From our planet’s point of view, there’s no throwing garbage out. Because there is no “out”.

Bank of the Planet

Did you know that there is a phenomenon known as “The Great Pacific Garbage Patch?” It could cover 40% of the sea (Botsman and Rogers 1). That is a lot of trash! Think about how much you have probably contributed to that.
"THE EARTH IS THE LORD’S & THE FULLNESS THEREOF " **(Psalm 24:1)**

**PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

Since 1989, The Ecumenical Patriarchate has called September 1, as the Day for the Protection of the Environment. His All-Holiness uses the beginning of the new ecclesiastical year each year (the Indiction as it is called) to call all Christians to pray for the environment and to commit themselves to working for environmental clean up and sustainability.

As Orthodox Christians, we are to care about the environment not only because it is a nice thing to do but because when we look into the Orthodox Faith and Way of Life, we can see that our Faith has an environmental ethic within it. Our liturgical life is related to the environment because we use elements of the natural world, and offer it back to God, and receive it transformed. First and foremost are the bread, wine and water in the Eucharist. But throughout the year, we bless fruit, flowers, oil, even at times farm animals; all part of God’s wonderful creation that we are called to protect!

On our cover this month you see “The Great Pacific Garbage Patch” and below you will read facts related to this (just one example of so many examples of mistreatment of the earth.) The information below was researched by one of our pre-teens, 6th grader Calista Leroux as part of our recent Faith Arts Celebration of our Church School Program. Thank you to Calista and other youth concerned about this important topic. It is your awareness and follow up actions that will improve the decades ahead, what far too many adults have abused.

- 80,000 metric tons of plastic inhabit the patch
- Subtropical Convergence Zone a convergence zone (where warm water from the South Pacific meets up with cooler water from the Arctic) and acts like a highway that moves debris from one patch to another.
- The North Pacific Subtropical Gyre (group of currents) is created by the interaction of the California, North Equatorial, Kuroshiro (aka Japan current), and North Pacific currents.
- These four currents move in a clockwise direction around an area of 20 million square kilometers.
  * A boat captain competing in a yacht race first noticed the patch which covers 1.6 million square kilometers.
Are We Ready for **Our 34th Year** of the Annual 3-Day Greek Festival?
Volunteers make it happen and we are moving forward making calls and sending emails to all of our team. Come out and celebrate another successful year. Your help and dedication to this annual event is greatly appreciated by all of the priests, parishioners and staff at Annunciation Church. Thank you for your support and long hours of hard work.

**A U G U S T**

Tuesday August 20 – Koulourakia
Wednesday August 21 – Koulourakia / Karydopita
Tuesday August 27 – Kourambides / Melomacarona
Wednesday August 28 – Diples

**S E P T E M B E R**

Tuesday September 3 – 9am
Honey Dip Diples & Melomacarona

Wednesday September 4 – Pack Pastries – 6PM
Galaktobouriko to be made during the days of the festival

*Time to be announced*

GOLF TOURNAMENT—**NEW DATE = Oct 6**

Please note the Golf Tournament that was scheduled on Sunday, July 21, was canceled due to very hot weather conditions. **The new date is Sunday October 6th.**

Same time same place. **Thank you for participating.**

**Marriage Prep Classes**

Please note that the next session of marriage prep classes will be Sept. 19th and Sept 26th. **This will be the last session for 2019.**

Please call the office, to confirm your participation
August Icons

We are accepting donations for the August Icons. Please call the office if you would like a loved one's name mentioned for prayers. Aug. 1st - Aug. 15th.

Paraklesis Services, Feast of Transfiguration & Feast of Dormition of Mary.
401-942-4188 or email office@annunciationri.org.

School Programs Resume Week of September 15

Classes for our Sunday Church School will begin again on Sunday, September 15, for the Pre-K grades on September 22 for the remaining grades (6th-12th). Children should arrive in Church for 9:30am. New students are asked to register by mail ahead of time (registration forms will be mailed out soon). Church school classes are open to children from age 4 (older, age 3 children, are also welcomed if they are potty trained, out of diapers and comfortable in a classroom without Mom or Dad). It must be clearly understood that parents who register their children (no matter the age) are to remain for services and commit to be regular on Sundays. To “drop off” children is a bad practice. In cases when a parent may have to work on a Sunday morning, hopefully the other parent, godparent or grandparent will stay. There is no registration fee for Church School, but it is expected that families be active in our Stewardship Pledge Program. For any questions, please call our Church School Coordinator, Marion Pappas @ 401-834-4373 or email: imetaxia651@gmail.com

Classes for our Greek School will begin Tuesday thru Thursday, September 17th thru 19th, with registration Sunday September 15 following liturgy. Greek School is open to children who are at least age 6. There is no cut off age and even teens are welcome to start attending. Remember as well our special classes “parent with a child” and the newer “kindergarten program” for children aged 4 1/2 to 5 1/2 (parent however needs to speak with director).

