

The Orthodox Way

April



2011

HAVE WE ACCEPTED THE INVITATION... DID WE MISPLACE IT?

We are all well aware that we are in the time of Great Lent. We know that services have been held 3 times during the week. Mondays – Great Compline, Wednesdays – PreSanctified Liturgy and Fridays – Salutations to the Mother of God.

Great Lent is an invitation from the Church to each and every one of us. We have been given the opportunity for the last 25 days to examine our lives, to grow towards our Lord and the examples of His Saints. The invitation is for us to reevaluate our priorities...to recommit ourselves...to rededicate the talents given to us by God, back to Him.

Now here is the question...Have we DONE THIS? Did we take the invitation sent to us individually and post it in our hearts...in our smartphones or blackberrys?

If you haven't...ITS NOT TOO LATE. You still have your invitation. You are still welcomed. You are still asked to be present and to live the life of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. The invitation is being resent to you at this time...Just in case it was lost in delivery, misplaced after you opened, accidentally thrown out.

Remember our goal during the Great 40 days as stated in the closing prayer during the Liturgy of the PreSanctified Gifts "...may we come uncondemned to worship at the Holy Resurrection." We are reminded during this time that we are "on the move, travelling

on a path that lead straight to Golgotha and the Empty Tomb." (Lenten Triodion, Kalistos Ware)

Great Lent is a journey, a pilgrimage for all...For our entire Parish Family, for husbands and wives, children for any and all individuals, to take 1/8 of the entire year and focus that much more on Christ and our calling to serve Him!

As of this publication we have 15 more days to focus on us and prepare ourselves for the Greatest and Holiest Week in the life of our Church.

Finally here are some words from St. John Chrysostom on Fasting...

Do you fast? Give me proof of it by your works.

If you see a poor person, take pity on them.

If you see a friend being honored, do not envy them.

Do not let only your mouth fast, but also the eye and the ear and the feet and the hands and all the members of our bodies.

Let the hands fast, by being free of avarice.

Let the feet fast, by ceasing to run after sin.

Let the eyes fast, by not listening to evil talk and gossip.

Let the mouth fast from foul words and unjust criticism.

For what good is it if we abstain from birds and fish, but bite and devour our brother and sister?

May He who came to the world to save sinners strengthen us to complete the fast with humility, have mercy on us and saves us.

*St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
17 Meriam St., Lexington, MA 02420*

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church is a parish under the spiritual and ecclesiastical shepherding of His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios, the presiding hierarch of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Boston of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America under the jurisdiction of His All-Holiness, Bartholomew I, Archbishop of Constantinople and Ecumenical Patriarch.

The Orthodox Way is published by the first of each month. The deadline for submissions to this newsletter is the 15h of the prior month. Thank you for your cooperation.

"Icon on cover page courtesy of www.eikonografos.com, used with permission."

Our Parish Information

Office Phone: 781-862-6453
Office e-mail: st.nicholas.lex@verizon.net
Office Secretary: Mary Correia
Church Website : www.stnicholaslex.org

Sunday Worship Service: Orthros: 8:15 a.m.
Divine Liturgy: 9:30 a.m.

Rev. Fr. Demetrios Costarakis, Presiding Priest
Office Hours: Monday – Thursday
10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.*

** Days and times may vary due to Liturgical or other schedules**

Father's Office Phone: 781-862-0315
Father's Home Phone: 978-275-0002
Father's Cell Phone Emergency ONLY – 978-201-0636
Father's e-mail: demetric@imail.goarch.org

Our Parish Council

William Brown, President	bill@z3d.com
Dan Wouralis, Vice President	dannymarina@verizon.net
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Evangeline Puopolo, Secretary	vpuopolo@comcast.net
Penelope Tzougros, penelope@wealthychoice.com Stewardship Chairperson	
Nector Ritzakis, Finance Committee Chairperson	nritzakis@gmail.com
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Our Parish Ministries

Chanters: Timothy Patitsas drtimothyhyp@gmail.com
Efthimia Zervoglos zervoglos@rcn.com

Altar Server Ministry:

Team A: Niko Saledas, Co-Capt.; James Wouralis, Co-Capt.; Christos Saledas, Luke Psychojos, Dimitri Psychojos, Eric Schmidt, Anthony Wilson

Team B: Matthew Kokkinos, Co-Capt.; Spero Dimas, Co-Capt.; Christopher Kokkinos, Jonathan Kokkinos, Jack Decoulos, Tino Decoulos, Jason Vafiades, Nicholas Vafiades

Church School Directors:

Maria Decoulos maria@decoulos.com
Margaret Bousvaros athos.bousvaros@verizon.net

Greek School Principals:

Gloria Doukakis ggdouk@comcast.net
Lela Digenis ldigenis@verizon.net

Family Ministries

James Schmidt jf.schmidt@comcast.net
Stephanie Wilson samm215@msn.com

"40 to 4" Infant/Toddler Ministry:

Gloria Costarakis mgloria@aol.com

HOPE/JOY Advisors:

