



A WEEKEND AT A GREEK VILLAGE GLENDI\*

## August 22, 23 & 24, 2025



ASSUMPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

97 WALCOTT STREET PAWTUCKET, RI

PHONE: (401)725-3127

## Priest's Message



Welcome to our 98th Annual Greek Festival and the celebration of our parish's feast of the Assumption (Dormition) of the Virgin Mary.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our parishioners, what began many years ago as a small Greek picnic has transformed into a 3-day full-fledged festival. Whether you are attending for the first time or are returning to visit us again, we invite you to experience for a weekend here in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, the depth of the Orthodox Christian tradition and the magic of Greece from which this originated.

We invite you first of all to visit our worship to understand how this tradition of life in Christ is the source of everything else we do. There will be tours of the church given by me at certain times so be sure to check the schedule (the schedule is taped to the church entrance) in order to experience the genuine Byzantine architecture and iconography of our church as well as our recently installed traditional marble floor. In my tours I will explain the symbolism of the church architecture and iconography and how this communicates to us the biblical theology and message of Christianity in a tangible way. We invite you to then tour the grounds and experience a world reminiscent of the Greek Islands. We invite you to enjoy our Greek hospitality, food and pastry, as well as Greek music and dancing. Our famous dance troupe will be performing at specific times so be sure to consult the schedule in order to enjoy this unique experience. Regarding the food, you shouldn't miss the gyro or souvlaki! ... not to mention some awesome Greek pastries topped off with a frappe (Greek iced coffee). You especially need to try our baklava cheesecake which is a unique recipe that is found only here in Pawtucket. It is the invention of our late parishioner Tina Georgitsis and will always be served in her memory. Be sure to stroll through our "Agora" (Greek marketplace) where you can find Greek trinkets as if you were in Athens or on the Greek Islands.

We hope you enjoy our Festival! We look forward to hosting you and hope you come again and again year after year!

May the Lord Jesus Christ protect you and yours through the intercessions of the Virgin Mary, the very Mother of God who is the patron saint of our beloved parish.

(Ahelip Zymaii

Rev. Dr. Philip Zymaris



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## A Message from your



## Festival Co-Chairpersons:

Welcome to our 98th Annual Greek Festival, a three-day event celebrating the nameday of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. It truly "takes a village" to put on such an event. The 2025 Festival Committee is honored to have the opportunity to be a part of this year's Festival.

The Greeks have a word for it - "philoxenia," meaning "hospitality." To be hospitable to friends and family, to those we know and are just meeting for the first time, is the ultimate goal. We welcome you and hope that you enjoy every bite, every sip, every dance step, and all that our festival has to offer. So take a walk around, try new foods, stop by our vendors, watch a dance performance, take a Church tour, and watch a baking demonstration. We host this once a year and we want you to enjoy every moment!

Our sincere thanks to the festival committee and volunteers for their hard work preparing all Spring and Summer long, and to our donors for their continued support of this major fundraiser for our Parish. We appreciate you all. OPA!

Sincerely,
Patti Panichas & Andrea Vastis
Co-Chairpersons | 2025 Greek Festival Committee

## 2025 Parish Council



A sincere thank you to all Assumption Parishioners and Friends who supported the efforts, activities, and responsibilities of our Church throughout the year!!!

#### **President**

George Karalis

#### **Vice President**

Andrea Vastis

### Secretary

Olga Limnios

#### Treasurer

Michael Karavolis

#### **Assistant Treasurer**

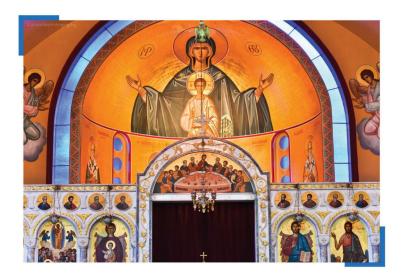
Anastasia Vellopoulou

#### **Members**

Lily Madeline Carlson
Anthony Clapsis
George Delis
Triantafillio Foussekis
Golfo Katsios
Nick Vellopoulos
Rev. Dr. Philip Zymaris, Ex Officio



## WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED BEING GREEK FOR A WEEKEND



### SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

@greekfestivalri





## History of the Church



The Greek community in Pawtucket began somewhere near 1896 with six to ten young men who emigrated from Greece. They rented halls and houses to hold Divine Liturgy services whenever a priest was available.