For more information, please contact our Language School Director Koula Rougas @ 401-944-7572 or email: gusandkoula@verizon.net

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Blood Donations Needed

American Red Cross is in need of blood donors. It saves a life—and what better way to help others. Summertime is a low point for donors. Give good value to fulfill your summer and make a donation. Call 1-800-733-2767, they will set an appointment for you and explain the process to you. People in need will THANK YOU!!

Cemetery Plot For Sale

A burial plot is for sale in North Burial Grounds / Armenian-Greek Section. Section #33—3/ graves—up to 6 burials $7500.00, please call 401-575-1083 Victor Serabian if you are interested.

Recent Deaths

Cathy Rougas age 67 of Cranston, RI passed away on 6/16/2019. Her burial was private.
Konstantinos Revis age 39 of Smithfield, RI passed away on 7/29/19. His burial was private.

~May their memory be Eternal~
“IS YOUR PLEDGE ON TARGET”

2019 PLEDGE PROGRAM REPORT
We have to date 334 parishioners with a pledge of $186,192.00
The Actual Amount Received to date is $143,066.98
Since our last newsletter, the following pledges have been received for 2019:
M/M Stephen Antoniou, M/M Michael Balasco, M/M Thomas Bovis, M/M Michael Campopiano, M/M Kimon Dafoulas, Nicholas Fircanis, M/M Theodoros Fotopoulos, Alexis George, M/M Demetrios Harritos, James Harritos II, Dr. Theodore Kanelos, James Kripotos, M/M Dimitrios Markos, M/M Constantine Mares, M/M John Massenzo, Evridiki Metakos, M/M George Mihailides, M/M Christo Mihalos, M/M Theodoros Panagopoulos, M/M Athanasios Petropoulos, M/M John Prayous, George Rakas, M/M Lyle Rawlinson, M/M Dionisios Sampalis, Nanci Sarganis, Alexander Spanos, Jeanne Stappas, Haido Titelis, M/M Peter Vican, James Vose, Arianna Zervos.

Stewardship Payment Plans
In paying your stewardship, we have a number of parishioners who have their checks sent to us monthly from their accounts automatically. Others can do likewise. Just contact your bank and have them directly withdraw payments from your account and send to us directly.

We also remind everyone of the “Monthly Payment Booklet” that contains a return slip to submit a payment each month for your pledge, similar to all monthly commitments for your home. You can stop by the office to obtain one or we can mail it out to you.

Actions Speak Louder Than Words
Consider the metaphor: three frogs sat on a lily pad. One decided to jump off. How many frogs were left? You may think the obvious answer to two. The answer is actually three. You see. Although one frog decided to jump off, he only decided to jump. He didn’t actually do it! He thought about it; he decided to do it; but he didn’t follow through. IN our hectic lives, we decide to do many things, but we only act on a few. You must do more than just decide.

You must jump off your indecision pad and make it happen now!
Sending in your stewardship Response Form is worth acting upon.
WE THANK YOU
Dr. Mary Despina Lekas Endowment Fund News
Financial Report for the period ending 7/31/2019
Endowment Fund Portfolio: $1,051,551.06
Endowment Fund Checking Account: $4,310.05

A donation has been made to the Endowment Fund by:
M/M George Nonis in memory of Wilfred Demars

A donation has been made to the Endowment Fund by:
M/M Michael Papigiotis & Mary Samaras in memory of Aldina Kanelakos

A donation has been made to the Endowment Fund by:
Antonia Vanikiotis in memory of Ann Hague

A donation has been made to the Endowment Fund by:
Olga Haveles in memory of Anne Morrell

Donations have been made to the Endowment Fund by:
Lela Chiavaras, Nikki & Mike Connery, Joan & Mathew Milas,
Angela Panichas, Denise Panichas, Sia & George Panichas,
Nikki, Debbie & Chuck Samaras,
Marie & Gary Younker
In Honor of Mary Samaras' 98th Birthday.

Our Endowment Fund
A Commitment That Defines a Thoughtful and Progressive Parish
With great pride, we recently reached our first million dollar goal
and are now well on our way to achieving our second million dollars.
Remember, nothing is impossible when the spirit is willing!