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Cassandra Giribaldi cassyg@comcast.net
Nick Speros

GOYA Advisors:

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Leto Papadopoulos letodp@gmail.com
Daphne Papadopoulos daphneathena@gmail.com
Nectarios Ritzakis nritzakis@gmail.com

Ladies Philoptochos Society, St. Irene Chapter:

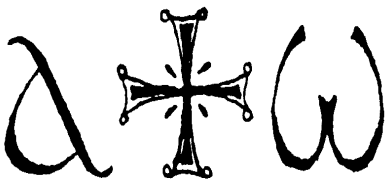
Felia Proakis, President feliairene@aol.com

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Gloria Doukakis ggdouk@comcast.net
John Yanakis

Health Ministry Group:

Anthony Gray awgray.jr@gmail.com
Judy Gray jgray1321@gmail.com
Mike Wilson honor24@msn.com
Alyssa Psychojos atpsyhojos@hotmail.com



April 2011

		April 2011							May 2011						
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Sunday	March 27	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
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Sunday	March 29	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
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Sunday of St. John Climacus

April 3



The memory of this Saint is celebrated on March 30, where his biography may be found. He is celebrated today because his book, *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*, is a sure guide to the ascetic life, written by a great man of prayer experienced in all forms of the monastic polity; it teaches the seeker after salvation how to lay a sound foundation for his struggles, how to detect and war against each of the passions, how to avoid the snares laid by the demons, and how to rise from the rudimental virtues to the heights of Godlike love and humility. It is held in such high esteem that it is universally read in its entirety in monasteries during the Great Fast.

The Akathist Hymn

April 9



About the year 626, the Persians, Avars, and Slavs came with a great host and besieged the imperial city of Constantinople while the Emperor Heraclius and the main body of the Byzantine army were absent in the East. Enemy ships filled the sea, especially the Golden Horn, and on land the adversaries were ready for attack with foot-soldiers, horses, and engines of war. Though the citizens courageously withstood them, yet they were few in number and would be unable to repulse the attack of such a great host. Hence, they could not count on any other means of salvation, except the protection of the Theotokos. And truly, suddenly a violent tempest broke up all the ships and submerged them, and the bodies of the invaders were cast out near the Blachernae quarter of the city where the famous Church of the Theotokos stood. Taking courage from this, the people went forth from the city and repulsed the remaining forces, who fled out of fear. In 673, the city was miraculously delivered yet again, this time from an invasion of the Arabs. Then in 717-718, led by the Saracen general Maslamah, the Arab fleet laid siege once more to the city. The numerical superiority of the enemy was so overwhelming that the fall of the Imperial City seemed imminent. But then the Mother of God, together with a multitude of the angelic hosts, appeared suddenly over the city walls. The enemy forces, struck with terror and thrown into a panic at this apparition, fled in disarray. Soon after this, the Arab fleet was utterly destroyed by a terrible storm in the Aegean Sea on the eve of the Annunciation, March 24, 718. Thenceforth, a special "feast of victory and of thanksgiving" was dedicated to celebrate and commemorate these benefactions. In this magnificent service, the Akathist Hymn is prominent and holds the place of honour. It appears that even before the occasion of the enemy assaults mentioned above, the Akathist Hymn was already in use as the prescribed Service for the Feast of the Annunciation, together with the kontakion, "When the bodiless one learned the secret command," which has the Annunciation as its theme. It was only on the occasion of the great miracle wrought for the Christian populace of the Imperial City on the eve of the Annunciation in 718 that the hymn "To thee, the Champion Leader" was composed, most likely by Saint Germanus, Patriarch of Constantinople.

Historians have ascribed the Akathist Hymn to Patriarch Sergius of Constantinople (638), to Saint George the Confessor, Bishop of Pisidia (818), or even to Saint Photius the Great (891), all of whom lived either at the time of or after the above-mentioned sieges. However, it appears most likely from its language, content, and style that the true composer of the Akathist Hymn is Saint Romanus the Melodist (6th century).



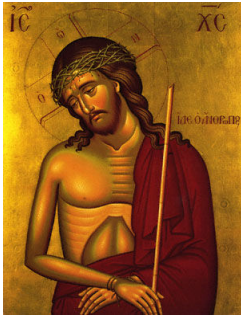
Palm Sunday

April 17

On Sunday, five days before the Passover of the Law, the Lord came from Bethany to Jerusalem. Sending two of His disciples to bring Him a foal of an ass, He sat thereon and entered into the city. When the multitude there heard that Jesus was coming, they straightway took up the branches of palm trees in their hands, and went forth to meet Him. Others spread their garments on the ground, and yet others cut branches from the trees and strewed them in the way that Jesus was to pass; and all of them together, especially the children, went before and after Him, crying out: "Hosanna: Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord, the King of Israel" (John 12:13). This is the radiant and glorious festival of our Lord's entry into Jerusalem that we celebrate today.

