

# The Orthodox Way

May



2011

## Paschal Reflection of Metropolitan Methodios

Easter Sunday is not like any other day, but one that arrives after midnight with a singular sacredness and grace. It comes with a joyous, salvific message. Easter---or more correctly “Pascha”, is the manifestation of God’s love for us. It is a love that we see clearly in Christ the Savior who suffered, died on a cross of pain, and who arose on the third day that we may have forgiveness of sins and life everlasting. It is our Savior’s Resurrection from the Tomb that becomes our Passover, our Pascha, for as our hymns read this evening, “Christ has brought us from death to life, and from earth to Heaven” (Paschal canon, ode one).

Darkness is the realm of the Devil, of Satan, the Father of Lies and the Prince of Darkness.

Darkness shrouds our lives with loneliness, addiction, pain and resentment. It permeates every aspect of our lives. It seeds controversy and division which result in troubled marriages, dysfunctional families and broken friendships.

In his darkness Satan encircles the world in what seems to be an endless cycle of controversies, of violence and wars---of conflicts in which Cain kills his brother Abel time and again, both literally and figuratively.

The devil is the source of satanic lies and vindictiveness which emanate from unbridled egos. He is the manifestation of selfishness, of racism and hunger, of homelessness and hopelessness.

It is this darkness that the unwaning light of the Lord’s Resurrection shatters. In the seemingly impenetrable gloom of hopelessness and death, the Resurrection of our Savior comes as an eruption of blinding light. The lifeless Tomb of darkness which held captive Adam and Eve and all their descendants is thrown open by Him who is Life itself. The Risen Lord leads our Passover---our “Pascha”. A new creation is born. As St. Peter teaches in his first Epistle, “By his

great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (1 Peter 1,3)

Our hymns this evening joyfully proclaim, “A sacred Pascha has been shown forth this day.” We celebrate Pascha tonight. It is the Lord’s Pascha, “Pascha Kiriou Pascha”. It is also our Pascha, our personal Passover as the Risen Lord leads all of us in this Cathedral from a state of darkness to light, from sin to righteousness, from sadness to joy, from death to life, from this transient world to the everlasting Kingdom of God.

The first Passover led God’s people from Egypt to the Promised Land. Our Lord’s Resurrection---the new creation of the world, the new Pascha---delivers us from the bondage of spiritual death. As we chant this evening, the Lord leads us “to life and from earth to heaven as we sing the triumphant Paschal hymn “ (the Canon of Paschal ode one)

In the Church, we live the Paschal Mystery by communing the precious Body and Blood of the Risen Lord during the Divine Liturgy. It is this renewing power that the Church shares in every time and in every place.

And so my brothers and sisters, let us advance fearlessly into a world mired in darkness armed with the blazing light of our Lord’s Resurrection. Receiving the unwaning light from the life giving Tomb, let us embrace one another and bear the light to all who await a personal Pascha.

(Metropolitan Methodios’ Paschal Reflection Delivered at the Annunciation Cathedral of Boston; Midnight April 24, 2011)

*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.

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**Our Parish Information**

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Office Secretary: Mary Correia  
Church Website : [www.stnicholaslex.org](http://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\**

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

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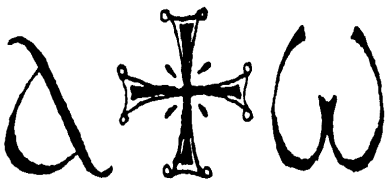
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### Thomas Sunday

May 1

Though the doors were shut at the dwelling where the disciples were gathered for fear of the Jews on the evening of the Sunday after the Passover, our Saviour wondrously entered and stood in their midst, and greeted them with His customary words, "Peace be unto you." Then He showed unto them His hands and feet and side; furthermore, in their presence, He took some fish and a honeycomb and ate before them, and thus assured them of His bodily Resurrection. But Thomas, who was not then present with the others, did not believe their testimony concerning Christ's Resurrection, but said in a decisive manner, "Except I shall see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe." Wherefore after eight days, that is, on this day, when the disciples were again gathered together and Thomas was with them, the Lord Jesus came while the doors were shut, as He did formerly. Standing in their midst, He said, "Peace be unto you"; then He said to Thomas, "Bring hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and bring hither thy hand, and thrust it into My side: and be not unbelieving, but believing."

