθόλου γιὰ τὴν περίοδο αὐτήν, ἄλλοι μπορεῖ νὰ νομίζουν ἀφηρημένα ὅτι κάτι καλὸ δίνει, ἀλλὰ δὲν κατανοοῦν ἀκριβῶς τί εἶναι αὐτό.

Γιὰ πολλοὺς ἡ Σαρακοστὴ ἐρμηνεύεται ἀπλῶς ὡς μία περίοδος στέρησης, μία περίοδος στὴν ὁποία θυσιάζουμε ὀρισμένα στοιχεῖα τῆς ζωῆς μας ποὺ μᾶς ἀρέσουν - ὅπως λένε πολλοί: "Τί θὰ θυσιάσω φέτος τὴν Τεσσαρακοστή;" Ὡστόσο, αὐτὴ ἡ ἀντίληψη δὲν θὰ μπορούσε νὰ εἶναι πιὸ μακριὰ ἀπὸ τὸ ἀληθινὸ νόημα τῆς Τεσσαρακοστῆς. Ἡ Τεσσαρακοστὴ εἶναι περίοδος ἀνανεώσεως, ἀνοικοδομήσεως, ἀναπτύξεως καὶ ὄχι στερήσεως ἢ αὐτόσκοπης θυσίας. Ὅλα τὰ ἰδιαίτερα χαρακτηριστικὰ τῆς Μεγάλης Τεσσαρακοστῆς, ἡ αὐξημένη προσευχή, ἡ νηστεία μαζὶ μὲ μεγαλύτερες ἀκολουθίες, κ.λπ., στὴν πραγματικότητα ἔχουν σκοπὸ νὰ καθαρίσουμε ἀπὸ τὴ ζωὴ μας τὰ πολλὰ ἐπὶ πλέον πράγματα ποὺ συσσωρεύονται σὲ σημεῖο νὰ σκοτίζουν τὸν ἀληθινὸ σκοπὸ τῆς ζωῆς μας. Κατὰ τὴ διάρκεια τῆς Μεγάλης Τεσσαρακοστῆς ἀπλοποιοῦμε τὴν ζωὴ μας ὥστε νὰ ξαναθυμηθοῦμε τὸν ἀληθινὸ σκοπὸ τῆς πορείας μας ποὺ εἶναι νὰ γίνουμε εἰκόνες Θεοῦ στὸ σῶμα καὶ στὴ ψυχὴ καὶ νὰ μὴν λησμονοῦμε ὅτι "οὐκ ἐπ' ἄρτῳ μόνῳ ζήσεται ὁ ἄνθρωπος, ἀλλὰ ἐπὶ παντὶ ρήματι ἐκπορευομένῳ διὰ στόματος Θεοῦ" (Ματθ. 4:4).

Ἡ Τεσσαρακοστὴ, ἐπομένως, βασικὰ εἶναι καιρὸς γιὰ νὰ ξυπνήσουμε μέσα μας τὴ ξεχασμένη σχέση μας μὲ τὸν Θεό. "Ὅ,τι κάνουμε στὴ Σαρακοστὴ ἔχει αὐτὸν τὸ σκοπὸ. Πῶς ὅμως; Ἄς πάρουμε τὸ παράδειγμα τῆς προσευχῆς. Δὲν καλούμαστε ὅλοι νὰ προσευχομαστε μὲ τὸν ἴδιο ἀκριβῶς τρόπο ἢ μὲ ἀκριβῶς τὰ ἴδια λόγια (δηλαδή, δὲν ὑπάρχει ἓνας τρόπος ποὺ εἶναι ὁ σωστὸς "Ὁρθόδοξος" τρόπος) ἀλλὰ ὅλοι καλούμαστε ἀπαραίτητα νὰ προσευχομαστε μὲ κάποιον τρόπο! - καὶ πιὸ πολὺ μὲς στὴν Τεσσαρακοστή. Γιὰ πολλοὺς ἴσως ἀκόμη καὶ οἱ ἀπλὲς προσευχὲς ποὺ διδάσκουμε τὰ παιδιά μας συνεχίζουν νὰ εἶναι οἱ καλύτερες! Νὰ θυμηθοῦμε ὅτι ὁ ἴδιος ὁ Χριστὸς εἶπε ὅτι πρέπει νὰ εἴμαστε ὅπως τὰ παιδιά γιὰ νὰ μποῦμε στὴ Βασιλεία τοῦ Θεοῦ (Ματθ. 18:3). Ὅποτε μπορεῖ κανεὶς νὰ στραφεῖ πρὸς τὸν Θεὸ μὲ ἀπλὲς προσευχὲς ὅπως τὸ "Πάτερ ἡμῶν" ἢ τὸ λεγόμενον "Τρισάγιον": Ἅγιος ὁ Θεός, Ἅγιος ἰσχυρός, Ἅγιος ἀθάνατος, ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς." Μπορεῖ

κανείς να απευθύνεται στο Θεό ακόμη και με τὰ δικά του λόγια μιλώντας για τὰ προβλήματα, τις χαρές, και τις προσωπικές εύχαριστίες και αιτήσεις, ζητώντας από τον Θεό να μᾶς φροντίσει ἢ να φροντίσει τούς αγαπημένους μας, κ.λπ. Ἐπομένως, προσευχόμαστε, τὸ καλύτερο πὸν μπορούμε - ἀλλὰ προσευχόμαστε - κάνουμε κάποια συγκεκριμένη συγκεντρωμένη προσπάθεια νὰ ἐπικοινωνήσουμε με τὸν Θεὸ με ἕναν τρόπο πὸν ταιριάζει καλύτερα με τὸν συγκεκριμένο χαρακτήρα μας και τις συνθήκες τῆς ζωῆς μας. Αὐτὴ ἡ ἀπλή προσπάθεια ἔχει τεράστια σημασία και μπορεῖ νὰ ἀποτελέσει σημαντικὴ θυσία ἀγάπης για τὸ Θεὸ σὲ μία κοινωνία στὴν ὁποία καταναλώνουμε τόσο πολὺ καιρὸ με ἄλλα πράγματα πὸν θεωροῦνται εἴτε “ἀναγκαῖα” και “πρακτικά,” εἴτε “διασκεδαστικά” και “χαλαρωτικά.” Τὴ στιγμή ὁμως πὸν ζητεῖται νὰ δώσουμε λίγο χρόνο στο Θεὸ πὸν μᾶς ἔδωσε τὴ δυνατότητα νὰ κάνουμε τὰ ὡς ἄνω πὸν καταναλώνουν σκεδὸν ὅλον τὸ χρόνο μας, ξαφνικὰ γινόμαστε ἀνήσυχτοι και νευρικοί! Ὁ Θεὸς μᾶς ζητάει πολὺ λίγο: θέλει νὰ εἴμαστε γνήσιοι μαζί Του και νὰ τοῦ δώσουμε λίγο χρόνο ποιότητας. Γι’αὐτὸν τὸ λόγο ὁποιαδήποτε μορφή προσευχῆς - ἀκόμη και οἱ μορφές πὸν φαίνονται ἀπλοϊκές - μπορεῖ νὰ εἶναι ἡ ὑψηλότερη μορφή προσευχῆς για τις δικές μας συγκεκριμένες συνθήκες ζωῆς. Ὡστόσο, ἂν γίνει ἡ προσευχὴ μία στεῖρα ἀπαγγελία λέξεων για νὰ ἐκπληρώσουμε αὐτόματα μία ὑποχρέωση σὰν νὰ ἐπρόκειτο για κάτι ἄλλο ἀπὸ μία ἀληθινὴ στροφή στο Θεὸ, τότε ἔχει χάσει τὸ νόημα και τὸ σκοπὸ τῆς. Με ἄλλα λόγια, ἀπλῶς νὰ “ἀπαγγείλουμε” αὐτόματα ἀπὸ ἕνα προσευχητᾶριο για νὰ ικανοποιήσουμε ἕνα “ἀναγκαῖο καθῆκον” πὸν τελικὰ μᾶς τονίζει πιὸ πολὺ τὴν παρουσία τοῦ ἑαυτοῦ μας παρὰ τὴν παρουσία τοῦ Θεοῦ, εἶναι χάσιμο χρόνου. Δὲν μειώνουμε ἐδῶ τὴν ἀξία τῶν ἔντυπων βιβλίων προσευχῆς, οἱ προσευχές πὸν περιέχουν τέτοια βιβλία εἶναι προϊόντα τῆς μακρόχρονης ἐμπειρίας τῶν Πατέρων και Μητέρων τῆς Ἐκκλησίας, και εἶναι πολὺ χρήσιμες ἂν χρησιμοποιοῦνται σωστά. Ποιότητα και ὄχι ποσότητα εἶναι τὸ κἀριο σημεῖο ἐδῶ. Ὅπως εἶπε ὁ