The branches of the palm trees symbolize Christ's victory over the devil and death. The word Hosanna means "Save, I pray," or "Save, now." The foal of an ass, and Jesus' sitting thereon, and the fact that this animal was untamed and

considered unclean according to the Law, signified the former uncleanness and wildness of the nations, and their subjection thereafter to the holy Law of the Gospel.



Holy Wednesday

April 20

Two women - say the more discerning interpreters of the Gospel - anointed the Lord with myrrh; the one, a long time before His Passion; the other, a few days before. One was a harlot and sinner; the other, chaste and virtuous. The Church commemorates this reverent act today. While mentioning herein the person of the harlot, it also mentions Judas' betrayal; for, according to the account in Matthew, both of these deeds took place two days before the Passover, on Wednesday.

That woman, then, anointed Jesus' head and feet with very precious myrrh, and wiped them with the tresses of her hair. The disciples, especially the avaricious Judas, were scandalized, supposedly because of the waste of the myrrh, which could be sold for a great price and given to the poor. The Lord Jesus reproved them and told them not to trouble the woman. Indignant, Judas went to the high priests, who were gathered in the court of Caiaphas and were already taking counsel against Jesus. On agreeing with them to betray his Teacher for thirty pieces of silver, Judas sought from that time opportunity to betray Him (Matt. 26:14-16). Because the betrayal took place on Wednesday, we have received the tradition from Apostolic times to fast on Wednesday throughout the year.



Great and Holy Pascha

April 24

Mary Magdalene, and the other women who were present at the burial of our Saviour on Friday evening, returned from Golgotha to the city and prepared fragrant spices and myrrh, so that they might anoint the body of Jesus. On the morrow, because of the law which forbids work on the day of the Sabbath, they rested for the whole day. But at early dawn on the Sunday that followed, almost thirty-six hours since the death of the Life-giving Redeemer, they came to the sepulchre with the spices to anoint His body. While they were considering the difficulty of rolling away the stone from the door of the sepulchre, there was a fearful earthquake; and an Angel, whose countenance shone like lightning and whose garment was white as snow, rolled away the stone and sat upon it. The guards that were there became as dead from fear and took to flight. The women, however, went into the sepulchre, but did not find the Lord's body. Instead, they saw two other Angels in the form of youths clothed in white, who told them that the Saviour was risen, and they sent forth the women, who ran to proclaim to the disciples these gladsome tidings. Then Peter and John arrived, having learned from Mary Magdalene what had come to pass, and when they entered the tomb, they found only the winding sheets. Therefore, they returned again to the city with joy, as heralds now of the supernatural Resurrection of Christ, Who in truth was seen alive by the disciples on this day on five occasions.

Our Lord, then, was crucified, died, and was buried on Friday, before the setting of the sun, which was the first of His "three days" in the grave; observing the mystical Sabbath, that "seventh day" in which it is said that the Lord "rested from all His works" (Gen. 2:2-3), He passed all of Saturday in the grave; and He arose "while it was yet dark, very early in the morning" on Sunday, the third day, which, according to the Hebrew reckoning, began after sunset on Saturday.

As we celebrate today this joyous Resurrection, we greet and embrace one another in Christ, thereby demonstrating our Saviour's victory over death and corruption, and the destruction of our ancient enmity with God, and His reconciliation toward us, and our inheritance of life everlasting. The feast itself is called Pascha, which is derived from the Hebrew word which means "passover"; because Christ, Who suffered and arose, has made us to pass over from the curse of Adam and slavery to the devil and death unto our primal freedom and blessedness. In addition, this day of this particular week, which is the first of all the rest, is dedicated to the honour of the Lord; in honour and remembrance of the Resurrection, the Apostles transferred to this day the rest from labour that was formerly assigned to the Sabbath of the ancient Law.

All foods allowed during Renewal Week.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

March 21, 2011

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

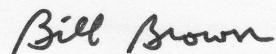
I hope that you and your family have been experiencing a blessed journey thus far through Great Lent. There have been ample opportunities to attend unique Lenten services during the week with: Compline on Mondays, Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts on Wednesdays, and the Salutations to the Virgin Mary on Fridays. The last Lenten potluck dinner, followed by the Akathist service, will take place on Friday 8 April.

The Glendi, sponsored by the Greek School, on 5 March featured excellent appetizers and fish dinner. There was a superb dance exhibition by our youth. Thanks to all who worked hard to put this pre-Lent party together, and to those who attended to make it a success!

Alex Goodwin, OCMC Communications Director, spoke to the community about OCMC after Divine Liturgy on 6 March – 2011 Mission Sunday. On 17 March, Christos Papoutsy offered a lecture on his new book “ Under Siege,” followed by Lenten snacks and a book signing. We had a presentation by the students in remembrance of Greek Independence day and the Feast of the Annunciation after Divine Liturgy on 20 March.

The Parish Council has rented a bus, and the Greek School has paid the entrance fee for the Greek Independence Day parade that will take place in Boston on 10 April. Please sign up on the form posted on the cork bulletin board.