And Thomas, beholding and examining carefully the hands and side of the Master, cried out with faith, "My Lord and my God." Thus he clearly proclaimed the two natures - human and divine - of the God-man (Luke 24:36-49; John 20:19-29).

### Irene the Great Martyr of Thessaloniki

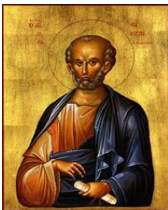
May 5



Saint Irene was the daughter of a princelet called Licinius; named Penelope by her parents, through a divine revelation she was brought to faith in Christ and at Baptism was renamed Irene. In her zeal for piety she broke in pieces all the idols of her father, who commanded that she be trampled underfoot by horses. But while she remained unharmed, one of the horses rose up and cast down her father, killing him. By her prayer she raised him to life again, and he believed and was baptized. Afterwards, in many journeyings, Saint Irene suffered torments and punishments for her faith, but was preserved by the power of God, while working dread miracles and converting many thousands of souls. At last she came to Ephesus, where she fell asleep in peace, in the first half of the fourth century. Two days after her death, her gravestone was found lifted off, and her grave empty. At least two churches were dedicated to Saint Irene in Constantinople, and she is also the patroness of the Aegean island of Thera, which is commonly called Santorin (or Santorini), a corruption of "Saint Irene."

### Simon the Zealot & Apostle

May 10



This Apostle was one of the Twelve, and was called Simon the Cananite by Matthew, but Simon the Zealot by Luke (Matt. 10:4; Luke 6:15). The word "Canaanite" used by Matthew is believed to be derived from kana, which in the Palestinian dialect of Aramaic means "zealot" or "zealous"; Luke therefore translates the meaning of "Canaanite." Later accounts say that he was the bridegroom at the wedding in Cana of Galilee, where the Lord Jesus changed the water into wine, making this the first of His miracles (John 2:1-11); according to some, he is called Cananite because he was from Cana (according to others, from the Land of Canaan). Simon means "one who hears."

### Holy Martyrs: Peter, Dionysius, Andrew, Paul, Christina, Heraclius, Paulinus and Benedimus

May 18

These Saints all contested in martyrdom during the reign of Decius (249-251)- Peter was from Lampsacus in the Hellespont. For refusing to offer sacrifice to the idol of Aphrodite, his whole body was crushed and broken with chains and pieces of wood on a torture-wheel; having endured this torment courageously, he gave up his soul.

Paul and Andrew were soldiers from Mesopotamia brought to Athens with their governor, there they were put in charge of two captive Christians, Dionysios and Christina. The soldiers, seeing the beauty of the virgin Christina, attempted to move her to commit sin with them, but she refused and, by her admonitions, brought them to faith in Christ. They and Dionysios were stoned to death, and Christina was beheaded.

Heraclius, Paulinus, and Benedimus were Athenians, and preachers of the Gospel who turned many of the heathen from their error to the light of Christ. Brought before the governor, they confessed their Faith, and after many torments were beheaded.

**Patrick the Hieromartyr & Bishop of Proussa and his Companions**

May 19

Saint Patrick was Bishop of Proussa, a city in Bithynia (the present-day Brusa or Bursa). Because of his Christian Faith, he was brought before Julius (or Julian) the Consul, who in his attempts to persuade Patrick to worship as he himself did, declared that thanks was owed to the gods for providing the hot springs welling up from the earth for the benefit of men. Saint Patrick answered that thanks for this was owed to our Lord Jesus Christ, and explained that when He, Who is God, created the earth, He made it with both fire and water, and the fire under the earth heats the water which wells up, producing hot springs; he then explained that there is another fire, which awaits the ungodly. Because of this, he was cast into the hot springs, but it was the soldiers who cast him in, and not he, who were harmed by the hot water. After this Saint Patrick was beheaded with the presbyters Acacius, Menander, and Polyaenus. Most likely, this was during the reign of Diocletian (284-305).