Κύριος: “Προσευχόμενοι δὲ μὴ βαττολογήσητε, ὡσπερ οἱ ἔθνηκοί, δοκοῦσιν γὰρ ὅτι ἐν τῇ πολυλογίᾳ αὐτῶν εἰσακουσθίσονται” (Ματθ. 6:7).

Ἐπομένως, στο κάτω κάτω τῆς γραφῆς, στὴν Ὁρθόδοξη παράδοση τῆς προσευχῆς αὐτὸ πὸν ἔχει σημασία εἶναι ἡ εἰλικρίνεια και ἡ ἀπλότητα. Πολλοὶ πέφτουν στον πειρασμὸ νὰ κάνουν τὴν προσευχὴ και τὴ Χριστιανικὴ ζωὴ περίπλοκη και ἐξωτική. Πολλές φορές παρατηρεῖται ἡ ἐπιθυμία νὰ σκαρφλώσει κανείς τὴ σκάλα τῆς πνευματικῆς ζωῆς με ἕνα ἄλλα διότι δὲν ὑπάρχει ἡ ὑπομονὴ νὰ γίνονται τὰ πράγματα με τὴ σωστὴ τους σειρά, ἀλλὰ αὐτὸ εἶναι ἀδύνατο και ἐπικίνδυνο. Τεῖνουμε νὰ ξεχνοῦμε ὁλοένα ὅτι ὁ ἴδιος ὁ Κύριος ἐνσαρκώθηκε με ἕνα τρόπο πολὺ ταπεινὸ και ἀπλό: γεννήθηκε σὲ σπήλαιο, μεγάλωσε σὲ ἀσήμαντη πολίχνη μακρὰ ἀπὸ τὴν πρωτεύουσα και τὰ κέντρα ἐξουσίας και ἀποφάσεων. Σύμφωνα με τὴν ἀπλότητα αὐτὴ, ἡ ἀληθινὴ προσευχὴ εἶναι ταπεινὴ, καρδιακὴ προσευχὴ πὸν γίνεται ὁποιαδήποτε στιγμή. Ἄν μερικοὶ καλοῦνται νὰ κάνουν κάτι παραπάνω λόγω τῶν χαρισμάτων και συνθηκῶν ζωῆς, εἶναι εὐλογία ἐφόσον δὲν ὑπερηφανεύονται και δὲν συγκρίνουν τὸν ἑαυτὸ τους με τούς ἄλλους ὅπως ἔκανε ὁ Φαρισαῖος με τὸν Τελῶνη. Ἄντι νὰ τὸν ἐνδιαφέρει ὁ Θεός, τὸν ἐνδιέφερε ὁ ἑαυτὸς του και πόσο φοβερὸς ἦταν διότι ἐκπλήρωνε ὅλες τις “θρησκευτικές” του “ὑποχρεώσεις.”

Συνεπῶς, καλοῦμαστε ἀπλῶς νὰ εἴμαστε ἄνθρωποι συμπόνιας, ἀγάπης και προσευχῆς. Ὅπως εἶπαμε, ὁ Κύριος εἶπε ὅτι ἂν εἴμαστε ὅπως τὰ παιδιά, θὰ μποῦμε στὴ Βασιλεία τοῦ Θεοῦ. Για νὰ κάνουμε αὐτὸ πρέπει νὰ ἀγκαλιάσουμε τὴν κάθε εὐκαιρία πὸν παρουσιάζεται στὴ ζωὴ μας. Ἡ Μεγάλὴ Τεσσαρακοστὴ εἶναι μία τέτοια εὐκαιρία πὸν μᾶς παρέχει ἡ Ἐκκλησία. Νὰ ἀξιοποιήσουμε αὐτὴν και ὅλες τις ἄλλες τέτοιες εὐκαιρίες για νὰ θυμηθοῦμε “τὴν ἀγαθὴν μερίδα” πὸν δὲν θὰ μᾶς πάρει κανείς (“Λουκᾶ 10:42).

**Καλὴ Τεσσαρακοστὴ σὲ ὅλους και
καλὴ Ἀνάσταση!**



Sunday of the Veneration of the Holy Cross

On the Third Sunday of Great and Holy Lent, the Orthodox Church commemorates the Precious and Life-Giving Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Services include a special veneration of the Cross, which prepares the faithful for the commemoration of the Crucifixion during Holy Week. The commemoration and ceremonies of the Third Sunday of Lent are closely parallel to the feasts of the Veneration of the Cross (September 14) and the Procession of the Cross (August 1). Not only does the Sunday of the Holy Cross prepare us for commemoration of the Crucifixion, but it also reminds us that the whole of Lent is a period when we are crucified with Christ.

As we have “crucified the flesh with its passions and desires” (Galatians 5:24), and will have mortified ourselves during these forty days of the Fast, the precious and life-giving Cross is now placed before us to refresh our souls and encourage us who may be filled with a sense of bitterness, resentment, and depression. The Cross reminds us of the Passion of our Lord, and by presenting to us His example, it encourages us to follow Him in struggle and sacrifice, being refreshed, assured, and comforted. In other words, we must experience what the Lord experienced during His Passion - being humiliated in a shameful manner. The Cross teaches us that through pain and suffering we shall see the fulfillment of our hopes: the heavenly inheritance and eternal glory.