On behalf of the Parish Council, I look forward to seeing you at some of the services leading up to Pascha and especially during Holy Week.



*Bill Brown
Parish Council President*

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(978) 486-3303

STEWARDSHIP

We pray before communion, "I believe, O Lord, and I confess, that Thou are verily the Christ, the Son of the Living God, Who didst come into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the first."
(Red Liturgy book, page 29)

Do we really think we are the "first", meaning the foremost, most prominent, the worst? If we compare our lives with people cited in the news and celebrity media, we don't find our lives as disordered and troubled as those killers, druggies, child molesters, and thieves. However, when we take our measure against the world, we are like a "C" student comparing himself with an "F" student. We are likely to feel good about ourselves, and not think we are sinful. But if we compare ourselves with the "A" student, we see a gap in our accomplishments. Could we do better?

Of course, we don't expect Judgment Day to be about school grades, but about the preparation of our souls. So spiritually speaking, who are the "A" students, the models for us as Christians? The martyred Saints?

The Theotokos? Christ? Someone we have met?

How would you complete this thought, "I wish I were as good as..." How vivid is that standard to you daily, and does thinking of that person change your behavior? "Sin" in Greek is "amartia" and one definition is to miss the mark, as an archer might miss the target. What are we aiming for? What causes us to miss the target? Is it likely that we do a lot of small things wrong? Do we wear down the goodness in us, not with "big" sins, but with pettiness, temper, impatience, lack of forgiveness, ego, thoughtlessness, omissions of generosity, and of prayer?

Does this question make any sense: Are we better Christians this Lent than we were last Lent?

Lent is a profound time of reflection. All that we have is lent to us to make something worthy, and return it to God.

Kali Sarakosti. Blessings of this Lenten journey.

Respectfully submitted, *Penelope Tzougros, Stewardship Chair*

Stewardship Report

March 22, 2011

2011 Goal: \$124,500

Total Stewardship pledges:

\$ 88,635

Total Stewardship received:

\$ 55,058

44 % of our goal

Total pledged Stewards: 111

Are you represented here?

Giving Blocks

March 22, 2011

\$10,000 - \$19,000 1

\$5,000 - \$9,999 1

\$2,000 - \$4,999 5

\$1,000 - \$1,999 22

\$ 500 \$ 999 40

\$ 300 \$ 499 18

\$ 100 -- \$ 299 20

Less than \$ 100 4

Total pledged Stewards 111

Same time last year, 122

Stewards were included.

ST. IRENE'S PHILOPTOCHOS

2011 Philoptochos Stewardship Drive Chair Update: Gloria Doukakis has reported that we have 65 stewards as of March 27. If you have not already done so, please send in your stewardship as soon as possible. We have been asked by the National Philoptochos to submit our list by the end of April. Gloria will be sending out reminder post cards to our 2010 members who have not yet responded. We look forward to hearing from you.

Pascha Related Information:

- We want to thank those who have responded to our annual letter requesting **donations for the decorations for the Pascha season**. We invite those who have not already done so to send your donations to the church written out to St. Irene's Philoptochos. We appreciate everyone's generosity.
- As is our annual custom, Philoptochos will be sponsoring the **Fellowship Hour on Palm Sunday, April 17**. Please come by to lend a hand.
- All who wish to do so are invited to join us on **Holy Friday** at 10:00 a.m. as we work on decorating the kouvouklion in preparation for the placement of the Epitafio cloth on the kouvouklion table.

2011 Donation Information:

- So far in 2011 we are working toward making donations totaling close to \$2000. This total includes collections we have taken from our generous community towards two of our National Philoptochos commitments. It also includes \$500 we voted to donate toward the altar boy robes, the \$120 we donated to our community for *The Orthodox Way* monthly ad, and a \$100 memorial donation we made to the St. Nicholas ongoing Renovation Fund.
- At our March 28 meeting, much discussion was held on the possibility of St. Irene's Philoptochos taking an active role in the fund raising that would be necessary to hire professionals to clean the Platetera and all the iconography adorning the walls inside our beloved St. Nicholas Church. Several of our members have volunteered to look into the cost of completing this important task and the feasibility of our Philoptochos taking on one of the leading roles in this effort. More information will follow on this subject in the near future.

Upcoming Philoptochos Board Elections: Our new board members will be elected at our June 13 meeting. We would like to invite all those women who would be interested in running for one of the seventeen board member positions to please call the church office and let Mary Correia know. We will also be approaching Philoptochos stewards in church to solicit names for the upcoming elections. The newly elected board members and officers will take office in June.

Our community and our Philoptochos organization lost a good friend last month with the passing of **Mr. Charles Poulos**. Mr. Poulos was not only a supporter of our Philoptochos, he was also very complimentary and appreciative of the things our Philoptochos stands for and accomplishes. Our sincere sympathy goes out to his family. He will be missed.

-OUR NEXT GENERAL MEETING: Please mark **Monday, May 9** on your calendars for a Philoptochos General Meeting. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m. in St. Irene's Hall.