**Saint Vincent of Lerins**

May 24

Saint Vincent was born in Toul in Gaul; he was the brother of Saint Lupus, Bishop of Troyes, who was a companion of Saint Germanus of Auxerre. Saint Vincent was first a soldier, then left the world to become a monk of the renowned monastery of Lerins, where he was also ordained priest. He is known for his Commonitorium, which he wrote as an aid to distinguish the true teachings of the Church from the confusions of heretics; his most memorable saying is that Christians must follow that Faith which has been believed "everywhere, always, and by all." He wrote the Commonitorium about the year 434, three years after the Third Ecumenical Council in Ephesus, which he mentions in the Commonitorium, and defends calling the holy Virgin Theotokos, "She who gave birth to God," in opposition to the teachings of Nestorius which were condemned at the Third Council.

Without identifying by name Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, Saint Vincent condemns his doctrine of Grace and predestination, calling it heresy to teach of "a certain great and special and altogether personal grace of God [which is given to the predestined elect] without any labour, without any effort, without any industry, even though they neither ask, nor seek, nor knock" (Commonitorium, ch. XXVI). See also Saint John Cassian, February 29; Saint John Cassian wrote his refutations before, and Saint Vincent after, the condemnation of Nestorius at the Third Council in 431, and the death of Augustine in 430. Saint Vincent reposed in peace about the year 445

**Carpos & Alphaeus, Apostles of the 70**

May 26

This holy Apostle was numbered with the Seventy, and ministered unto the holy Apostle Paul, journeying with him and conveying his epistles unto those to whom they were written. He became Bishop of Beroea in Thrace, where he endured great tribulations while bringing many of the heathen to holy Baptism, and also suffered martyrdom there. Saint Paul mentions him in II Timothy 4:13.

## **PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

April 25, 2011

Christos Anesti!

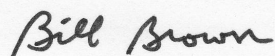
The author wants to thank Fr. Demetri for his spiritual guidance throughout this Great and Holy Lent. Fr. Demetri celebrated 16 peaceful and reflective Lenten services between the Saturday of Lazarus and Easter Sunday. I would like to thank our chanters for their beautiful chanting, and the readers who helped the chanters save their voices. Many thanks to the Philoptochos ladies for doing an exquisite job of decorating the kouvouklion. I also want to thank Frank Fotis for his assistance and advice to the Parish Council during Great and Holy Week. It was great that so many people attended the Anastasi service and stayed for the entire Divine Liturgy, and Resurrection Reception that was provided by your Parish Council – next year we'll have more food!

Our parish level Saint John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival was held after liturgy on 3 April. Jack Decoulos, Alexa Vafiades, Luke Psyhojos, and Thaya Psyhojos all gave thoughtful presentations. Maria Koulianos, our Holy Cross theological student this year, found three well qualified judges to generously volunteer their time. The judges spent over a half hour deliberating before choosing Alexa and Thaya to proceed on to the district level, where they both received Honorable Mentions.

On 10 April, St. Nicholas participated in the Greek Independence Day parade. We had about 40 participants, and were in the middle of the parade this year (spot 36 out of 56). We were right in front of the Lowell High band, so we had music all day long. It was a beautiful day for a walk in Boston.

St. Nicholas had a booth on Mass. Ave for the Patriot's Day festivities on 18 April. I think that we made people more aware of St Nicholas Parish in Lexington and of delicious Greek pastry. We thank all those who baked, and manned the booth. The children were especially enthusiastic! Special thanks to Marcy Norse, our Social Committee chair, and her husband Josh, who spearheaded this successful event.