As they who walk on a long and hard way and are bowed down by fatigue find great relief and strengthening under the cool shade of a leafy tree, so do we find comfort, refreshment, and rejuvenation under the Life-giving Cross, which our Fathers “planted” on this Sunday. Thus, we are fortified and enabled to continue our Lenten journey with a light step, rested and encouraged. Or, as before the arrival of the king, his royal standards, trophies, and emblems of victory come in procession and then the king himself appears in a triumphant parade, jubilant and rejoicing in his victory and filling those under him with joy, so does the Feast of the Cross precede the coming of our King, Jesus Christ. It warns us that He is about to proclaim His victory over death and appear to us in the glory of the Resurrection. His Life-Giving Cross is His royal scepter, and by venerating it we are filled with joy, rendering Him glory. Therefore, we become ready to welcome our King, who shall manifestly triumph over the powers of darkness.

The present feast has been placed in the middle of Great Lent for another reason. The Fast can be likened to the spring of Marah whose waters the children of Israel encountered in the wilderness. This water was undrinkable due to its bitterness but became sweet when the Holy Prophet Moses dipped the wood into its depth. Likewise, the wood of the Cross sweetens the days of the Fast, which are bitter and often grievous because of our tears. Yet Christ comforts us during our course through the desert of the Fast, guiding and leading us by His hand to the spiritual Jerusalem on high by the power of His Resurrection. Moreover, as the Holy Cross is called the Tree of Life, it is placed in the middle of the Fast, as the ancient tree of life was placed in the middle of the garden of Eden. By this, our Holy Fathers wished to remind us of Adam’s gluttony as well as the fact that through this Tree has condemnation been abolished. Therefore, if we bind ourselves to the Holy Cross, we shall never encounter death but shall inherit life eternal.



Icon Of The Commemoration

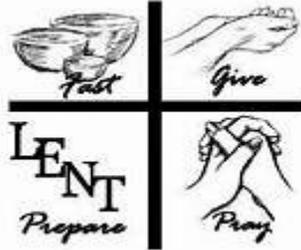
The most common icon associated with the Veneration of the Cross is the same icon used on the Feast of the Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross, September 14th. In the icon, Patriarch Macarius is standing in the pulpit elevating the Cross for all to see and venerate. On each side of the Patriarch are deacons holding candles. The elevated Cross is surrounded and venerated by many clergy and lay people, including Saint Helen, the mother of Emperor Constantine. In the background of the icon is a domed structure that represents the Church of the Resurrection in Jerusalem. This church was one of the churches constructed and dedicated by Emperor Constantine on the holy sites of Jerusalem.

Another icon related to this feast depicts the actual service of veneration that is conducted in the churches on the Third Sunday of Lent. In the center of the icon is the Cross. It is on a table surrounded by flowers. Above the Cross is the image of Christ in a partial mandorla representing His glory. He is blessing those who have gathered to venerate the Cross, the rulers, clergy, monastics, and laity. As in the service of veneration, the icon shows the priest venerating the Cross as the people chant the hymn “We venerate Your Cross, O Christ, and Your holy Resurrection we glorify,” which is inscribed on the table holding the Cross.

March 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 4:30 to 6pm Greek School	3 4:30 to 6pm Greek School	4	5 2nd SATURDAY OF SOULS 8am Orthros 9:15am Divine Liturgy
6 FORGIVENESS SUNDAY 8am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy PC Oath of Office Sunday School GOYA Meeting	7 Clean Monday 7pm to 8:30pm Zoom Adult Class Seminar Aeschylus' Masterpiece "The Persians"	8	9 4:30 to 6pm Greek School 5pm Presanctified 7pm Parish Council	10 4:30 to 6pm Greek School	11 7pm 1st Salutations to the Theotokos (participation of Metropolitan Methodios)	12 3rd SATURDAY OF SOULS 8am Orthros 9:15am Divine Liturgy
13 SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY 8am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Sunday School General Assembly 5pm Vespers at St. Mary's Pawtucket	14 7pm to 8:30pm Zoom Adult Class Seminar Aeschylus' Masterpiece "The Persians"	15	16 4:30 to 6pm Greek School 5pm Presanctified	17 4:30 to 6pm Greek School	18 7pm 2nd Salutations to the Theotokos	19
20 SUNDAY OF GREGORY PALAMAS 8am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Sunday School GOYA Meeting 5pm Vespers at St. John's Woonsocket	21 7pm to 8:30pm Zoom Adult Class Seminar Aeschylus' Masterpiece "The Persians"	22 12 Noon Pawtucket City Hall Greek Flag Raising 4pm RI State House GID Program 6pm Reception at Annunciation	23 4:30 to 6pm Greek School 5pm Presanctified	24 4:30 to 6pm Greek School 6pm Great Vespers Eve of Annunciation at Annunciation Cranston	25 ANNUNCIATION OF THE THEOTOKOS 8am Orthros 9:15am Divine Liturgy 7pm 3rd Salutations to the Theotokos	26
27 SUNDAY OF THE HOLY CROSS 8am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Doxology No Sunday School Greek Independence Day Program and PTO Reception 5pm Vespers at St. Spyridon's Newport	28 7pm to 8:30pm Zoom Adult Class Seminar Aeschylus' Masterpiece "The Persians"	29	30 4:30 to 6pm Greek School	31 4:30 to 6pm Greek School		

RI Orthodox Clergy Fellowship
Great Lent Services 2022 (~Open to All~)



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Sunday March 13 - Orthodoxy Sunday – St. Mary’s Parish – 5pm
249 High Street, Pawtucket / 401-726-1202
(Preacher: His Grace Bishop John of Worcester)

Sunday March 20 – St. John’s Parish – 5pm
501 East Street, Woonsocket
(Preacher: Fr. Elie Estephan)

Sunday March 27 – St. Spyridon’s Parish – 5pm
390 Thames Street, Newport / 401-846-0555
(Preacher: Fr. Onisie Morar)

Sunday April 3 – St. Michael’s Parish – 5pm
74 Harris Avenue, Woonsocket / 401-762-3939
(Preacher: Fr. Shnork Souin)

Sunday April 10 – St. Mary/Mena’s Parish – 5pm
2433 Scituate Avenue, Hope (Cranston) / 401-432-7200
(Preacher: Fr. Aaron Walker)

+++++

EVE OF ANNUNCIATION GREAT VESPERS
Thursday March 24 – Annunciation Parish – 6pm
175 Oaklawn Avenue, Cranston
(Preacher: Fr Andrew Giourelis)

Assumption of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church
97 Walcott Street, Pawtucket, Rhode Island

Traditional
Palm Sunday Luncheon

April 17, 2022

Immediately following Divine Liturgy
in the Assumption Community Center

Adults: \$25

Ages 15 and Under: \$15

Ages 6 and Under: Free (Mac & Cheese / Cheese Pizza / Fries)

Purchase your tickets after Church in the Community Center
or for reservations contact:

Jean Soukatos 401-474-1833 or jeansoukatos@gmail.com

Elaine Bassis 508-761-4626 or bazzie@comcast.net

Church Office 401-725-3127 or secretary@assumptionri.org

Please make your reservations prior to Palm Sunday!!!



AESCHYLUS' MASTERPIECE "THE PERSIANS"



Adult Class Seminar
Mondays from 7 to 8:30pm
February 7th thru April 11th
(class conducted via Zoom)

Following our study, "Aspects of Greek Civilization," we will continue with the reading of Aeschylus' classic masterpiece, "The Persians" – This tragedy is based on the historic events of the Persian defeat in the battles of Marathon and Salamis. Although it is a celebration of the Greek victory, Aeschylus describes the universal experience of suffering caused by the wars from the perspective of one of the losers and shows sympathy and compassion towards those who lost their beloved ones.

