

96th
ANNUAL
*Grecian
Festival*



ASSUMPTION of the VIRGIN MARY
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

August 18 - 20, 2023



WWW.GREEKFESTIVALRI.COM

ASSUMPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

97 WALCOTT STREET PAWTUCKET, RI

PHONE: (401)725-3127



Priest's Message

Welcome to our 96th 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.

Rev. Dr. Philip Zymaris



A Message from your Festival Co-Chairpersons:

Welcome to our 96th 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 2023 Festival Committee is honored to have the opportunity to be a part of this year’s Festival.

Our Festival is a feast of the senses. We encourage you to take in the sights, the sounds and, of course, the aromas and tastes of our delicious cuisine, pastries, and beverages. It has also been a group effort where our parishioners have come together to give their time, talent and resources in order to make our 2023 Festival a success. We thank everyone for their energy, support, patience and generosity!!!

So come on in, have something to eat and drink, take a walk around our Greek Marketplace, stop into our Kafenio for a Greek coffee, watch the Greek Pride Dance Troupe perform and have a great time. OPA!!!

Sincerely,
Brian Gerace and Sophia Augoustakis
Co-Chairpersons of the
2023 Greek Festival Committee



With Gratitude and Thanks to our Donors and Volunteers

Our Grecian Festival is our largest fundraiser throughout the year. It allows our parish to grow and continue our religion, culture, and 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.

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 You

Welcome To Our Festival

YIA' SOU!



OPA!

OPA!

OPA!

Schedule of Events

**Friday,
August 18**

**Dance Performances by
Elliniki Yperiphania
(Greek Pride of RI)**

7:00 PM

**Saturday,
August 19**

**Dance Performances by
Elliniki Yperiphania
(Greek Pride of RI)**

**4:00 PM
& 7:00 PM**

Church Tours

**2:00 PM
& 5:00 PM**

**Baking Demonstrations:
Learn how to make
Baklava!**

3:00 PM

**Baking Demonstrations:
Learn how to make
Spanakopita!**

6:00 PM

**Sunday,
August 20**

**Dance Performances by
Elliniki Yperiphania
(Greek Pride of RI)**

**4:00 PM
& 7:00 PM**

Church Tours

**2:00 PM
& 5:00 PM**

**Baking Demonstrations:
Learn how to make
Baklava!**

3:00 PM

**Baking Demonstrations:
Learn how to make
Spanakopita!**

6:00 PM

Best Wishes for a Successful Festival



*Best wishes for a
successful festival.*

Costas & Ann Perdikakis & Family

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BEST WISHES FOR A SUCCESSFUL FESTIVAL

OPA!



Directors: Nancy Georgitsis, George Microulis, Andrea Vastis

www.greekprideri.com



Congratulations to the
**Assumption Greek
Orthodox Church**

Thank you for continuing to be such an
important part of our community.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'D. Grebien'.

Mayor Donald R. Grebien
City of Pawtucket



AMERICAN HELLENIC EDUCATIONAL PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION

A121 Chapter, Pawtucket, RI - Established 1926

AHEPA Pawtucket Chapter Supports our Festival!

We wish all the Success to our Festival!



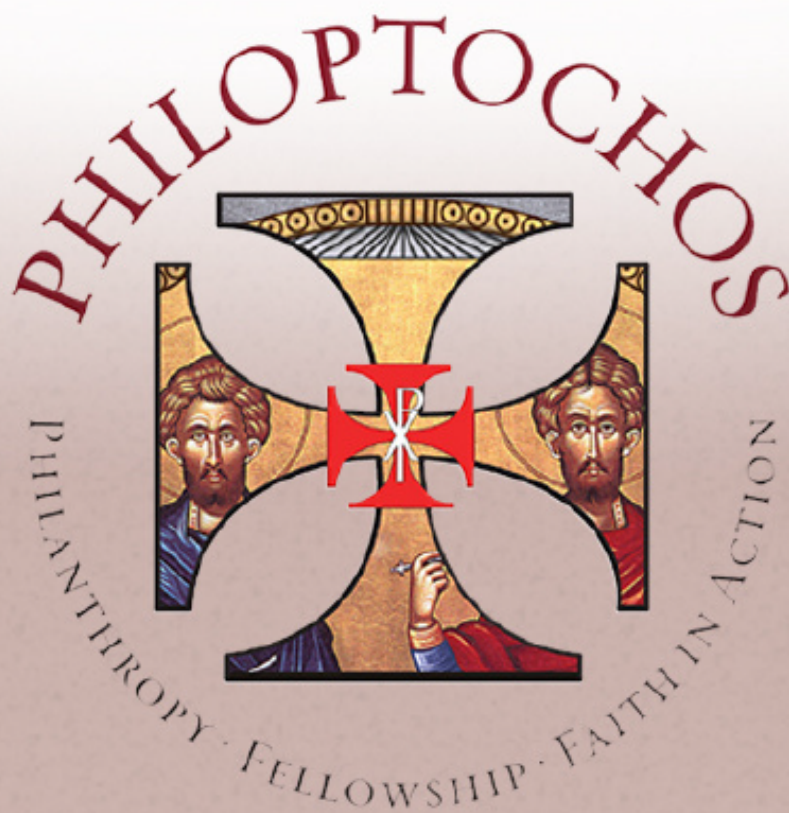
Year 2023 marks the 101st year anniversary of AHEPA (American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association). For 100+ years we have promoted the Hellenic ideals of education, philanthropy, civic responsibility, family and individual excellence through community service and volunteerism.