-JUNE POT LUCK GENERAL MEETING: As mentioned above, our June meeting will be held on **Monday, June 13**. It will be a pot-luck supper event (always a favorite) and will include our biennial elections. Hope you all can attend.

I want to wish you and your families a very **Happy Pascha**. *Felia Proakis, President*

HEALTH MINISTRY

On Sunday, March 28 our Health Ministry met and discussed the following...

CPR for the Parish Council / Sunday school and Greek School teachers: We discussed the pros and cons of actually "certifying" the PC members and teachers vs. just teaching them CPR.

We are also happy to announce that on Sunday, May 15th, after the Divine Liturgy, we will be going for a short 1-2 mile walk and inviting all of our St. Nicholas parishioners to come with us. A flyer and more info will be in the May bulletin. We also discussed a few other ideas for a lecture series (probably beginning in the fall). Other ideas we thought of, but are certainly not limited to, are:

Biggest loser / exercise competition (a kinder / gentler version!!); NutritionYoga / relaxation techniques; Men's / Women's health issuesHealthy; Aging Caring for the caregiver (The Sandwich Generation); Lectures for young parents; Parents of teenagers; Pet therapy and maybe having a St. Nicholas 5K walk / run.

If you would like to be involved in this ministry let us know.

CHURCH SCHOOL

On March 20, we celebrated the Annunciation of the Theotokos and Greece's Independence Day with the Greek School. Our readers were: Jack Decoulos, Dimitri Augart-Peponis and Jason Vafiades.

Our first parish-wide St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival takes place on **April 3**. This year all the classes will participate with displays by the elementary grades in the Hall and the Jr./Sr. high grades presenting in the church.

A lot of activities will be taking place as we approach Pascha. There are many events to get involved in, including Saturday of Lazarus, Holy and Great Friday Retreat, the Myrrhbearing girls and the annual Egg Hunt. For students who are taking a foreign language, please consider doing a reading during the Agape service.

GREEK SCHOOL

Καλο Μηνά! Our St. Nicholas Greek School had a very busy month of March.

On Saturday, March 5th our Greek School and our parish enjoyed a very successful and beautiful "Glendi." We had 76 adults and 50 children in attendance. The mezedakia, fish dinner, and desserts were plentiful as well as scrumptious. The D.J. provided dinner music as well as dance music for everyone to enjoy. The children, as always, entertained us with their beautiful Greek dancing, under the direction of their teacher, Daphne Papadopoulos. All in all, it was a great evening of fellowship. We had a lot of compliments during the evening and the day after. What more could one ask!

At this time we wish to recognize and thank the people who put this event together for our enjoyment. First and foremost, we thank Maria and Platon Velonias, Kathy and Strato Dimas and Helen and Gregory Splagounias for organizing the event as well as Hareklia and Nick Vallas who prepared the delicious fish dinner plate. We thank all the families who brought various mezedakia and desserts and who decorated the halls and prepared, served and cleaned up – Olympia Wheeler, Maria Sousounis, Anna Tourkakis, Irini Splagounias, Elena Peterson, Eleni Digenis-Bury, Gloria Doukakis, Lela Digenis, Alexa Manickas-Hill, Eleni Wilson, Paula Kazangian, Lariza Panayiotou, Diane Maimonis, Stephanie Devasto, Mandy Zervoglos, Kokkinos Family, Papageorgiou Family, and Nick Speros. We also thank the many children who helped in serving the food that evening.

On Sunday, March 20th, our own Aspasia Akylas read the Epistle in Greek. She is to be commended for her flawless Greek. Other students from Mrs. Irene's older class will take turns reading the Epistle in Greek on the Sundays to follow.

The Greek Independence Day and the Feast Day of the Annunciation program went very well on Sunday, March 20th. The program followed immediately after Liturgy in the Church hall. The children recited their poems, sang their songs and danced their Greek dances. Again, as in the past, it was a wonderful program.

At the conclusion of the program, Fr. Demetri reminded everyone of the Boston Greek Independence Day parade, which will take place on Sunday, April 10th in Boston. A bus will take our parishioners to Boston and bring us back to St. Nicholas. We encourage our Greek School youngsters to dress in their costumes and join the adults on that day.

Our classes will once again resume on Saturdays. Greek School classes will not be held on Holy Saturday, April 23.

GOYA

The GOYA had their annual Valentine's Day cookie sale in February and raised over \$200 which will be donated to the Philoxenia House. We spent a night up at the Metropolis Camp which we want to do again in

May. Upcoming plans include; hosting the Mother's Day coffee hour, camping trip at the Metropolis camp, 5K run, and our annual visit to Canobie Lake Park. We hope to see everyone at these upcoming events! Thank you to everyone who supported our cookie sale!

JOY

On March 12th the JOY got together to bake prosforo. This was the first of many times the JOY will be meeting. The children did an amazing job kneading, sealing, and baking the bread. Thank you for all of your hard work!