If interested in joining the class or for more information,
please call John Lyssikatos 401-728-4452

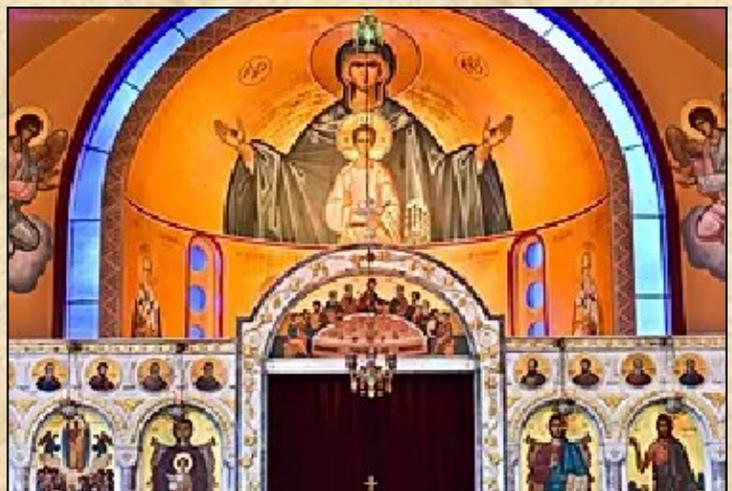
Visit Our Assumption Church Website

<https://www.assumptionri.org/>

Click **"VIRTUAL CANDLE"**
to light a candle

Click **"VIRTUAL TRAY"**
to make an offering

Thank you for your
continued support!!!





Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas

This divine Father, who was from Asia Minor, was from childhood reared in the royal court of Constantinople, where he was instructed in both religious and secular wisdom. Later, while still a youth, he left the imperial court and struggled in asceticism on Mount Athos, and in the Skete at Beroea. He spent some time in Thessalonica being treated for an illness that came from his harsh manner of life. He was present in Constantinople at the Council that was convened in 1341 against Barlaam of Calabria, and at the Council of 1347 against Acindynus, who was of like mind with Barlaam; Barlaam and Acindynus claimed that the grace of God is created. At both these Councils, the Saint contended courageously for the true dogmas of the Church of Christ, teaching in particular that divine grace is not created, but is the uncreated energies of God which are poured forth throughout creation: otherwise it would be impossible, if grace were created, for man to have genuine communion with the uncreated God. In 1347 he was appointed Metropolitan of Thessalonica. He tended his flock in an apostolic manner for some twelve years, and wrote many books and treatises on the most exalted doctrines of our Faith; and having lived for a total of sixty-three years, he reposed in the Lord in 1359. His holy relics are kept in the Cathedral of Thessalonica. A full service was composed for his feast day by the Patriarch Philotheus in 1368, when it was established that his feast be celebrated on this day. Since works without right faith avail nothing, we set Orthodoxy of faith as the foundation of all that we accomplish during the Fast, by celebrating the Triumph of Orthodoxy the Sunday before, and the great defender of the teachings of the holy Fathers today.

ARIS SERVETALIS ALEXANDER PETROV MICKEY ROURKE

MAN OF GOD

IN SELECT MOVIE THEATRES
MARCH 21 & 28 ONLY

#MANOFGODTHEMOVIE

FATHOM EVENTS VISIT [FATHOMEVENTS.COM](https://www.fathomevents.com)
FOR PARTICIPATING THEATRES AND TICKET INFORMATION

♡ 🔍 📍 📌

manofgodthemovie 'Man of God' gets a new date added in the US!

Now on March 21 and March 28 in a theatre near you!

Get your tickets now here!

<https://www.fathomevents.com/events/Man-of-God>



March 21st at 7pm

- Providence Place Cinemas and Imax
- Warwick Showcase Cinemas
- Patriot Place

March 28th at 7pm

- CW Theaters Lincoln Mall
- Warwick Showcase Cinemas
- Patriot Place

<https://www.fathomevents.com/events/Man-of-God>

Our Assumption parish will be joining the efforts of the Archdiocese to offer what we can through the IOCC to all brothers and sisters affected by the war in the region of Ukrainia, regardless of nationality or religion.



UKRAINE RELIEF FUND

*"We join our spirit to the spirit of His All-Holiness
and exhort all our Faithful:
offer prayers and tangible support for all the
Ukrainian People, those of the Orthodox Church
of Ukraine and those of the Ukrainian Orthodox
Church under the Moscow Patriarchate,
those of the Ukrainian Catholic and Jewish
communities, and all who find themselves in the
dire circumstances of war."*

Together, the **Greek Orthodox Archdiocese
of America and IOCC** aim to raise
\$1 million for both immediate and long-term
support of the Ukrainian people.

**Make your donation by visiting
goarch.org/ukraine**



METROPOLIS OF BOSTON CAMP SUMMER CAMP '22

EXPERIENCE A SUMMER UNLIKE ANY OTHER



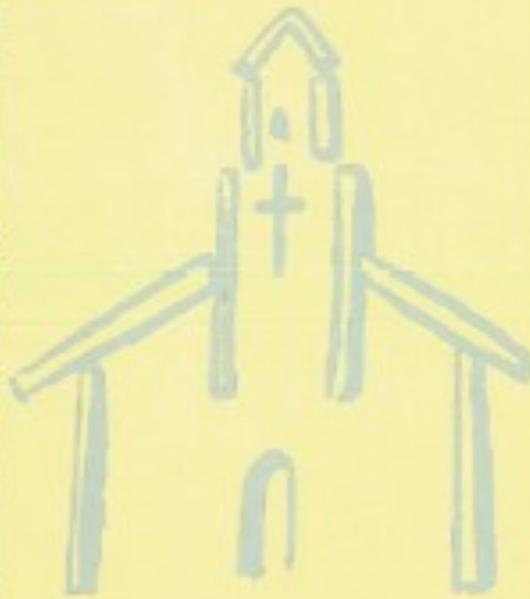
FAITH | HERITAGE | FELLOWSHIP | SPORTS | ARTS | NATURE | MORE!

REGISTRATION
OPENS 2/28

SESSION 1: JUNE 27-JULY 3
SESSION 2: JULY 4-10 | SESSION 3: JULY 11-17
SESSION 4: JULY 18-24 | SESSION 5: JULY 25-31



METROPOLIS OF BOSTON CAMP
162 GODDARD AVENUE
BROOKLINE, MA 02445



 METROPOLIS OF BOSTON CAMP  @METROPOLISOFBOSTONCAMP  MBCAMP  MBCAMP

COMMEMORATING MARCH 25, 1821

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY BOSTON PARADE

SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2022 AT 1:00 PM

Celebrating 200 +1 years • 1821–2022

PARADE ROUTE: BOYLSTON STREET (FROM MASS AVE. TO CHARLES ST.)