By 1910, the community had grown to about 75 members. This small community raised a grand total of \$750 towards a church, and in 1911 property was bought on George Street for this purpose. (Present home of Hampton Inn).

The first Parish Council, consisting of seven members, was formed on February 22, 1912, at which time the Assumption Church received a religious corporation charter from the State of Rhode Island. In November 1912 the cornerstone was laid on the George Street site. On June 13, 1914, by-laws were written, and the church was given its official name, "Hellenic Orthodox Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary."

In 1925, the community purchased property on Armistice Boulevard (then known as Brook Street) as a cemetery for the church.

In 1952 the community bought 27 acres of land on River Road in Lincoln to be used for church outings. Urban Renewal displaced the George Street church, and on May 30, 1966, ground was broken at 97 Walcott Street, the former Ott Mansion. Services were held at the renovated chapel in the former carriage house on the property, and in January 1967 construction of the present church began. The Mansion House was renovated for offices and living quarters for the priest and his family. The parish grew to its present size of 350 families.

This year, as we celebrate our Annual Festival, we are thankful for our growth. We are a thriving parish. Our youngsters attend Sunday School and are enriched in our faith, and they learn the Greek language and culture at our Greek School. GOYA provides activities for our youth. We have a renowned Dance Troupe. Our Philoptochos Society supports its church and many other philanthropies. We are a strong presence in the community, locally and regionally. In 2012 we proudly celebrated our 100th Anniversary. We are proud of our past and look forward to a prosperous future.

### 2025 ANNUAL GRECIAN FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

#### **FRIDAY, AUGUST 22**

Elliniki Yperiphania = Greek Pride of RI Dance Troupe
7:00 pm Taverna Performance

#### **SATURDAY, AUGUST 23**

Elliniki Yperiphania = Greek Pride of RI Dance Troupe 4:00 pm (Junior Troupe) 7:00 pm Island Performance

> Church Tours with Father Philip Zymaris 2:00 pm and 5:00 pm

Baking Demonstrations with Pat Panichas 3:00 pm and 6:00 pm

#### **SUNDAY, AUGUST 24**

Elliniki Yperiphania = Greek Pride of RI Dance Troupe 4:00 pm (Junior Troupe) 7:00 pm Mainland Performance

**Church Tours with Father Philip Zymaris** 2:00 pm and 5:00 pm

Baking Demonstrations with Pat Panichas 3:00 pm and 6:00 pm



## Best Wishes for a Successful Festival!

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## With Gratitude and Thanks to our Donors and Volunteers



Our Grecian Festival is our largest fundraiser throughout the year. It

community for generations to come.

Without the help of every one of our donors and volunteers, this festival would simply not be the success it has become over the years.

allows our parish to grow and continue our religion, culture, and

So many of our parishioners and friends of our parish have donated food, money, various supplies, knowledge and most of all, their time and effort.

All of them are the fabric and heartbeat that make up what is our Grecian Festival. While it is impossible to name them all individually, please know we thank all of you from the bottom of our hearts.

thank



## Visit our Vendors!

- AROMA OF HELLAS -
- ORTHODOX GIFTS -
- CAMERON CRAFTS -
- THE ALTERNATIVE: CURIO AND COLLECT -
  - OAK STREET HEALTH -
  - I WANT THAT FACE! -
    - HENNA RAIN -

## Best Wishes and Continued Success To Your Parish and All Your Community Events



Rev. Father Nicholas Lanzourakis
PRESIDING PRIEST

Rev. Father Andrew G. George **PROTOPRESBYTER** 

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Greek Orthodox Parish of Greater Providence
175 Oaklawn Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920
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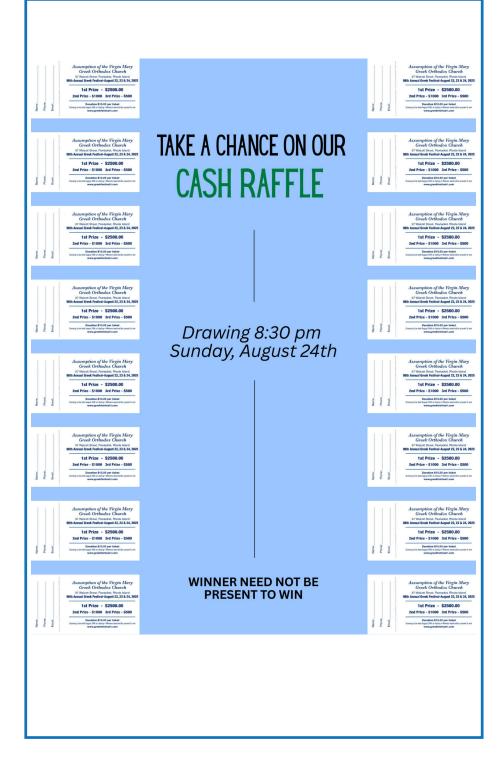
#### BEST WISHES FOR A SUCCESSFUL FESTIVAL