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!



Best Wishes! Festival 2023



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In Loving Memory of Rev. Fr. Nick A. Milas
(1947-2023)

You will forever be the best brother and Theo
to all of us. May Your Memory Be Eternal.

Love,
Mathew, Joan, Angela, Michael,
Ameliana & Alessandro



The Panichas Family wishes to thank the Assumption of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church for over 100 years of spiritual guidance and love. May the spirit of the Community live on for many years to come.

Denise, Joan and George Panichas



Honoring the Memories of our immediate family

Thomas & Despina Panichas

George & Angela Panichas

Anthony T. Panichas

James T. Panichas

Tula Panichas Kattke

Michael A. Panichas (2023)



Steven D. Lasser, DMD

Craig E. Elice, DDS, MS

Fotini M. Dionisopoulos, DMD

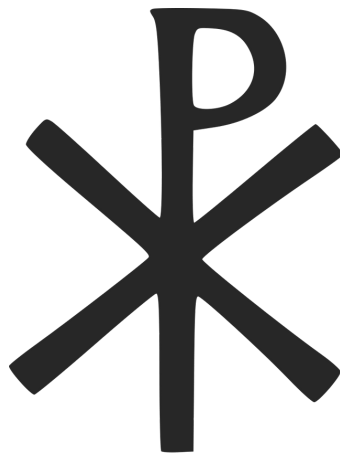
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**Best Wishes and Continued
Success To Your Parish and
All Your Community Events**



Rev. Father Andrew G. George
PROTOPRESBYTER

Rev. Father Nickolas Lanzourakis
PRESBYTER

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Greek Orthodox Parish of Greater Providence
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**In Memory of
Arthur and Demetra Demou**

**Their Loving Children and
Grandchildren**

BEST WISHES FOR
A SUCCESSFUL FESTIVAL!