CELEBRATION "ON THE PARK" AT THE BOSTON COMMON
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE PARADE
AT THE PARKMAN BANDSTAND



ILa Lu
DESIGN
PennyMeletlidis.com

PKOTO synthesis
www.images.boston

Presented by the Federation of Hellenic-American Societies of New England in Cooperation with The Metropolis of Boston, The Consulate General of Greece and The Mayor's Office of Special Events and Tourism
Please send donations towards 2022 Greek Parade of Boston to FHASNE, P.O. Box 2580, Woburn, MA 01888. For info: 978-835-1455 • 617-733-0296 • 508-284-3504 • www.fhasne.com



Greek School 2022 Greek Independence Day Program



Τὸ Ἑλληνικὸ Σχολεῖο σᾶς προσκαλεῖ στὸν ἐπίσημο ἑορτασμὸ τῆς Ἐθνικῆς μας ἑορτῆς ποὺ θὰ γίνεῖ τὴν Κυριακὴ 27^η Μαρτίου στὴν Κοινοτικὴ μας αἴθουσα ἀμίσως μετὰ ἀπὸ τὴ Θεία Λειτουργία. Τὰ παιδιὰ μας περήφανα γιὰ τὴν τρισίνδοξη καταγωγὴ τους, θὰ σᾶς παρουσιάσουν ἓνα πλούσιο πρόγραμμα μὲ πατριωτικὸ δρᾶμα, ποιήματα, ἔθνικοὺς χοροὺς καὶ τραγούδια γιὰ νὰ τιμήσουμε τοὺς ἥρωες ποὺ ἔχυσαν τὸ αἷμα τους γιὰ τὴ λευτεριά μας. Ἐλᾶτε νὰ τὰ καμαρώσετε καὶ νὰ πλημμυρίσουν καὶ οἱ δικές σας καρδιές ἀπὸ ἔθνικὸ παλμὸ καὶ ὑπερηφάνεια. Τὸ ΠΤΟ θὰ προσφέρει καφέ, ἀναψυκτικὰ, γλυκίσματα καὶ μεζεδάκια.

We invite you to the celebration of Greek Independence Day which will take place on Sunday, March 27th, after Divine Liturgy. Our Children, who attend the afternoon Greek School, will present a program depicting the spirit and ideas of our forefathers in their heroic fight for freedom. What better place to hold this celebration than in our beautiful church hall, for the church led the fight for liberation. Let us all join together on Sunday the 27th full of pride for our children who will perform on this day — poems, sketches, and dances — honoring the heroes of 1821. The PTO will host a special coffee hour reception on that day for all of you to enjoy.

Panagiota Vastis, Principal

Sophia Augoustakis

Stavroula Papavasiliou



City of Pawtucket & State of Rhode Island 2022 Greek Independence Day Celebrations



Pawtucket City Hall

DATE: Tuesday, March 22, 2022

TIME: 12 Noon

PLACE: Pawtucket City Hall

You are invited to join the children of our Assumption Greek School as they gather together at Pawtucket City Hall for the annual Greek Independence Day Flag-Raising program arranged with Mayor Donald Grebien. There will be dignitaries from the City of Pawtucket who will commemorate this special day in Greek history. Reception will follow at Pawtucket City Hall hosted by our Assumption Greek Orthodox Church.

Rhode Island State House

DATE: Tuesday, March 22, 2022

TIME: 4pm

PLACE: Rhode Island State House

You are invited to join the children of the Pawtucket, Cranston and Newport Greek Schools as they gather with our State Officials and Greek Consulate guests at the Rhode Island State House to commemorate this special day in our history. The Rhode Island State House ceremony will be followed by a Reception hosted by Church of the Annunciation in their Community Center located at 175 Oaklawn Avenue, Cranston, Rhode Island.

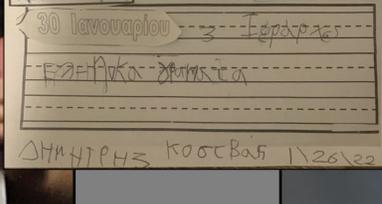
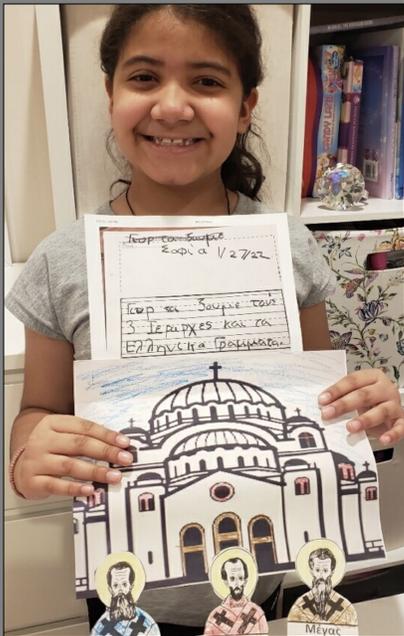
Greek Independence Day from Recent Years . . .

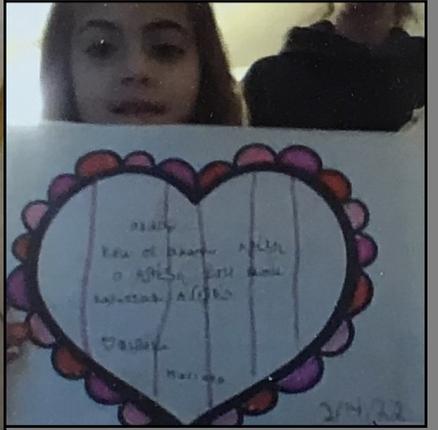
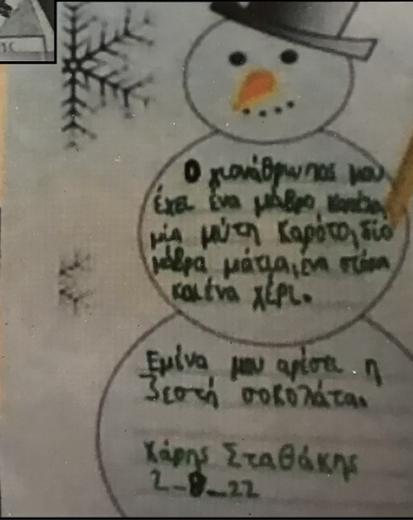
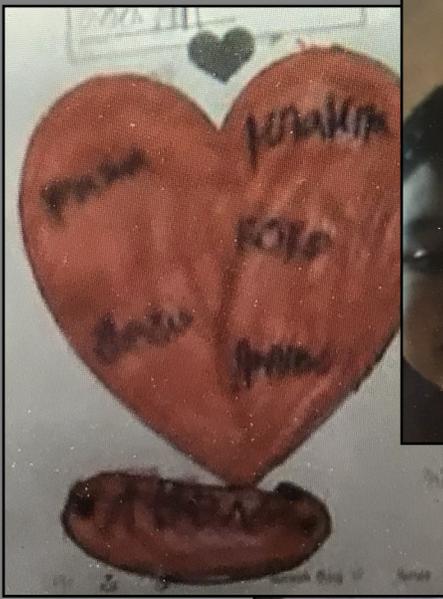
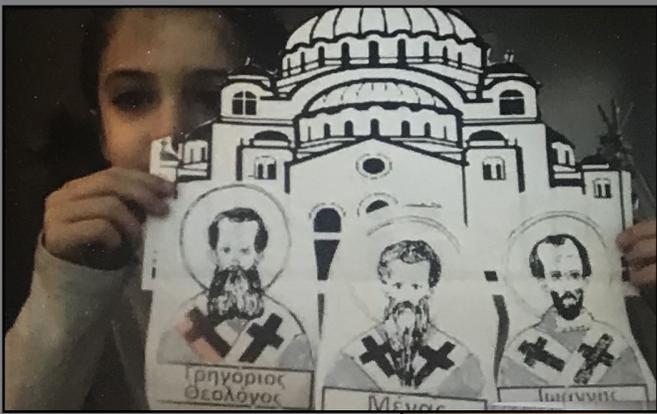


GREEK SCHOOL . . .