### OPA!



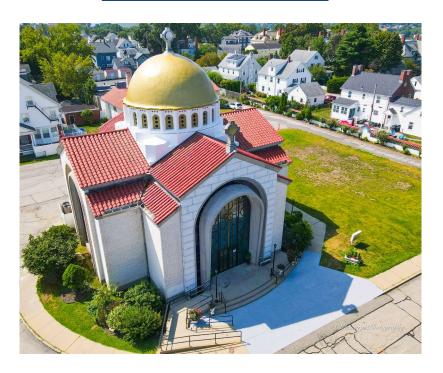
Directors: Nancy Georgitsis, George Microulis, Andrea Vastis

www.greekprideri.com





# DONATE TODAY



## AMERICAN HELLENIC EDUCATIONAL PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION A121 Chapter, Pawtucket , RI - Established 1926

## AHEPA Pawtucket Chapter 121 Supports our Festival! We Wish all the Success to our Festival!



Year 2025 marks the 103rd year anniversary of AHEPA (American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association). For 100+ years we have promoted the Hellenic Ideals of education, philanthropy, civic responsibility, family and individual excellence through community service and volunteerism.

People of Greek heritage and Philhellenes joined together in Brotherhood to promote and to defend the ideas of Hellenism. We make a difference in our communities, the nation and the world by our engagement and our contributions in so many areas.

Join our AHEPA Pawtucket Chapter and help us promote and defend Hellenism, the legacy we inherited!



## The Assumption PTO

Greek School & Sunday School



## Best Wishes for a Successful Festival

Assumption PTO Board & Members

PTO@assumptionri.org

In loving memory of my beloved parents Denno + Adrienne Kacharo and my beloved brothers James, Spiro, and Theodore Kacharo

Marion Pollock and Son Gregory Pollock







Best Wishes and Continued Success

For a Joyful Festival 2025

The Sioras Family &

Donald Dessert



## Best Wishes For A Successful Festival

In Loving Memory of Peter A. Lazouras, Andrew & Chrysanthe (Sue) Lazouras

You will forever be in our hearts and may your Memory Be Eternal

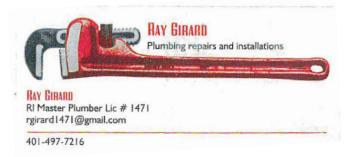
We miss and love you always

The Lazouras Family





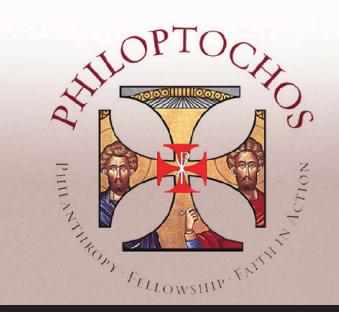






## Best Wishes! Festival 2025

President Patricia Panichas



St. Barbara Philoptochos Society



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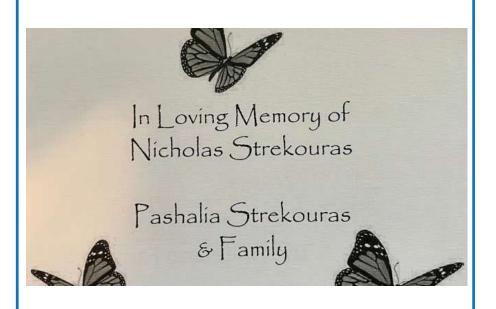
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BEST WISHES FOR ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL FESTIVAL IN 2025!