The Spring General Assembly (GA) is scheduled for Thursday 19 May at 7PM. The Parish Council took a survey on the two Sundays before Holy Week and 24 out of 39 chose Thursday versus Sunday (There were a lot of people, who when asked, had no preference). We plan to have the Treasurer's and Stewardship reports, and the Fall 2010 GA minutes available two weeks ahead of the Spring GA. That way some of your questions can be addressed ahead of time and we will have a chance of meeting our goal for a two-hour GA meeting.



Bill Brown  
Parish Council President

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## STEWARDSHIP

*Christos Anesti! Christ is Risen!* Fr. Demetri had us shouting with joy these life changing words. Something in us shifts as we come to the Anastasi, enriched by prayers and special insights in the Lenten journey.

On the Saturday of Lazarus, our young Stewards worked diligently-- and as if it were fun-- cleaned the smokey walls of the Pangari. Yes, they already understand service given willingly with a happy heart.

On Good Friday at the Apokathelosis, Unnailing, two young children came up to the Kouvouklion, quietly and respectfully to reverence the Epitaphion. They walked down the stairs and then skipped and ran down the aisle. Many of you saw them. No one stopped them. I could be wrong, but I think that was perfect theology in motion. They grasped the sorrow of the passion and the tomb, but in anticipation of the joy ahead, the Resurrection, they skipped down the aisle.

Ah yes, shouldn't our whole body and soul skip with joy? And what does that mean for us? Does it mean that somehow whatever we are facing is less difficult because we are so loved? The One who loves us will be on our side, have our back, advocate for us, continue to pull us toward Him. We are the Beloved, a three syllable word that wraps us in the outstretched arms and bloodied nail pierced hands of our Savior. With all our idiosyncrasies, idiocies, mean spiritedness and waywardness, Jesus Christ loves us.

Praise to every person who by their commitment to Christ influenced our eager cleaning crew, and the young skipping Stewards.

Come to the **May 19<sup>th</sup> General Assembly** so that we can talk together about how else we can engender this skipping and happy spirit. In the meantime, I challenge you to find a safe place, when no one is around, and skip. Did you forget how? Ah, at least, let your heart skip a beat as you really take in that you are a Beloved of Christ.

Respectfully submitted, *Penelope Tzougros, Stewardship Chair*

### Stewardship Report

April 26, 2011

2011 Goal: \$124,500

Total Stewardship pledges:  
\$ 94,135

Total Stewardship received:  
\$ 62,382

50 % of our goal

Total pledged Stewards: 122

Are you represented here?

### Giving Blocks

April 26, 2011

\$10,000 - \$19,000	1
\$5,000 - \$9,999	1
\$2,000 - \$4,999	5
\$1,000 - \$1,999	25
\$ 500 \$ 999	43
\$ 300 \$ 499	19
\$ 100 -- \$ 299	25
Less than \$ 100	3

Total pledged Stewards 122

Same time last year, 132  
Stewards were included.

# Celebrating this month

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

## Nameday Celebrations:

Chris Kokkinos	May 9	Charlie Daileanos	May 21
Christopher Kokkinos	May 9	Helen Splagounias	May 21
Gloria Costarakis	May 13	Constantine Splagounias	May 21
Lydia Houck	May 20	Eleni Bury	May 21
Elena Proakis	May 21	Helen Philliou	May 21
Gus Doukakes	May 21	Helen Theodosiou	May 21
Helen Pitarys	May 21	Tino Decoulos	May 26

## Happy Birthday To You:



Alexa Rousseau	Lisa Loveland
Angelina Spilios	Luke Norse
Christian Sevigny	Millie Dostou
Cassandra Garibaldi	Maria Wilson
Efthemia Zervoglos	Nicholas Zervoglos
Eric Schmidt	Nikolas Saledas
George Wouralis	Pam Brown
Gloria Costarakis	Steve Dostou
Helen Philliou	Vasilios Hantzis
Jonathan Kokkinos	John Neyland
Katy VanNorden	Kathy VanNordan