Οι μαθητές του Ελληνικού Σχολείου μας εργάστηκαν σκληρά μαθαίνοντας εξ αποστάσεως. Μπράβο σας!!!

The students of our Greek School worked hard while learning remotely. Well done!!! Here are some pictures of their work!!!





Εγώ και ο Χριστιανός
πιάσαμε έξω στο χιόνι.
Εγώ έφτιαξα ένα χιονά-
νθρωπο.
Αγγελική



Όνομα Μαριάνη 1/13/22



Μαριάνη 1-2022
είναι
(is)

Αυτό είναι για τα και
δύο σκυλιά.

είναι είναι είναι
Ο κύριος είναι πτιέ
Ε Ι V A L



Oath of Office 2022 Parish Council



The Parish Council Oath of Office took place on Sunday, March 6th. Congratulations to new and returning members as follows:

George Foussekis (President), George Karalis (Vice President), Donna Gerace (Treasurer), Olga Limnios (Secretary), Dr. Nicholas Nikolopoulos, Peter Papavasiliou, Rose Foussekis, Vasileios Papavasiliou, Brian Gerace, Eleni Katsios and Jean Soukatos.

Additional Christmas Donations

Many thanks to the following parishioners for their very thoughtful and generous Christmas Donations:

Mrs. Tina Demopulos

Mr. & Mrs. George Vastis



EASTER BREAD

Philoptochos will be baking Easter Bread on
April 13th, 14th and 15th

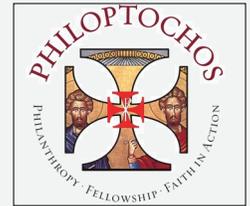
Please place your order by April 2nd
\$12 per loaf

Elaine Sioras
(401)724-1031 or (401)617-7950
elainesioras@gmail.com

Pick-Up Saturday, April 16th from 10am to 1pm
Pick-Up after Church on Palm Sunday, April 17th
All orders must be paid for at the time of pick-up

Philoptochos News . . .

Due to Covid restrictions, we have not had a monthly meeting since December. After our Board meeting on February 28th, we decided to resume our monthly meetings and scheduled our first monthly meeting of the year on March 20th. We will be baking our Easter Bread, and we are also planning to bake a selection of pastries for purchase and pick-up. Below you will find the order deadline dates, baking dates, and pick-up dates.



EASTER BREAD SCHEDULE — \$12 Each

- **DEADLINE to order Easter Bread is April 2, 2022**
- **We'll be BAKING our Easter Bread on the following dates:**
 - Wednesday April 13th
 - Thursday April 14th
 - Friday April 15th
- **Bread PICK-UPS will take place on:**
 - Saturday April 16th from 10am to 1pm
 - After Church on Palm Sunday April 17th

PASTRY SCHEDULE — See below for pricing

- **DEADLINE to order Pastry is April 2, 2022**
- **We'll be holding PASTRY BAKING WORKSHOPS on the following dates (volunteers needed):**
 - Saturday April 2nd
 - Sunday April 3rd with a start time of 10am
 - Saturday April 9th
 - Sunday April 10th with a start time of 10am
 - Tuesday April 12th
- **Pastry pick-ups will take place on:**
 - Saturday April 16th from 10am to 1pm
 - After Church on Palm Sunday April 17th
- **Pastry pricing is as follows:**
 - Koulourakia — Half Dozen — \$4
 - Variety Box — 2 almond rolls, 3 finikia, 3 wedding cookies, 2 baklava — \$25 per box
 - 3 wedding cookies and 3 finikia — \$15

To VOLUNTEER at a Pastry Baking Workshop, please contact:

Vikki by email at v.kizirian@yahoo.com or by phone 401-369-0349

To PLACE AN ORDER for Easter Bread or an order for Pastry, please contact:

Elaine by email at elainesioras@gmail.com or by phone 401-617-7940

Let Us Help Our Endowment Fund Grow

As church membership dwindles in many places while ever-growing maintenance fees rise, many parishes are establishing endowment funds to meet their needs and secure their financial survival. Here at Assumption in Pawtucket, thanks to the foresight and vision of past parishioners and parish councils, we are blessed because we already established such an endowment fund many years ago.

We are also blessed here at Assumption in that, having established our Endowment Fund, many parishioners generously contributed to it in the past and to this day. Indeed, some parishioners were even kind enough to endow sizable funds through their wills to our community in order to guarantee the continuity of our beloved parish. We are where we are today thanks to such people and we should never let their generosity be forgotten.

Our Endowment Fund's value is \$795,194.19 as of March 3, 2022. As our community's By-Laws stipulate, half of our Endowment Fund's annual return goes towards the budget expenses of our community and the other half is re-invested.

In realizing the needs of our community and sharing the great vision of these benefactors, it behooves us to imitate them and to make whatever contribution we can – small or great – to continue their tradition and to help the fund grow. In this way we will secure the future of our beloved Assumption Church. For this purpose, each month we will include this new column dedicated to the Endowment Fund in our monthly newsletter. We will be posting the current value of the fund to keep you abreast regarding its growth and we will list the names of past parishioners as well as new donors who contribute to the fund in memory of loved ones. For the sake of confidentiality, names will be included but not the monetary amounts.

Let us all honor our benefactors by imitating them, sharing in their dreams for the future and by fostering with them the continuation of our church into perpetuity.

Recent Donations to the Endowment Fund

**Dr. & Mrs. Vasili Amfilo
in Memory of Maria's Parents and Sophia Amfilo**

**Embrace Home Loans in Honor of the 30th Anniversary
of Peter Microulis with Embrace Home Loans**

**Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Soukatos
in Honor of the Birthday of George Foussekis**

**Mr. & Mrs. George Vastis
in Memory of Panagiotis Kotzageorgis,
Father of Presbytera Xanthippi Zymaris
Father-in-Law of Rev. Fr. Philip Zymaris**

**Mr. & Mrs. George Vastis
in Memory of Evignia Skodras**

Consider including the Endowment Fund in your will and be a supporting pillar to secure the Assumption's survival in perpetuity.