The next JOY activity will be a day of bowling; more info to come soon.

ST. NICHOLAS TEENAGE / ADULT CHOIR

The Adult Choir continues to meet faithfully every Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room.

We enjoy learning the beautiful Hymns of our Church, as well as enjoying each other. Our ages vary from 15 to 60 years old, and older..... no generation gap - we learn and have fun.

Right now we are working on some Hymns of the Lenten Services and Holy Week. After Pascha we will continue to learn the Hymns of the Divine Liturgy in 1st. Tone, and hope to chant the Divine Liturgy during the summer months.

If any one would like to join, IT IS NOT TOO LATE !!!!! Please speak to Father Demetri, or Efthemia , or any choir member you may know.

ST. NICHOLAS YOUTH CHOIR

The St. Nicholas Youth choir has had a good start since January 23, with 14 children joining, and several young adult helpers.

We meet right after Sunday School, in the conference room, for about 25 minutes. We practice the Hymns of the Divine Liturgy, mostly by ear. The goal is, for the youngsters to chant the Divine Liturgy together with the Adult Choir during the summer months.

Any of our youngsters wanting to join are very welcome!!! Please contact Fr. Demetri or Efthemia Zervoglos.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

As you all know, our next event is *Patriot's Day* on Monday, April 18th. So far, everything is coming together nicely, though we could still use some more hands!! There is a sign up sheet in the hallway that has been blocked off by time. So, please either list your name there or contact me directly (marcynorse@yahoo.com) and I can make a note of it. We will be serving loukoumades, baklava, coffee, soda and water from 5 a.m. until 3 p.m. (or until the conclusion of the parade). There will be a "practice run" for loukoumades preparation on Lazarus Saturday after the pancake breakfast and during cross-making for Palm Sunday. We will need as many taste-testers as possible!!!

Our next meeting will be Thursday, April 14th at 6:30 p.m.. This will be the final Patriot's Day meeting as well as our second Social Committee meeting. I hope to see all those who have volunteered to work as well as those looking to get involved in upcoming events. Thank you to everyone for all of their hard work so far – St. Nicholas is once again going to be a fixture at this prestigious town celebration!!!

Marcy Norse

Our infant to pre – k group met on Wednesday, March 23 with 8 kids and their parents. We enjoyed listening and dancing to music and for arts and crafts we made jeweled Crosses. Our next gathering will be on Friday, April 8, at 4:30pm here at St. Nicholas. We would love to have as many kids and parents present so we can start planning future outings. Following our play group all are invited to join with our parish family for our Lenten Pot Luck dinner which will begin at 6pm.

YOUTH AND ADULTS NEEDED

On Saturday, April 16, which is Lazarus Saturday, following Divine Liturgy, there will be a pancake breakfast for all in attendance and everyone is asked to stay for an hour to help with one or more of the following...fold the palms into crosses for Palm Sunday; Place cups on candles for Great and Holy Friday Evening and Pascha; Cleaning interior area of the church, etc. We really need everyone's help! If fifty people will stay and help, we will be done in less than an hour. Since our Church gave us 40 days for us to clean up our lives...can we give 40 minutes back to her?

GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY RETREAT

Under the direction of our Church School, our parish will be hosting a Great and Holy Friday Retreat. The retreat will begin with registration at 12:00 pm. Following registration, a "welcome lunch" will be served. The retreat will conclude at the completion of the Un-nailing Service at 3:00 pm. **We encourage all parents and grandparents to be at this service and to pray with your young ones; service should end by 4:00 pm.** We ask that parents fill out the attached registration form and send it to the church or to give it to a Church School teacher.

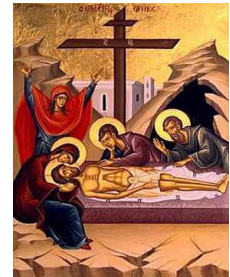


FLOWER GIRLS ON GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY

We are asking for girls in our community from 3rd to 6th grade to participate in this beautiful tradition. The flower girls (known as myrophores) represent the myrrhbearing women who came to the tomb to anoint the Body of Christ. *PLEASE NOTE: ALL GIRLS WHO ARE PLANNING TO BE FLOWER GIRLS SHOULD WEAR A WHITE DRESS AND WHITE SHOES.* If you would like to have your daughter take part in the service on Great and Holy Friday evening, please contact the Church office.

GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY EVENING

Our Church will be taking the Kouvouklion outside again this year, going by the parish house, walking across the street and down to the 2-way stop, then walking back to the front steps of the Church). The Kouvouklion will be taken back inside the outside for the procession on Great and Holy Friday evening. As long as the weather cooperates, the short procession will occur as in years past (up the street to the church and the Epitaphio will remain outside being held by ministry leaders and others. All will pass under the Epitaphios to re-enter the Church (*this is done showing that we are walking under the tomb into Hades with our Lord*). Furthermore, if any strong men and women would like to assist in carrying the Kouvouklion, containing the Epitaphios, please speak with a member of the Parish Council.