Respectfully, Mary Samaras, Secretary Endowment Fund Committee

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Prayer Requests & Daily Prayers
For many years now, a number of our parishioners have devoted time daily for intercessory
prayer on behalf of specific people. If you would like to commit to this important
"daily ministry", please let Fr Andrew know.
Prayer intentions on behalf of people should initially be directed to the parish office, either by
phone or email and these intentions are then passed on to Fr Andrew and the members of the
Prayer Chain. These prayer intentions are also raised in prayer at every Liturgy.
Those submitting requests should certainly attend Liturgy as well to
"offer" and to "live" their prayer request.
Review of the
June 8, 11, 20 and 23 Orthodox Natural Church Development
Parish Focus Groups

Four Focus Group discussions were held in June, to review and discuss the Orthodox Natural Church Development (ONCD) Parish Survey that was given to 30 of our Parishioners in May.

The ONCD parish survey results revealed many strengths which will form the foundation for building our parish’s future. The survey results also highlighted opportunities for growth and renewal of our church community, by strengthening and enhancing “Loving Relationships” within our parish.

Based on the input we received, the Revitalization Team will initially focus on the following, in the coming weeks:

1) Re-establish a "Welcoming Committee" to greet new parishioners and visitors to our Parish and encourage their active involvement in the life of our church.

2) Form an "Agape Group", similar to one led by Deacon Markos, many years ago. The Agape Group would be an intimate, Christ-centered opportunity to gather to share struggles and hardships in a confidential and embracing manner, receiving the love and guidance of our parish family.

3) Offer a special invitation to our Greek Festival guests to attend an English-language "Teaching Liturgy" to be held a few weeks after the Festival.

4) Help our parishioners reflect on their resentments or bitterness toward others and offer them opportunities to learn to forgive and let go of negative feelings. This will be addressed via written and oral communication such as pastoral/parishioner reflections in the Annunciator, sermons, talks, and private meetings.

This fall, we will hold several additional ONCD Focus Groups, to give parishioners the opportunity to learn about ONCD and help us enhance Loving Relationships within our community.

Please plan to attend one of these Focus Groups in the Fall.

Parishioners with ideas, questions, or comments related to ONCD, and the Revitalization Initiative, are invited to contact Paul Pliakas or any of the members of the Revitalization Initiative.

Faithfully Serving our parish and planning for its future,

Paul Pliakas                      Fr. Andrew G. George
Team Leader                      Protopresbyter

Parish Revitalization team members - Fr. Nicholas Lanzourakis, Maria Leroux, Theofanis Markos, Marianne & Kevin Phelan, Elaine Otto, Emile Sarkis, Lisa & Russ Wheatley
ΓΙΑ ΝΑ ΕΙΜΑΣΤΕ ΚΑΛΑ ΜΕΛΗ ΤΗΣ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑΣ ΤΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ......

......ΑΣ ΠΑΡΟΥΣΙΑΣΕ ΣΤΑ ΣΟΒΑΡΑ ΤΟ ΕΡΓΟ ΤΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ
άκο τον Π. Ευαγγέλα

"Ας κάρουμε στά σοβαρά τήν κίστη μας, τή λατρεία μας (λειτουργία, μυστήρια, άκολουθίες, έκκλησιασμό), τή μελέτη τής Γραφής, τή συμμετοχή μας στήν ἀποστολή καί τό έργο τής Εκκλησίας, δηλ. τής εκπαιδευτικής, τής πρεσβείας (IOCC), τής σχέσεις μας μέ τόν θεό καί τούς συναδέλφους μας.
Ας τά κάρουμε στά σοβαρά δώλα αύτά, καί δώλ γά τά μάτια τού κόσμου. "Οχι γά νά εντυπωσάμε τούς άλλους άλλα γά νά αφελούμαστε ἐμείς.

Τί καλό, αλήθεια, μᾶς κάνει οτινά ερχόμαστε στήν εκκλησία μερικά λεπτά κρίνοι οτό "διπλού" καί μέ χαμόγελο στό στόμα καλημερίζουμε τόν κάτορπο στό σκούρό σαίνοι λέμε: "Νά, βλέπεις Χριστέ, σοί έκανε τή χάρη καί ἤρθα!