1370 Mineral Spring Avenue
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401-353-2100

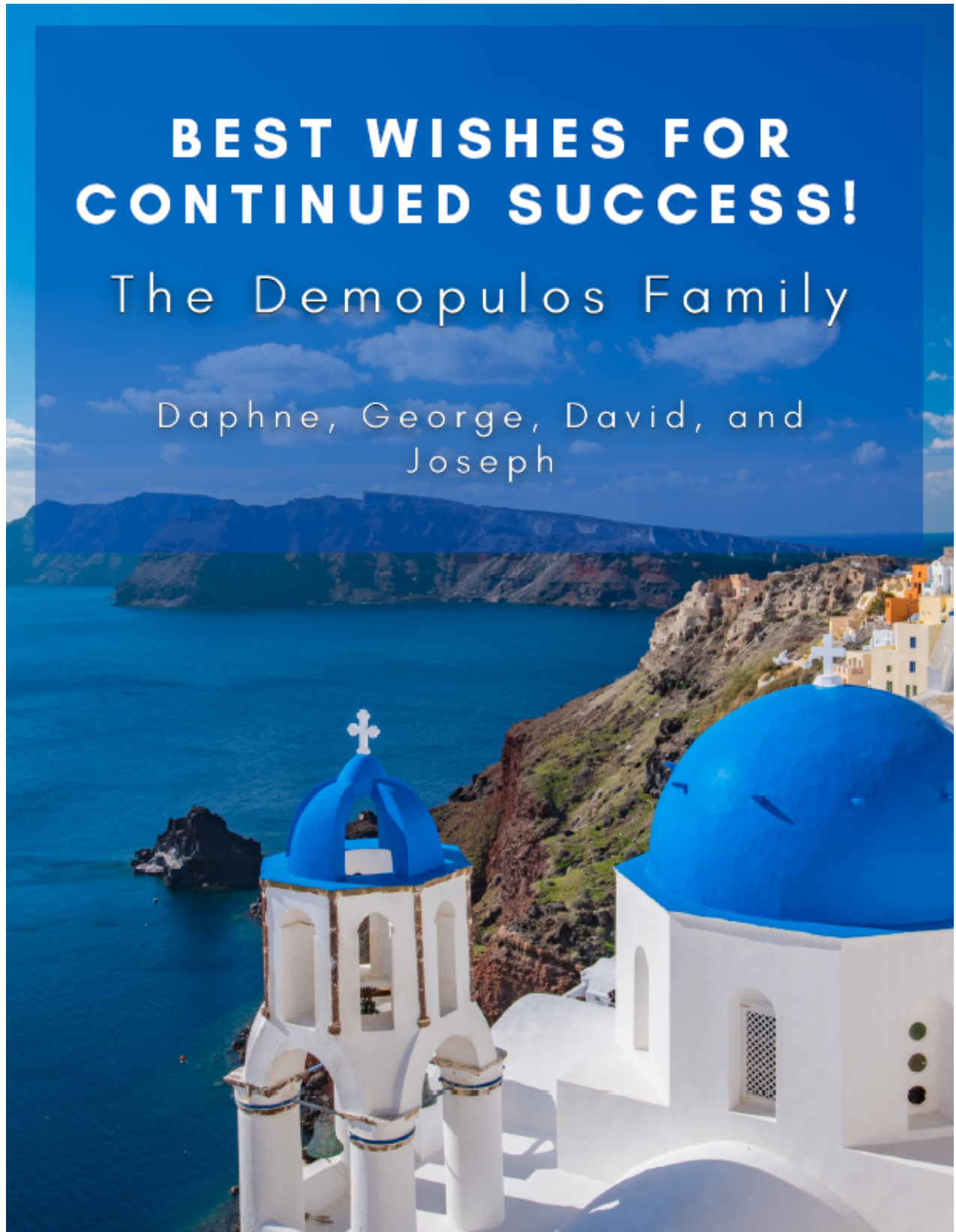


Sotiris Katsaras and children
Georgios, Nick, Kosta and Anastasia

**BEST WISHES FOR
CONTINUED SUCCESS!**

The Demopoulos Family

Daphne, George, David, and
Joseph



BEST WISHES FOR A SUCCESSFUL FESTIVAL

In Memory of our
Parents
Helen & Peter V. Panichas

Grandparents
Anastasia & Vasilios Panichas

Cousin
Kay Matook

The Gordon & Panichas Family





GIANFRANCESCO
FRIEDEMANN &
MICROULIS, LLP

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

George P. Microulis, Esq.

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(401) 270-0070
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SUCCESSFUL FESTIVAL!*

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— The Kapos Family

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IN LOVING MEMORY THOMAS SOUKAS



Emily Soukas & Family

Wishing for a successful festival and happiest 60th birthday year to Michael Karavolis!
With love, his children - Alexandra, Zoe, and Nicholas





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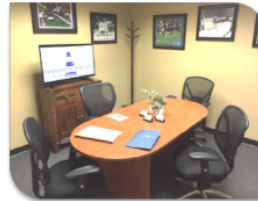
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The court does not license or certify any lawyer as an expert or specialist in any field of practice.

**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





Best wishes for a successful Festival!

Ken Carlson,
Andrea Vastis
Lily & Shuwei



In Loving Memory of Our Parents

Andrew & Vasiliki Vastis
Vasilio & Vasiliki Vergakis

George & Pauline Vastis

BEST WISHES FOR A SUCCESSFUL
96TH FESTIVAL

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
NICHOLAS AND HELEN PAPAS



STEPHEN AND EVANNE MIRABILE

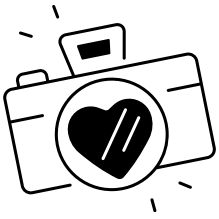


In Loving Memory of
Nicholas Strekouras

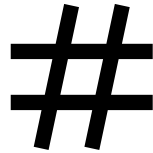
Pashalia Strekouras
& Family



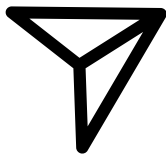
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**Best Wishes and
Continued Success**

For a Joyful Festival 2023

**The Sioras Family
&
Donald Dessert**



**In Loving Memory of
Andrew and
Chrysanthe (Sue) Lazouras
You will forever be in our
hearts.
We miss you and love you
always.**

Love, The Lazouras Family



**Follow us on
Social Media!**



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2023 Parish Council

A sincere thank you to everyone in our Parish who supported our efforts throughout the year in the many activities and responsibilities of our Church.

President

George Karalis

Vice President

Nick Vellopoulos

Secretary

Olga Limnios

Treasurer

Mike Karavolis

Assistant Treasurer

Brian Gerace

Members:

Triantafillio Foussekis

Vasileios Papavasiliou

Eleni Katsios

Jean Soukatos

Golfo Katsios

George Panagos

Rev. Dr. Philip Zymaris, Ex Officio



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 Troup. 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.

WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED BEING
GREEK FOR A WEEKEND!!!



Assumption of the Virgin Mary

Greek Orthodox Church
Pawtucket, Rhode Island



And Hope to See you Next Year!



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