## Happy Anniversary wishes for:

Maria and Jim Decoulas – May 15<sup>th</sup>

Fr. Demetri and Gloria Costarakis – May 22<sup>nd</sup>

Alyssa and George Psychojos – May 28<sup>th</sup>

Elaine and Michael Price- May 28<sup>th</sup>

*May our lord grant all who celebrates this month Many Years!!*

## *Thank you to all...*

As we have just celebrated Holy Pascha, the Feast of Feasts of the Orthodox Church. I personally felt something different this year...*Maybe it was having more of our faithful participating in the services during Great Lent and Holy Week...Having the Holy Altar full of Altar boys at the majority of the services...hearing all of you chant the hymns at the services...*

I wish to thank the many people who offered their stewardship to our Church in order to enhance the Liturgical services: The officers and members of the Parish Council for their dedication and love; all those who helped make the Palm Crosses and prepared the Church for Great and Holy Week; to St. Irene's Philoptochos who did all the organizing and ordering of the flowers and those who helped decorate the Kouvouklion and Epitaphio; those who helped with the youth retreat on Great and Holy Friday; our Chanters and Readers; our Cooks for the three meals we shared, Saturday of Lazarus Pancake Breakfast, Great Friday Luncheon and Godparent Sunday Family Breakfast. Finally, I would like to thank all of you, my Parish Family, as your priest, it was amazing to celebrate this Joyous Feast with all of you!!!

Christ is Risen!

*Fr. Demetri*

## *Mother's Day*

*The second Sunday of May is annually dedicated to the mothers of this land and is called Mother's Day. It is on this day that we remember our mothers fondly...if they are within the area in which we live, we spend the day with them. If they live far away, we would normally telephone or send flowers. If God has called them into His Kingdom, we recall them lovingly and with great nostalgia. We invite all of the mothers to come to Church on this day, so that you may join your prayers (with your children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and/or Godchildren) that God may continue to bless you. To all the mothers of the St. Nicholas Parish, we wish a Happy Mother's Day!!!*

## **ST. IRENE'S PHILOPTOCHOS**

Chistos Anesti – I hope you all had a wonderful Pascha.

**Pascha Related Appreciation Notes:** On **Palm Sunday, April 17**, St. Irene's Philoptochos, once again, hosted the Fellowship Hour. I want to thank all those who helped out that day. I also want to thank those who came to wrap **the eggs** on **Holy Thursday**. On **Holy Friday** several people from our community gathered to work on decorating **the Kouvouklion** in preparation for the placement of the Epitafio cloth on the Kouvouklion. There are many tasks associated with this work and many helping hands made it possible for us to complete all of them in time for the Friday afternoon service. We received many compliments on the job well done. So a big thank you to those who helped out. Again, we want to thank those who have responded to our annual letter requesting **donations to cover our expenses for the Pascha season**. We truly appreciate everyone's generosity. Thank you one and all for your dedication to the completion of these very important tasks!!

**2011 Philoptochos Stewardship Drive Chair Update:** Gloria Doukakis has reported that we have 69 stewards as of April 27. If you have not already done so, please send in your stewardship as soon as possible. Gloria has sent out reminder post cards to our 2010 members who have not yet responded. We look forward to hearing from you all.

**Artoclasia for the Feast Day of St. Irene:** We are planning our annual Artoclasia for the Feast Day of St. Irene, our Patron Saint, on Sunday, May 8. As is our custom, we will be taking a collection for the *Philoxenia House* in Brookline on this same Sunday.

**Upcoming Philoptochos Board Elections:** Again, I would like to stress that 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. The newly elected board members and officers will take office in June. Those of us who have held this position for many years look forward to helping the new board as they take over with new ideas to move our organization in a forward direction.