"Η τί καλό μᾶς κάνει νά κοινωνήσεις μιά ή δύο ή τέσσερις τό καλό φορές τόν χρόνο καί νά νομίζουμε διότι κάναμε έκεινο πό πρέπει γά τή σωτηρία μας;
Καί τί καλό μᾶς κάνει μή κοινωνήσεις καθόλου δήλ μας τή ζωή καί δίναμε ετοιμαθανός τό να τούς ρέσομεν τό κοινά μή μᾶς κοινωνήσεις;

"Η τί μᾶς αφελεί διότι δίνουμε βοήθεια σε κάποιον μέ τό σταντι γά νά τόν εξηφορτώσουμε αντί μέ αγάπη καί πραγματική εγνώια;
Καί σε τί αφελούμαστο οτινά γίνομαστε συνδρομητα στήν εκκλησία διότι γαταί αγάπαμε τήν εκκλησία ἀλλά γαταί χρειαζόμαστε κάποια εξηφορτώση;
Καί οτινά τελειώσεις μή εξηφορτώση αυτή, εξηφορτώσεις τήν εκκλησία μας δος πού νά τήν εξηφορτώσουμε;
"Ολα αύτα τά μικρόκοματα κού κάνουμε μοιάζουμε μέ τά μικρά ψάρια πού πάνουμε στά ρηχά νερά.
Πρέπει νά βγάζουμε σε ανώτατο, νά δουλέψουμε, νά κοινώσουμε, νά θυσιάσουμε, αν πράγματι θέλουμε νά γεμίσουμε τά δικτυά μας μέ μεγάλα ψάρια, τήν καρδιά μας μέ χαρά, καί τή ψυχή μας μέ σωτηρία.

Τρία πράγματα ζητά από μᾶς ο Θεός σε αντάλλαγμα όλης τής αγάπης καί τών αγαθών πού μᾶς χάρισε, καί μᾶς χαρίζει:
Λίγο καρό, Λίγο τάλαντο, Λίγη υόρα!

"Αν δίσουμε εθελοντικά τόν καρό μας, νά μή νομίζουμε διότι μπορούμε νά κάνουμε τήν δουλειά πού αναλάβομε, διότι καί δώς θέλουμε νά τήν κάνουμε,

"Ας δίσουμε εθελοντικά τόν πέλαμ τόν μας, μή νομίζουμε διότι μπορούμε νά δίσουμε γίνομαστε 

"Ας δίσουμε εθελοντικά μέρος τής υόρας μας, τού κλοπού μας, τών υλικών μας αγαθών, νά μή νομίζουμε διότι μπορούμε νά δίσουμε γίνομαστε 

"Ας δίσουμε εθελοντικά μέρος τής υόρας μας, τού κλοπού μας, τών υλικών μας αγαθών, νά μή νομίζουμε διότι μπορούμε νά δίσουμε 

"Ας δίσουμε εθελοντικά μέρος τής υόρας μας, τού κλοπού μας, τών υλικών μας αγαθών, νά μή νομίζουμε διότι μπορούμε νά δίσουμε 

Είσαι πράγματις Χριστιανός, πραγματική Χριστιανή, κάλε τήν πρωτοβουλία, κάνε δια μπορείς, δος μπορείς μέ αγάπη καί χαμόγελο καί περίμενε τήν ανταπόδοση διότι εδώ, από τούς δίδυκους καί φθόνορους ανθρώπους, άλλα εκεί ψηλά στούς ουρανούς από τόν δίκαιο κρίτη καί φιλόστορο Πατέρα.
WASHINGTON – His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America met July 16, 2019 with President Donald Trump at the White House Oval Office. The meeting was attended by Vice President Mike Pence and the Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar. The meeting was very cordial, and the Archbishop had the opportunity to thank the President for a) sending his representative at the enthronement ceremony; b) his warm congratulatory letter on assuming his new position; c) his sincere support to the sacred institution of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and d) the constantly demonstrated sensitivity of the President to the protection of Christians throughout the world. The President indicated particular interest for the Orthodox Church and promised continued support for the activities and the work of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE TO ADVANCE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM
Archbishop Elpidophoros was in Washington to speak at important meetings being invited by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on the topic of “Protecting Vulnerable Minorities in Conflict & Crisis Settings. Also in attendance was the Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem Theofilos III. For far too long Christians have been heavily persecuted in the middle east and Asia Minor especially and the media in the USA under-reports it. See in this issue a brief review of the events and circumstances, at page 10-11 taken from the Spring 2019 issue of the Archon Newsletter of the Order of St. Andrew.
Turkey: “I lost a sense of belonging to this country, because being a Christian is like a crime”

Although technically living in a secular nation, Turkey’s teachers are entrusted with the care of ensuring that children are raised as good, Turkish Muslims. Christian teachers, many of whom converted from Islam, often find themselves slowly pushed out of the workforce. These challenges can be especially difficult during Christian holidays, such as Christmas and Easter.