## Best Wishes for a Successful Festival



## **OPA**

Ken Carlson, Andrea Vastis, Lily & Shuwei





## In Loving Memory of our Father and Pappou George A. Vastis

Valerie Vastis, Maria Saxionis, Joanne Boccelli, Andrea Vastis

Andrew and Peter Saxionis
Nicholas, George, and Dominic Boccelli
Lily and Shuwei Carlson

## Best Wishes for a Successful Festival!

Dr. & Mrs. Constantine Pagonis





In Memory of our
Parents
Helen & Peter V. Panichas

Grandparents Anastasia & Vasilios Panichas

> Cousin Kay Matook



The Gordon & Panichas Family



## Wishing you a Successful 2025 Festival

The Georgiadis and Bunch Family Chris, Evan, George, Anna, John, Joseph, and Stacia



### 709570957095709

THE RIGHT SPOT DINER

200 South Bend Street

Pawtucket, Rhode Island

**Best Wishes for a Successful Festival** 

Stergios & Julia Tsimikas and Family

709670967096709

Dr. Basil and Maria Amfilo, in memory of their beloved parents and late wife, would like to wish the parishioners of the Assumption Church in Pawtucket a most successful, productive, and enjoyable festival.

> Angeliki Lysikatos Panayiotis Lysikatos Theodora Amfilo Dimos Amfilo Sophia Pulas Amfilo

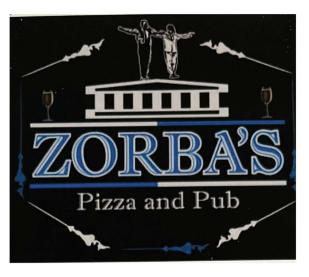




Χρόνια Πολλά!

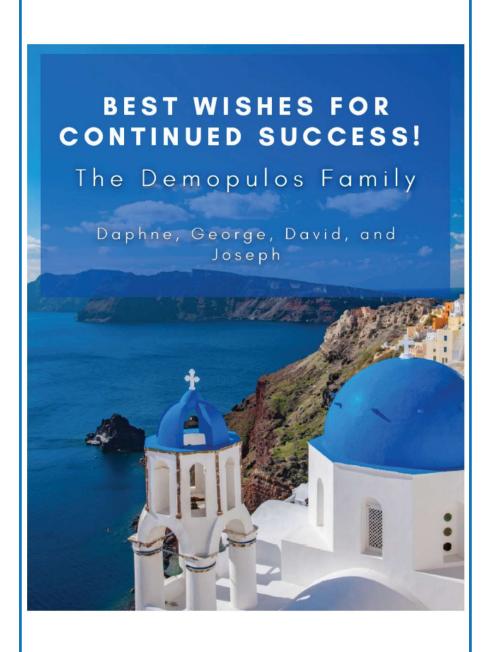
Mε αγάπη Peter, Paula, Kostakis and Lucia Eleni Pagonis

## BEST WISHES FOR A SUCCESSFUL FESTIVAL!



1370 Mineral Spring Avenue North Providence, RI 401-353-2100

Sotiris Katsaras and children Georgios, Nick, Kosta and Anastasia



## BEST WISHES FOR A SUCCESSFUL FESTIVAL



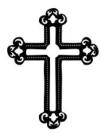


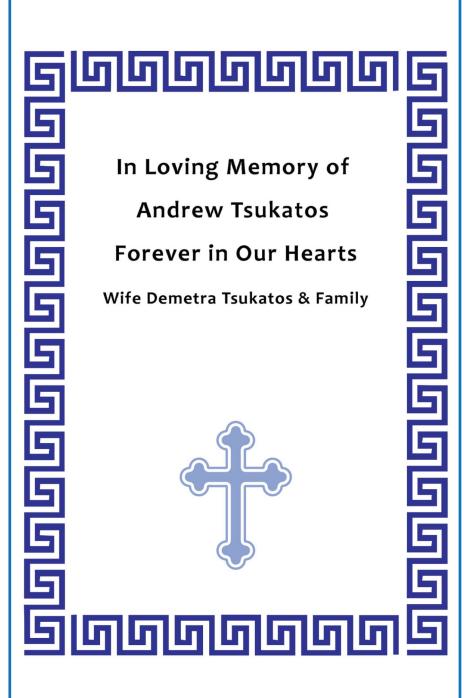
Father George & Presbytera Elaine Economou

In Memory of

Maria Lyssikatos

**John Lyssikatos** 







401-231-3757

George Dionisopoulos

Best Wishes for a Successful Festival George, Carol, Matthew, David and Peter







## IN LOVING MEMORY OF THOMAS SOUKAS





Emily Soukas & Family

## In Loving Memory of my Husband and our Parents

George Andrew Vastis Andrew & Vasiliki Vastis Vasili & Vasiliki Vergakis

### **Panagiota Vastis**





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