Stewards in Good Standing 2022

Dr. & Mrs. Vasili Amfilo
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Amoling
Mr. & Mrs. Anastasios Andrikopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Ioannis Apostolakis
The Augoustakis Family
Mr. Arthur Bassis
Ms. Elaine Bassis
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Bitsakis
Mr. & Mrs. Kosta Bitsis
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Boccelli
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Botsford
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Boyle
Mrs. Athena Bras
The Brathas Family
Mr. & Mrs. Alexandros Chrisidis
Ms. Maria Anna Chrisidis
Mr. & Mrs. George Cicma
Mrs. Eleni Dafulas
Mr. & Mrs. George Demopulos
Mrs. Tina Demopulos
Ms. Cyriake Doukas
Mrs. Helen Doukas
Rev. Fr. & Presbyteria George Economou
Mr. Leonidas Foussekis & Samantha Arredondo
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Gallo
Mr. & Mrs. William Gaza
Ms. Nancy Georgitsis
Mrs. Zacharie Haseotes Vinius
Mr. & Mrs. George P. & Polyxeni Haseotes
Mr. Vasiliios Haseotes
Ms. Athena Haseotes
Mr. Demetrios E. Haseotes
Mr. & Mrs. George & Kristen Haseotes
Mr. Ari Haseotes
Ms. Lily Haseotes Bentas
Ms. Kelly Stocker-Haseotes

Ms. Martha Iazzetti
Mr. Vasileios Izanidis
Mr. & Mrs. George Kalantzis
Mr. Nikolaos Kalantzis
Miss Stavroula Kalivas
Mrs. Angeliki Karageorge
Mr. George Karalis
Mr. Joseph Karalis
Mr. Michael Karavolis
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Karavasilis
Mr. & Mrs. Chris and Georgia (Katsios) Gray
Mr. George Ketinos
Mr. & Mrs. Aleko Kimbouris
Ms. Barbara Kiras
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Kizirian
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Kology
Elizabeth Lazouras Family
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Lehourites
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Lehourites
Mr. Christopher Lehourites
Mr. & Mrs. Angelo C. Limnios
Mr. John Lyssikatos
Ms. Gail Manickas
Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Mastin
Mr. George Microulis & Mrs. Elizabeth Menges
Mr. Paul Microulis
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Microulis
Mrs. Betty Missirlis
Mr. Jason Missirlis
Mr. John Missirlis
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Mudge
Mr. & Mrs. Justin Nicholatos
Mr. Andreas Nicolos
Mr. Dimitri Nicolos
Mr. & Mrs. Vassilios Nicolos
Dr. & Mrs. Nicholas Nikolopoulos

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Nikou
Mrs. Alexandra Nikou
Dr. & Mrs. Constantine Pagonis
Mr. & Mrs. George Panagos
Ms. Patricia Panichas
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Papavasiliou
Mrs. Harriet Pappas
Mr. & Mrs. Costas Perdikakis
Miss Maria Platsidakis
Mrs. Marion Pollock
Mr. George Sakells
Mr. & Mrs. Abraham Saxionis
Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Seely
Ms. Elaine Sioras
Mrs. Irene Sioras
Mr. Gregory Skoutas
Mrs. Emily Soukas
Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Soukatos
Mrs. Sandy Stamoulis
Mrs. Dorothy Stergis
Mrs. Pashalia Strekouras
Mrs. Anastasia Susset
Ms. Gina Taktikos
Mr. Steven Taktikos
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Thibeault
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Tsukatos
Mrs. Penelope Vartanian
The Carlson / Vastis Family
Mr. & Mrs. George Vastis
Ms. Valerie Vastis
Miss Anastasia Vellopoulou
Dr. & Mrs. Thomas & Marie (Lascarides) Walsh
Mrs. Alexandra Whitmore
Mrs. Joanne Wright

Cemetery Fund

Assumption Church is in the process of having work performed by landscapers on our grounds at Walnut Hill Cemetery on Armistice Boulevard in Pawtucket. It would be greatly appreciated if you would consider making a donation to help with the upkeep and beautification of the grounds where so many of our deceased loved ones are buried. If you have not already done so, please contribute to the Cemetery Fund so that completion of the work can take place. Thank you to those parishioners who have already made donations, and many thanks for the new donation from the following:

Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Mudge





Dear Friends,

As we begin our new year 2022, we would like to ask all of you to reflect on the celebration of 100 years of AHEPA in the USA and the world! In an age that very few organizations have lasted more than 30 years, AHEPA is the voice of Hellenism in this country and the world with a strong service record for education, philanthropy, civil responsibility, community engagement and promotion of our Hellenic ideas! **AHEPA is you, and you make AHEPA! The more together, the stronger we are and the more of an impact we have!**

Please HELP AHEPA to support the work of Paideia at URI!



Almost 10 years ago, the educational organization **Paideia** headed by Ilias Tomazos started a project at the University of Rhode Island (URI) to build a **Center for Hellenic Studies** and a **Greek Orthodox Chapel of St. Luke**. This is a project blessed by our own Bishop Methodios and supported by many of us from Rhode Island and Connecticut. During the last few years, the project was halted, and several legal battles started with the past administration of URI, and we have now reached a final point where the future of the Paideia

Greek Center and the St. Luke Chapel will be determined in a few months by a final legal procedure. In supporting Paideia at URI, you are also supporting our Orthodox faith and our Hellenistic heritage! No donation is too little or too big! **It is the greatest project for Orthodoxy and Hellenism in Rhode Island now! It is the kind of a project that failure is not an option!** Please donate to support the legal fees for the Paideia project. Our AHEPA Pawtucket chapter fully supports the project and together we can make a difference! **You can mail your donation payable to HS Paideia / RI to . . .**

HS PAIDEIA/RI
c/o Greek Orthodox Annunciation Church
175 Oaklawn Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920

25th of March, 100 Years of AHEPA and us . . .



Hard to believe that soon we will be celebrating one more anniversary of the Greek Independence Day – 25th of March 1821 on the same year that we are celebrating the 100 Year Anniversary of AHEPA. A good time for reflection, a good time to rethink our goals and the best time – even during a continuing pandemic – to question where we are headed and where we would like to go. March 25th, 1821 marks the rebirth of Greece, after 400+ years of brutal Ottoman occupation. Our fathers and mothers stood tall, when their faith, heritage and life was under siege. They fought without military training, without supplies and oftentimes without food so that

today we, the descendants of heroes, patriots and martyrs, can celebrate. They fought the Ottomans as well as the oppressive powers of Europe at the time opposing any idea of freedom or independence. They were driven by faith, by the ideas of American and French revolution, by the desire to be free or to happily give their lives so that their children could be free. In their fight, they were joined by Philhellenes from the United States, France and other parts of the world.



This year we are also celebrating the 100 years of AHEPA birth – a few visionary men understood that strength is in the numbers, the local community, the extended communities and not on the individuals! They started something big, during challenging and uncertain times, and they introduced the concept of “Brotherhood” as a way of preserving and communicating our common values, the belief that strength is in unity, responsibility, engagement, education and similar. They created a grass root campaign that at some point in time numbered tens of thousands of members.

Is there any commonality among the two great anniversaries we are celebrating? What can we learn from them? Well, there is commonality here!

- The greater the challenge, the greater the common effort needed to overcome the challenge!
- It takes vision, passion and prioritizing our values accordingly to succeed!
- It takes the bond of “brotherhood” to strengthen the effort!
- It takes to answer the Call to Action with no reservations!
- It takes to accept the fundamental understanding that nobody else will fight our fight!

On February 1st, the new Chief of the Greek Air Force was appointed. A veteran of flying several types of fighters, with distinguished career and participation in actively defending the Greek Airspace over the Aegean Sea from the Turkish Air Force. In his acceptance speech, he put into words what it would take anyone many days if not weeks of lectures to analyze . . .