PASCHA RECEPTION

After the Resurrection Service and following The Divine Liturgy on Pascha, everyone is invited to come into the Church Hall and enjoy the fellowship as one family. This event is being sponsored by the Parish Council

to thank all the faithful stewards of Christ's Church for your love and support. If you would like to assist in this fellowship hour, please contact a Parish Council member.

AGAPE SERVICE READERS NEEDED

On Pascha at the Agape Service (Vespers of Love) the Gospel reading is to be proclaimed in as many languages as possible. If you can read a foreign language and would like to take part in this beautiful service of our Church, please contact Fr. Demetri.

PASCHA EGG HUNT

There will be an egg hunt for the young people of our parish following the Agape Service on Pascha Sunday. Please remember that the Agape Service is a short Vespers service lasting about 50 minutes. Since this service is not a Divine Liturgy, Holy Communion will not be distributed. We look forward to seeing our young people attend the service and the fellowship that follows.

TIME CHANGE FOR DIVINE LITURGY ON APRIL 10

Please note that on Sunday, April 10 The Divine Liturgy will begin at 9:15am. Because the parade for Greek Independence Day begins at 1:00 p.m., we will be starting The Divine Liturgy 15 minutes earlier to accommodate our Faithful who will be taking the bus and representing our Parish by marching. The bus will be on the grounds of the church at 11:00 a.m. A sign up sheet is available on the pin up board. There is space still available on the bus, PLEASE SIGN UP!!!



**greek
independence
day parade
- boston -**

**Sunday, April 10th
@ 1pm**

*Parade Route: Boylston Street to Charles Street
Grand Marshals: City of Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino
& His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios*

**Celebration with live music, dancing, and food
at Boston Common immediately following**

*~ 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 ~*

 **FHASNE PO Box 169 Accord, MA 02018
www.fhasne.com (617) 507-6444**

Celebrating this month...

Please note we are mentioning those who provided this information on their 2011 Stewardship form

Celebrations of Namedays...

Alexandra Houck- April 21	George George - April 23
Alexandra Zervoglos - April 21	George Proakis - April 23
George Gray - April 23	Lisa Loveland - April 24
George Psychojos - April 23	Jason Houck - April 29

Happy birthday to you:



Paul Vouros	Susan Galster
Buddy Demers	Dimitri Psychojos
John Rudd	Anthony Morris
Mike Wilson	Themis Splagounias
Marcy Norse	Jody Malandrakis
Kiki Katsarakis	Christos Saledas
Ioana Oprea	Neal Ellis
Alexandra Houck	Anthony Gray
Helen Pitarys	Chris Kokkinos
Jonathan Ellis	James Collias
Nina Pantazis	Peter Costarakis
Jackie Pappas	Christopher Kokkinos

Happy Anniversary wishes for:

Alexandra and Jason Houck- - April 15
Alina and Florian Oprea - April 15
Maria and Nick Zallas- - April 27



May our Lord grant all who celebrate this month Many Years!!!

Saint Nicholas

Great and Holy Friday Retreat

Friday, April 22, 2011

Registration Form

Children under 5 should be accompanied by an adult.

A parent or guardian signature will be required at both sign-in and sign-out.

AGENDA

12:00-12:30 pm	Registration
12:30-1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00-2:30 pm	Craft workshops, interactive lessons and activities
2:30-3:00 pm	Discussion with guest speaker (grades 7 and up)
3:00 pm	Apokathilosis Service (Taking Down From Cross)

Parents encouraged to worship together with children

4:00 pm	Dismissal
7:00 pm	Lamentation Service (Epitaphios Thrinos)*

* Girls ages 8 through 12, who would like to participate as myrophores (flower girls who represent the myrrh-bearing women) in the Lamentation Service, should dress in white and arrive to the service early. Father Demetri will meet with them briefly during the Retreat.

Please complete information below and return to Church office or Meg Bousvaros or Maria Decoulos.

Name of Child/children:

Church School Grade

Allergies or Medications needed:

Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____ phone/cell phone numbers _____

Basic books to read during Great Lent



The Lenten Spring

Fr. Thomas Hopko

In his meditations, Fr. Hopko draws on his long experience as a pastor and teacher, working with young and old throughout the country, to present to the modern reader the relevance of the Church's two-thousand-year-old tradition of preparing to greet our Lord's Resurrection



First Fruits of Prayer: A Forty Day Journey Through the Canon of St. Andrew **Frederica Mathewes-Green**

Join Frederica Mathewes-Green on a guided retreat through an ancient Orthodox text. Regardless of your denominational background, First Fruits of Prayer will bring to life the prayer experience of first millennium Christianity through immersion in this poetic hymn, an extraordinarily beautiful work that is still chanted by Christians around the world each Lent. It weaves together Old and New Testament Scriptures with prayers of hope and repentance and offers ancient ways of seeing Christ that still feel new today.