**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 beginning at 6:30**. It will be a pot-luck supper event (always a favorite) and will include our biennial elections. Hope you all can attend.

Wishing you all a wonderful month of May.

*Felia Proakis, President*

## **CHURCH SCHOOL**

Christos Anesti! - Congratulations to the finalists of our Parish St. John Chyrsostom Oratorical Festival: Alexa Vafiades in the junior division and Thaya Psychojos in the senior division. Both went on to participate in the District festival on April 9.

On Saturday of Lazarus, a pancake breakfast organized by Maria Neyland and Lou Saledas was served while parishioners worked to prepare St. Nicholas for Holy Week. Palm crosses were made; cups were placed under candles; and the church was cleaned – thank you one and all.

The Holy Friday Retreat was a great day for everyone. We had a record amount of over 50 students participate this year! Special recognition goes to our teachers and volunteers who made it happen: Lariza Panagioutou, Mandy Zervoglos, Pattie DiOrio led the Pre-K through 2<sup>nd</sup> grades in activities and educational videos; Pam Vlahakis and Alexandra Houck led the 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> graders on a Holy Week scavenger hunt; Maria Koulianos, Leto Papadopoulos, Daphne Papadopoulos and Nector Ritzakis led the jr. and sr. high school grades in the making of their own cloth Epitafios; and Monica Vafiades prepared the Lenten lunch for both adults and students. Thank you to all the families who contributed the food. During the evening service, our beautiful flower girls (who represented the myhrr-bearingi women) were: Katerina Barbas, Eleni Keogh, Zoe Speros, Alexa Vafiades and Maria Wilson.

**Don't forget...GRADUATION SUNDAY THIS YEAR HAS BEEN MOVED TO MAY 22!!!**

## **GREEK SCHOOL**

Christos Anesti. - We hope all of you had a wonderful Easter vacation with your family and friends.

On Sunday April 10 the community of St. Nicholas along with the Greek School students and teachers marched in Boston for the Greek Independence Day Parade. It was such a beautiful day.

It is unbelievable that it is already May. The Greek School is slowly coming to an end. It is amazing how much the children learn in a year. Classes will be held throughout the month of May. On Saturday, June 4 the Greek School students will be singing songs and reciting poems for graduation. Originally graduation was scheduled to be on Sunday, June 5, due to our local High School Graduations, Graduation Sunday will take place on Sunday May 22, when our students will receive their diplomas along with the Church School students in Church. It is always an exciting time for the kids.

## **ATTENTION ALL JOY/HOPE KIDS!**

We are looking for new, fun ideas for our next outing! Please see Nick Speros or Mike Wilson with your suggestions! We would like our next activity to take place some time in June.

## **ST. NICHOLAS TEENAGE/ADULT CHOIR**

The Teenage/Adult Choir and some young members of the Youth Choir will chant the Divine Liturgy during the summer months, while Dr. Timothy Patitsas is away in Greece.

The Adult/Teenage Choir will continue to meet in the summer, every Thursday evening from 7:00 until 8:30 p.m. Anyone interested is very welcome.

## **ST. NICHOLAS YOUTH CHOIR**

We will meet two more Sundays for this school year, Sunday May 8 and Sunday May 15. For those who would like to join the adults during the Divine Liturgy in the summer, please come to the Chanter stand.

We look forward to continue to meet in the fall !!!!!

## **HEALTH MINISTRY**

We are also happy to announce that on Sunday May 15<sup>th</sup>, 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.

## **SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

On April 18<sup>th</sup>, St. Nicholas re-entered the Lexington Patriot's Day festivities after a long absence and what a success it was! We couldn't have done it without the tireless help of all those who volunteered, especially the youth – their energy and desire to help wherever needed was inspiring! We began at 5:00 a.m. and worked through the parade's end until, finally, the last pot was put away around 6:15 p.m. While it was a lot of work and the end financial result wasn't what we were predicting (\$500 net profit), the community spirit that was fostered and the lessons that were learned made up for it tenfold. We now have many new ideas on how the event should be run next year and that information is invaluable and instrumental to a Patriot's Day 2012 success.