“A person can go to Friday prayers, an hour and a half in prayer! But I do not know that I can ask for permission about any (Christian) feast or activity,” explained one teacher, Ömer. “People are afraid to be involved in Christian activities. Therefore, I know that I must come from one step behind.”

Often, Ömer is left to take care of his Muslim coworkers’ students while they attend prayers and holidays. His supervisors say nothing. “They know they can’t make any noise to Muslims. What is he going to say, the guy is going to a mosque! But it is a problem for a Christian to fulfill his religious duties… you can’t explain that you have to be at church on Saturday and Sunday.”

Ömer’s supervisors cause him more difficulties than his fellow coworkers, who have at times defended his right to express his Christian faith freely. The teachers at his school have a group chat on WhatsApp, where they share different religious texts with each other. Ömer also wanted to share elements of his faith on the group chain, but his supervisors became upset.

“The deputy director said, ‘I won’t let you do missionary work here; [this is] partisanship!’ and he threw me out of the group. Most of my colleagues then came out of the group to support me. That made me happy,” said Ömer.

Other teachers, however, are not as lucky as Ömer. Mehmet used to work as a headmaster in a local school, and his wife worked as a teacher at a different school. Because Mehmet began speaking of his Christian faith, both of their jobs were jeopardized.

“I started to tell the Good News to my close colleagues at school. One day, they insulted the Christian faith… We started to have a heated conversation.”

A colleague who taught Islamic culture, was intrigued by the dispute and wanted to visit Mehmet’s church. Mehmet invited him to attend worship, and noticed his attentive note-taking during service. He was then introduced to the church leaders, who prompted stimulating conversation about the Christian faith.

Two weeks later, the school directors warned Mehmet that there were problems regarding his conversations at work. The upper authorities at the General Directorate informed Mehmet that he must quit his job as headmaster, and handed him his petition of resignation. To his surprise, Mehmet’s wife was fired from her job as a teacher on the same day. “But it is a problem for a Christian to fulfill his religious duties… you can’t explain that you have to be at church on Saturday and Sunday.”

Stunned by the situation, Mehmet learned that the school principal and the religious teacher who attended his church had reported that Mehmet imposed Christianity on his students. The school principal had always been friendly with him, but now that he knew Mehmet was a Christian, he began treating Mehmet like an enemy….

Mehmet was not able to fully restore his and his wife’s jobs. Today, he still struggles with the situation. “I lost a sense of belonging to this country, because being a Christian is like a crime.” Even so, Mehmet has continuously prayed for the people who instigated the unjust situation….

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**Chad**
Violence against and persecution of Christians is increasing

**Iraq**
Christians call for internationally protected safe zone to enable them to rebuild after ISIS rule

**India**
Hindu Extremists Shut Down Christian Churches: “Why Are You Worshipping a Foreign God?”

**France**
Catholic churches vandalized, set on fire & smeared with excrement
Offering insights on the issues facing Christians living in the Holy Lands and the Middle East, and wherever they are suffering for their faith.

Ethiopia
Muslim Mobs Attack
10 Church Buildings

Nigeria
Muslim Extremists
Murder Over
30 Christians
In Devastating Attack

Azerbaijan
Azerbaijan erasing
its Armenian Christian
past, destroys
89 medieval
churches, 5,840 intricate cross-
stones, and 22,000 tombstones

Columbia
Another Protestant pastor killed, leaving the church ‘terrified’

Iran
Elderly Christian convert from Islam endures ten days of interrogation

Kenya
Mother Beaten, Raped for Converting to Christianity

India
Christians widely considered to be “second-class citizens”

Ethiopia
Somali Muslim police officer becomes Christian, is fired and forced to move to another area

Yemen
The persecution that Christians face is “extreme”

North Korea again identified as the worst country for Christians

“In North Korea, where there are about 300,000 Christians out of a total population of 25.6 million, Christians are seen as ‘hostiles to be eradicated,’ the report says.” There is at least one Orthodox parish in North Korea, the Church of the Life-Giving Trinity in Pyongyang, but its present situation is unclear.

Open Doors, which assists Christians in areas of the world where persecution is rampant, publishes the World Watch List, an annual report on the global persecution of Christians. The report, which comes out at the beginning of each year, ranks the top 50 countries where Christians are persecuted for their faith. The list uses data from Open Doors field workers and external experts to quantify and analyze persecution worldwide. Countries are ranked by the severity of persecution of Christians, calculated by analyzing the level of violent persecution plus the pressure experienced in five spheres of life.