Great Lent

Fr. Alexander Schmemmann

This revised edition of Father Alexander Schmemmann's Lenten classic examines the meaning of Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, the Prayer of St Ephraim the Syrian, the Canon of St Andrew of Crete and other neglected or misunderstood treasures of Lenten worship.



Great Week and Pascha in the Greek Orthodox Church

Fr. Alkiviadis C. Calivas

Tracing the development of the liturgical celebration of the Passion and Resurrection of Christ, Fr. Calivas elegantly describes the theological themes for each day, clarifies the liturgical practices, and provides rubrics for their proper celebration. Through the text the reader can find answers to many questions about Great Week as well as insights into meaningful participation in the services.

Articles available on the Internet...

Judas' Profile In The Psalms: Meditation On The Holy Wednesday Rev. Dr. Eugen J. Pentiu

Excerpt taken from Jesus the Messiah in the Hebrew Bible. New York, NY: Paulist Press, 2006.
http://lent.goarch.org/articles/judas_profile_in_psalms.asp
http://lent.goarch.org/articles/judas_profile_in_psalms.asp

The Origins Of Pascha Rev. Alkiviadis Calivas

http://lent.goarch.org/articles/lent_origins_of_pascha.asp

Dating Pascha In The Orthodox Church Dr. Lewis J. Patsavos Ph.D.

http://lent.goarch.org/articles/lent_dating_pascha.asp

Lenten Prayer Of St. Ephrem The Syrian

O Lord and Master of my life!

Take from me the spirit of sloth, faint-heartedness, lust of power, and idle talk.

But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love.

Yes, Lord and King! Grant me to see my own errors and not to judge my brother or sister.

For You are Blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.



GODPARENT SUNDAY

May 1, 2010

(The Sunday after Pascha!)

*All Godparents are invited to attend the
Divine Liturgy on
Sunday, May 1,
To pray with their Godchildren and to
Receive Holy Communion with them.*

*Be in Church on this special day and
Let the Godparents thank the Lord for their
Godchildren,
And let the Godchildren renew their love and devotion
for the Lord and their Godparents.*

*We also encourage all Godparents to attend Church
School with their Godchildren.*

*We would love to continue our tradition in having a community
breakfast. If you are able to help with the preparation, cooking or
cleaning up please contact the church office.*



FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Applicant's Name: _____

Father's Name: _____

Father's Occupation: _____ Employer: _____

Mother's Name: _____

Mother's Occupation: _____ Employer: _____

Parents' Marital Status: Single Married

Family Gross Income:

Greater than \$75,000 \$75,000 - \$65,000 \$65,000 - \$55,000

\$55,000 - \$45,000 \$45,000 - \$35,000 \$35,000 - \$25,000

\$25,000 - \$20,000 \$20,000 - \$15,000 Less than \$15,000

Dependents

Number of children in family: _____

Number of children being supported by parents: _____

Number of children in college: _____

Number of children in college supported by family: _____

Number of disabled children: _____

Housing

Own home Rent

Approximate Value (city assessment): _____

Monthly Payment (include insurance and tax): _____

Term of loan and remaining balance: _____

Outstanding Family Loans (Monthly amount and remaining balance)

Cars: _____

Personal: _____

Business: _____

Please explain any special circumstances that you would like to be taken under consideration (attach a separate piece of paper).

Are you expecting or receiving financial assistance to attend Ionian Village from any of the following:

Parish Scholarship Philoptochos Scholarship Other (specify) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date



APPLICATION

Please print or type

DATE OF APPLICATION: _____

APPLICANT'S NAME: _____ EMAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

AGE: _____ DATE OF BIRTH: _____ GRADE IN SCHOOL (as of 9/11): _____ MALE: _____ FEMALE: _____

PARENT OR GUARDIAN: _____ EMAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PARENT PHONE: HOME () _____ WORK () _____ () _____

PARISH: _____ PARISH PRIEST: _____

Signature of Applicant

Signature of Parent or Guardian

ESSAY

Please complete and attach a typed 100-150 word essay entitled "*Why I would like to attend Ionian Village.*"

REPORT CARD

Please submit a copy of the applicant's most recent report card.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Please complete the financial information form and submit it with signed copies of parent's or guardian's 2010 Federal Income Tax Form 1040, pages 1 and 2. You may also submit a letter explaining any special circumstances.

RECOMMENDATION

Please have your parish priest submit a letter of recommendation to the Scholarship Committee.

DEADLINE

Please submit all forms, essay and recommendation by May 15, 2011 to:

**Alpha Omega Council
83 Dalton Road
Holliston, MA 01746**

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please call us at (646) 519-6190 or contact us by email at ionianvillage@goarch.org.

NOTE: To be eligible for the scholarship, all applicants must have completed 7th grade, be between the ages of 12-18 years, Orthodox Christian, and first time participants to Ionian Village. The scholarship has been made available through a generous grant from the *Alpha Omega Council of Boston*.

We would like to thank our SPONSORS for making our St. Nicholas Newsletter possible.

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*The Proakis Family
wishes you all a
Happy Month*

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