I would personally like to thank everyone who participated from the early planning phases and those that stepped up at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour. There were times when I thought that we were going to have to cancel, but I knew that the dedicated members of our parish would not allow that to happen and you certainly came through majestically! Thank you, thank you, and thank you! I would also like to extend a special thank you to Gloria Doukakis and Nick Vallas for preparing and donating the 3 pans of baklava that were sold during the event. At day's end, there was not a walnut nor a piece of filo left! Lastly, to all those involved: *WELL DONE! YOU SHOULD BE PROUD OF YOURSELVES!!!!*

Please look for information on upcoming Social events and meetings in the weeks to come.

*Marcy Norse*

**SPRING GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
**THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2011 – 7:00 P.M.**  
**St. Irene's Hall**

## **BOOK DRIVE FOR PROTAGONISTS SCHOOL IN ALBANIA**

The Protagonists School (an Orthodox sponsored school) in Albania is looking for gently used books in English for grades 4-9 for their school library. The books will be delivered to the school this summer by a family mission trip team. Please consider donating any used books you might have at these grade levels to this worthy cause. A box will be set up in the church hall for you to leave your donations. For more information please contact Mandy Zervoglos at [mzervoglos@gmail.com](mailto:mzervoglos@gmail.com).

## ***IMPORTANT NOTICE***

In recent months, we have spent approximately \$420 to have plumbers come to our facilities to unplug the downstairs toilets. We respectfully request that all parents monitor their children when using these bathroom facilities and/or advise them not to throw anything down the toilets, but toilet tissue. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

## **FUNERAL**

On March 15, 2011, a funeral service was celebrated for **Charles Poulos**, beloved husband of Sophie Poulos, and devoted father of Diane Harpell, Theodore and Nicholas Poulos. May his memory be eternal.

## **Calling All Walkers of St. Nicholas!**

1<sup>st</sup> Annual Health Ministry “Walk For Health”

**When: May 15th after Divine Liturgy**  
**Where: One mile loop around Lexington**

**Don't forget to bring your walking shoes/sneakers to church with you!**



# WITNESSES

*What is your favorite thing to do in Church?  
Why?*



"Church School is my favorite thing because I see my friends, and together we learn about Jesus... And the projects are fun."

Sophia Lourdes Panagiotou, age 4




"I like communion time."  
Adriana Grace Panagiotou,  
age 6

*We thank Sophia and Adriana Panagiotou in sharing their faith with our parish family and we hope more of you will do the same!!!*

*Unfortunately, NO ADULT WITNESS has come forth to share with our Parish Family!  
This area of our Newsletter is aimed and focused for us to talk about our Orthodox Faith , so you know...*

*It is okay to be Greek Orthodox and to TALK ABOUT OUR FAITH AND WHAT IT MEANS TO US!!! THIS IS HOW THE FAITH SPREADS!*

*If you have something to share PLEASE contact Fr. Demetri or see a member of our Parish Stewardship Committee*



**Please Join Us...  
Church School & Greek School  
2011 GRADUATION  
Sunday, May 22**

Please join us to celebrate the moving-on ceremony for our Church School and Greek School academic year.

**NOTE:** The annual community cookout will not take place on this Sunday. It is scheduled for June 12, Pentecost.

Due to the large amount of graduating seniors this year, there will be a sporting event (weather permitting) at a nearby field between the seniors and other Parish ministries. Bring a change of clothes! Details to follow.

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

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Health and Happiness*

*In memory of Charles L. Poulos*

*May his memory be eternal.*

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wishes you all a  
Happy Month*

*Καλο Μηνά*

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