"We live in a geopolitical and geostrategic environment that is considered one of the most sensitive and unstable in the world, in a region on fire from civil wars . . . The greatest violent movement of population in the history of mankind is taking place with huge upheavals, threatened changes of borders, states that are collapsing" and empires of the past "which, in order to satisfy their energy dreams, openly violate every concept of international law".

We Must Preserve the Legacy We Inherited! ***We need you to join our AHEPA A121 (Pawtucket) Chapter!***

We ask all of you to join and support your AHEPA Pawtucket chapter. You can get as much involved as you have time or desire. Please keep in mind, that just by becoming a member and through your yearly membership fee you help us to . . .

- *Support AHEPA activities and publications*
- *Support our Chapter's activities and representation*
- *Give strength to our Pawtucket chapter through membership counts*
- *Provide academic and athletic scholarships*
- *Make our voice heard for things that matter*
- *Make a difference in every community and in the country as well*

This is an invitation to everyone – we need all of you! Your opinion will always count, whether you are attending our meetings in person, or you are submitting your ideas via email, phone, text or personal conversation. For membership information and/or applications, please see Yianni Apostolakis, Tom Andrikopoulos or Nick Bitsakis.

For more information, please visit www.ahepa.org.



IOCC *Helping others help themselves*
INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

**INSPIRED BY FAITH.
DRIVEN BY PURPOSE.**

At IOCC, we've helped people in more than 60 countries across the world.



Joy is extremely easy to come by!

*IOCC gives you an opportunity to reach beyond our parish and community and by becoming a monthly donor, IOCC can receive matching funds and truly make every dollar you donate count for six or seven! Even a \$10 monthly donation can reach so many people, where a bag of seeds for a farmer can be less than \$50! Then we will be able to speak not only of the fun things we do, but also of the joy of helping somebody in this world who thought that he was all alone! **Please visit iocc.org and become a monthly donor! It's worth it!***

Rebuilding Alongside Fire Survivors in Greece



"My husband and I have run our own business for 38 years," said Zoe. "And now, because of the fire, we are unemployed." With their patisserie in Northern Evia destroyed in the August 2021 fires, IOCC is helping the couple cover monthly grocery expenses with vouchers for a local supermarket. Zoe and her husband are among the hundreds of families affected by a series of wildfires during the summer of 2021 on the island of

Evia in Attica and in the Peloponnese. Greek media reported that the 2021 fire emergency on Evia was the largest disaster in Greece ever caused by a single fire. Recovery will be long and costly. Immediately after the fires, IOCC partnered with Apostoli, the humanitarian arm of the Archdiocese of Athens, and local groups in Ileia to provide short-term assistance — including school kits and vouchers for school supplies — just as classes were beginning in the fall.

More recently, to help over 120 families, year-round residents of Evia and Attica whose homes were damaged in the fires (primarily those facing unemployment or low incomes), each household is receiving a voucher from IOCC worth \$1,250. With the vouchers, recipients shop independently at a local chain, tailoring the assistance. They can select what they need, whether it's new electrical appliances, furniture, and utensils, or construction materials and tools to rebuild. Work is ongoing, and IOCC is committed to supporting those affected by the fires as they rebuild lives and livelihoods. Through a holistic approach, IOCC aims to supply immediate hygiene, food, and household necessities and to help businesses and farming families longer term. Next steps on Evia are to provide animal feed to fire-affected farmers and new equipment to small businesses whose property was destroyed. Donor response to this crisis has been humbling. The George and Judy Marcus Family Foundation and the Jaharis Family Foundation established a matching challenge, ongoing now, to inspire additional donations for these efforts (iocc.org/greecefiresmatch22). In addition, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America is working through IOCC to provide assistance. The physical and emotional rebuilding in fire-affected areas will continue for many years, but with each day there is progress and hope. "We are

thankful for the help offered by IOCC,” said Zoe. “Knowing that somebody cares for us gives us strength to carry on.”



Hurricane Ida Cleanup Continues

It was the second-most devastating hurricane to make landfall in Louisiana, behind only Katrina in 2005. After Hurricane Ida hit the Gulf Coast in September 2021, IOCC moved quickly to focus on the immediate needs of survivors and to develop a plan toward long-term recovery. IOCC had a team on the ground shortly after the storm to begin the intense process of assessment and cleanup — including help gutting and mucking out damaged homes, removing debris, and clearing away fallen trees. IOCC Frontliners also deployed to provide emotional and spiritual care to homeowners — as well as to volunteers and other team members helping communities affected by this destructive storm.

IOCC Frontliner Father Joel Weir reflected on his time counseling Andrea, a local homeowner. “Being able to take time to listen to Ms. Andrea was truly a blessing to me,” he recalls. “Her faith, even in the midst of such loss and uncertainty . . . was profound. We talked and prayed together.” Today, the IOCC team is still on the ground, honored to work beside — and bring hope to — the people of Louisiana. At press time, our teams continue to clean up more homes, and we remain committed to long-term recovery, even though media attention has faded.

Here is How YOU Can Help More!

- **Become a monthly donor to IOCC**
- **Send a donation to IOCC for a cause that touches your heart!**
- **Give a donation to Ioannis Apostolakis, payable to IOCC, for any occasion you would like to make a difference!**

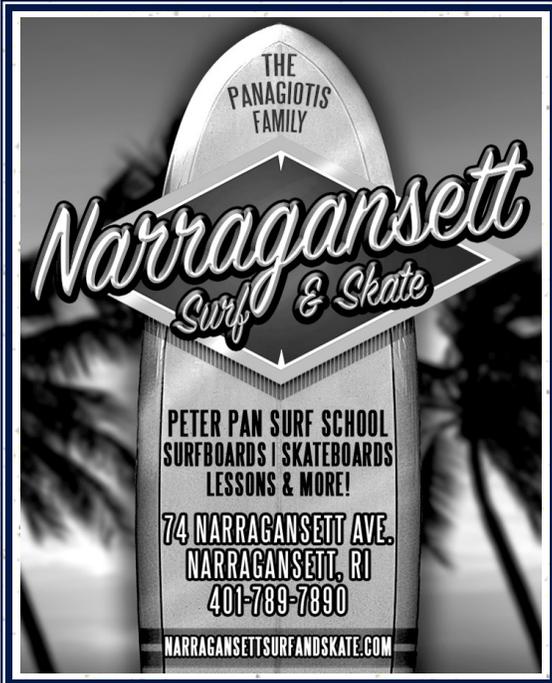
Help Us Provide For Those in Need!

And remember, 92 cents of every dollar you give goes to our humanitarian work. The other 8 cents is for administration and fundraising costs. Charity Navigator gives IOCC a 4-star rating (highest possible) for financial health, accountability and transparency. Plus, every dollar you give helps us secure \$7 more in support from governments, foundations, and other sources.

IOCC is the official humanitarian aid agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States. Since its inception in 1992, IOCC has delivered \$650 million in relief and development programs to families and communities in more than 50 countries. IOCC is a member of the ACT Alliance, a global coalition of churches and agencies engaged in development, humanitarian assistance and advocacy. To learn more about IOCC, please visit our website at iocc.org.

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