This year, the group has found a sharp increase in persecution of Christians in the world’s two most populous countries. For the first time since the start of the World Watch List, India has entered the top 10. And China jumped 16 spots, from 43 to 27....
Please join us for a Paint Night @ Muse in Providence (117 N. Main St)

Tuesday September 10th 6:30PM $35/person

A fun night out for the ladies of our various church ministries!

Please rsvp to Presvytera Eleni by August 27th so we can make the final arrangements 🥂🎨

Eklanzl7@aol.com 617-943-6984
I hope you are enjoying this beautiful summer weather which we are so blessed to have in Rhode Island. It is hard to think about Fall events when our toes are in the sand and our hands are working the gardens.

Your chapter is beginning to gear up for their new year and meetings are being planned for budget review, upcoming events and bazaar planning. Our first general meeting will be on Monday, September 16th and we hope all members and interested guests will attend to hear what we are planning. More information will be forthcoming.

We will be starting ongoing visitations to our elderly parishioners and will be reaching out to members who live in the area of the many nursing homes to meet and greet. Please let me know if you would like to be involved in this important ministry at 401-743-7596.

Festival plans are in full force and volunteers are always needed in many areas. Please, if you are able, to give our church a few hours of your time and talent. Please call the church office for further information.

Thank you for your continued donations for the bazaar. Our POD is filling up with many treasures and we have room for more. Please continue to drop off your donations. Below is a quick overview of our needs for a successful bazaar.

We welcome all women from our parish to join and become involved in projects locally, nationally and internationally. Many hearts and hands will keep us sustainable for future generations.

**TAVERNA**
This is the booth that provides the most delicious Greek food but needs your financial support, remember us as we near closer to the bazaar.

**DAY RAFFLE**
Another popular booth that needs prizes, contact Georgia at: 351-3927

**HANDICRAFT**
It is not too late to click those needles for hats, scarves, baby items and sweaters.

**JEWELRY AND VINTAGE ITEMS**
These popular booths need your donations, especially jewelry, linens, furs, Pocketbooks, china, crystal and pictures.

**THEMED GIFT BASKETS**
Love a theme? This is your chance to get together with your friends to create a lovely basket with a value of $100.

With Philoptochos Love,
Marianne Phelan, President
GREEK FOOD FAIR & CHRISTMAS BAZAAR 2019

Good Samaritan Philoptochos Society

Saturday, November 2nd

Sunday November 3rd

DEMETRAKAS HALL
CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION
175 OAKLAWN AVENUE, CRANSTON

Jewelry
Agora
Handcrafts
Raffles
Greek Pastry
Religious Book Store
White Elephant
Vintage Treasures
Gift Baskets

Serving delicious food & pastry Saturday & Sunday
featuring
Roast Lamb, Gyros, Souvlakia,
Greek Baked Macaroni, Spanakopita
Baklava, Rice Pudding & Pastries***********

Bring extra money and enjoy the bargains!
College Bound

We would like to have the mailing address and email address of all our parishioners who are currently attending or will be freshmen this year at colleges and other schools of higher learning. Please forward this information to the parish offices at 401-942-4188 or email office@annunciationri.org, also email fr.nick@annunciationri.org. Parents please be sure to submit this information so we don’t have to call you. Submit your child’s address as well to www.ocf.net/resources and click on “connect form”. Their information will be forwarded to the nearest Greek Orthodox Parish and the local OCF (Orthodox Christian Fellowship).

A Family that has Served Local Families for 4 Generations...

Still Is.

“Our family has been a part of the Rhode Island community for over 100 years, so we know what a special place it is. As caring neighbors and close advisors, we have always been there for families through difficult times. We are committed to providing the very best service before, during, and after the funeral.”

NARDOLILLO FUNERAL HOME INC.
EST. 1906

Angelo Nardolillo, Sr., Founder
Robert A. Nardolillo, Jr.
Angelo M. Nardolillo Jr.
Robert A. Nardolillo
Robert A. Nardolillo Jr.
Angelo M. Nardolillo Jr.
Angelo M. Nardolillo, Jr.
Robert A. Nardolillo

1278 Park Avenue
Cranston, RI 02910
(401) 942-1220

1111 Boston Neck Road
Narragansett, RI 02882
(401) 789-6300
Senior Living Resources

Based on conversations with community leaders across the US, many aging adults are unaware of the available care options and programs that can help maintain their independence and quality of life. So we created a free resource that provides comprehensive information on topics like financial support and care options that are available.

You can read more about our work here:

https://www.caring.com/senior-living/assisted-living/rhode-island
https://www.caring.com/senior-living/assisted-living
https://www.caring.com/senior-care/in-home-care/
https://www.caring.com/senior-living/nursing-homes/
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Beheading of St. John Baptist
Service Thursday, Aug 29 at the usual morning hrs.

For many years, John was an ascetic preacher and led a ministry in baptizing people along the Jordan River—where Christian tradition says he encountered his cousin Jesus. It’s a crucial scene in the New Testament, revealing Jesus’s divinity. But, the end of John’s life became almost as famous as his experience with Jesus.

St. John was imprisoned by King Herod Antipas because he dared to speak out against the monarch’s marriage to a woman who had been his half-brother’s wife. Herod Antipas was Jewish and, at the same time, he was serving as the Roman-approved ruler of the Jewish homeland. John’s rebuke of the king was for violating Jewish rules about marriage—but the issue of John’s challenge was larger than a point of Jewish law. The ancient historian Josephus noted that John’s preaching made Herod Antipas worry about the potential for Jewish rebellion.

Traditional versions of the beheading story say: On Herod’s birthday, a raucous party took place. The king’s step daughter—who generations of artists and writers have embodied in the temptress Salome—performed a sultry dance. The drunken king promised Salome anything she would like—and Salome, after a quick consultation with her mother, asked for St. John the Baptist’s head on a golden platter. Herod agreed but also was terrified. The people adored John, after all, and Herod feared divine punishment.

And, the tale keeps growing: For a person not clearly identified in the Bible, Salome winds up with a dramatic biography! In one version of her life story, she eventually falls through the ice while crossing a river, beheading herself in the process. Salome’s supposed sensuality was a magnet for writers such as Oscar Wilde, musicians from Richard Strauss to Andrew Lloyd Webber, and artists from the exotic Gustave Moreau to Aubrey Beardsley. She went to the depths “unknelled, uncoffined and unknown” in the words of Byron.

As for the perpetrators, they meet with misfortunes they had hardly bargained for. To begin with, the arch villain, Herod, together with his unlawful wife, Herodia, fell into disfavor with Emperor Caligula, himself a debased monarch. They were exiled to what is now Lyons, France, then a remote outpost of the Roman Empire where they seem to have vanished from the pages of history, but where it is certain that their final days were anything but pleasant.

The Beheading of St. John is a tableau etched in every Christian mind. It is a memory that needs no chronological reminder, but comes to the fore with the prodding of any atrocity committed against mankind, Christian or otherwise. Nevertheless, the senseless execution of this mighty servant of God is placed on the church calendar on August 29 to stir the awareness of Christians everywhere that morality will never die because of saints such as John the Baptist.
Mid-August / Mid-September 2019
Divine Services (year round) Orthros (morning prayer) 8:15 am / Liturgy 9:30am

Wed Aug 7- Paraklesis Service: 6PM & Fri Aug 9– Paraklesis Service: 6PM

Sun. Aug 11—Sun 8th of Matthew / Euplus the Deacon / Memory of St Spyridon Miracle
Mon Aug 12- VJ DAY—OFFICE IS CLOSED
Last Paraklesis—6PM

Tues Aug 13- Festival Planning Meeting—7:30PM
Wed Aug 14- Great Vespers of Dormition (Assumption Parish Pawtucket) - 7PM
Thu Aug 15- DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS (KOIMISIS)
- Services at our regular morning hours
- Dance Troupe resumes practice (Jrs: 6-7:30PM / Sr: 7-9PM

Sun. Aug 18—Sun 9th of Matthew—Martyrs Floros & Lauros / Arsenios of Paros
Mon Aug 19- Joint Dance Troupe/ Jrs: 6-7:30PM / Sr: 7-9PM
- Parish Council meeting—7:30PM (date adjustment)

Tues Aug 20- Festival Baking—KOULOURAKIA / 4PM Prep / 6PM Baking
Wed Aug 21- Festival Baking—Koulourakia / KARYDOPITA / same times as Tues’ Baking
Thu Aug 22- Joint Dance Troupe/ Jrs: 6-7:30PM / Sr: 7-9PM

Sat Aug 24- Fr Andrew serving Liturgy at Hellenic Nursing Home—Canton, MA—9:30am

Sun. Aug. 25—Sun 10th of Matthew—Apostle Titos of 70, Bishop of Crete
Mon Aug 26- Joint Dance Troupe/ Jrs: 6-7:30PM / Sr: 7-9PM
Tue Aug 27- Festival Baking—Kourambidies/Melomakarona—same times as above
Wed Aug 28- Festival Baking—Diples—same times as above

Thu Aug 29- Beheading of St John the Baptist—Day of Strict Fasting
- services per usual morning hours
- Joint Dance Troupe/ Jrs: 6-7:30PM /Sr: 7-9PM /// - Revitalization Initiative—7:30PM

Sun. Sept 1- Sun 11th of Matthew—Church New Year (INDICTION) / Symeon the Stylite
MEMORIAL: Ernest Pappas—1yr

Mon. Sept 2—LABOR DAY—OFFICE IS CLOSED
Tues Sept 3- Festival Prep: Honey Dip Diples & Melomakarona—9am
- Festival Prep: Meat marinating etc—6PM
- COMBINED DANCE TROUPE PRACTICE: 6-8PM

Wed Sept 4- PACK PASTRIES—6PM
Fri.—Sept 6—34th 3-Day ANNUAL GREEK FESTIVAL (begins) 5PM—10PM
Sat.—Sept 7—34th 3-Day ANNUAL GREEK FESTIVAL (continues) 12 NOON—10PM

Sun. Sept 8—Sun Before the Holy Cross—Nativity of Theotokos
34TH ANNUAL GREEK FESTIVAL (continues) 12 NOON—9PM (ends)

Tues Sept 10- Ladies Night Out—6:30PM (at Muse in Providence) RSVP by Aug 27
Thu Sept 12- Church School Staff Meeting - 6:30PM
Sat Sept 14- ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS—Day of Strict Fasting
- Services per usual morning hours

Sun Sept 15—Sunday after the Cross/ School Registrations & Youth Sign Ups Booths
From: Praxis Magazine. Spring 2019

+ Methodios,
Metropolitan of Boston

Brothers and Sisters in the household of God,

The Church throughout the ages has always been faced with problems of human frailty and weakness—issues that have questioned its future vitality. However, it has always regenerated and gone forth by treating such issues with the salve of forgiveness, understanding, patience and perseverance. Our Lord gathered around Him twelve weak men: two sought seats of recognition in the kingdom, one denied Him, one betrayed Him and only one remained by His side at the foot of the cross. The Church, tested by the many trials of schism, heresy and scandal, survived and became stronger as a result because our Church is guided day by day—and through the annals of history, by the Paraclete, the Holy Spirit who on Pentecost transformed those twelve weak men into spiritual titans who evangelized the world.

In this issue, PRAXIS magazine examines the topic of parish vitality. It is my firm belief that a topic such as this calls us to engage in the process of self-reflection. The Church reflects on herself to find greater light and new energy in the fulfillment of her mission to determine what are the means for making more efficacious and beneficial our contacts with the flock entrusted to our care—those in the Church and those who stand at its peripheries. This issue of PRAXIS calls us to share our faith, thoughts and visions towards the revitalization of our communities.

Let us remember at the outset that the parish does not exist simply for itself, but for the mission of Jesus Christ. The aims and purposes of the parish are to keep and proclaim pure and undefiled the Orthodox Christian Faith and traditions in conformity with the doctrines, canons, customs and discipline of the Church. Each parish is part of the Church at large and must join in a common effort to spread the Gospel of salvation by sharing in the work of evangelization and human development. Each of us—clergy and laity—are called to be faithful disciples of Christ, responsible for carrying out the Church’s mission to continue the efforts of the Apostles to evangelize the world. The clergy, by virtue of their ordination, head the parishes, sanctifying the flock through the sacraments, by preaching the kerygma of the Word, by teaching the divine commandments and by imparting the knowledge of the Faith. While recognizing the unique role of the sacramental priesthood, the laity, as members of the royal priesthood, share in the mission of the Church by virtue of their baptism, assisting the clergy by offering their God-given talents.

As Christian Orthodox we firmly believe that our Faith cannot be proclaimed and transmitted without the worship experience, especially the Divine Liturgy where we are all called to come into communion with one another and then enter into communion with God by partaking of His most precious body and blood. We must remember that the vitality of the Christian community depends on the spiritual vigor, commitment and involvement of its families. As we know, the family is the basic unit of society—the “domestic church.” It is important to effectively meet the spiritual needs of the ever-changing family. We must increase our efforts to spiritually nurture the faithful, offering them opportunities to not only learn, but also to live the Faith and traditions of the Church.

In his letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul writes, “there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone” (1 Corinthians 12: 4–6). Christ blesses His people with many and various gifts not only for themselves, but also to share with others. Every Christian is blessed with a charisma, a gift of the Spirit, given to be used in service. Different members of the parish family, each endowed with a gift, render different services, thereby contributing to the vitality of the local parish and, by extension, the vitality of the Church at large.

With Archpastoral love,

† METHODIOS
Metropolitan of Boston