April thru Mid-May / Issued April 3, 2019
Volume 77- Issue #4

Orthodox Easter
EASTER—The New Covenant

It is well known that covenants between individuals or companies or nations serve to benefit both parties. These covenants also require conditions from all involved. In the Holy Bible we can find many such covenants.

The covenants that occurred between God and man were all made to benefit man. For example, God’s covenant with man after the Great Flood (Gen. 9), God’s covenant with Abraham (Ps. 105:9), and with David (Ps. 132:12). Sometimes the covenants with God had visible or tangible manifestations so that when people see them they can remember God’s covenant with them and His promises. For example, the rainbow (Gen. 9), the two Tablets of stone on which the Ten Commandments were written (Deut. 9:11). All of the Old Testament covenants were made to declare God’s care and guidance to man.

In the New Testament covenant however, God declares the perfection of His love for mankind. “Jesus...having loved His own, loved them to the end.” (Jn. 13:1) This love was not of a corruptible nature but of Himself, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (Jn. 3:16) “by so much more Jesus has become a surety of a better covenant.” (HEB. 7:22) “And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.” (Heb. 9:15).

The old covenants were temporal and finite, but this (new) covenant is eternal. It is not for a certain group of people, but for all. It is not for a certain place, but for the entire world. He who gave this covenant is the Infinite God; His covenant is beyond limits of time and space.

God gave His Holy, unconditional Covenant so that He may live in us and we in Him, “He who feeds on Me will live because of Me.” (Jn. 6:58) This truth was inconceivable to the Jews and even until now to some Christian denominations. The Jews wondered saying, “How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?” (Jn. 6:32); The Lord replied, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood is eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed.” (Jn. 6:53-55).

This is the covenant that God made with mankind, that He gave Himself, to live through Him. He took our human nature and blessed it and saved it on the Cross and raised it from death, so that we may live through Him forever, if we believe in Him.

He came to us and made with us a Holy Covenant, as we say in the praises of the Holy Pascha, “My strength and my song is the Lord, You became to me a Sacred Salvation.” It is our call to respond to His Covenant, as the Scripture says, “Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts” (Heb. 3:7, 8; Ps. 95:7).

May the Blessings of the Holy Resurrection of Christ be with us all. +

Guest Article—Fr. Marcos Girgis
PARISH REVITALIZATION TEAM NEWS

Orthodox Natural Church Development

Thank you to all who attended the recent March 8th presentation by Fr. Johnathan Ivanoff, director of the ONCD (Orthodox Natural Church Development). It was an exciting and thought-provoking night directing us to our next step as a parish in our strategic long-term planning for our parish growth. With the approval of the Parish Council, we are now moving forward to taking a parish survey comprised of 30 pre-selected most active parishioners (of varying age categories and parish ministry involvements) which will occur on Sunday May 19. Follow up to this will be parish wide focus groups for any and all parishioners desiring to do so, to be held over a several month period.

The mission of ONCD is based on a church growth model called Natural Church Development (NCD) which evaluated both quantity and quality standards in over 1,000 churches worldwide. Natural Church Development has identified eight essential elements in healthy churches and concluded that God’s church will grow naturally if it is functioning in a healthy manner. The job of the parish then is to be aware of these elements and ensure they are functioning well.

Empowering Leadership / Gift-orientated Ministry / Passionate Spirituality/ Functional Structures
Inspiring Services / Holistic Small Groups / Need-orientated Evangelism / Loving Relationships

[for more information, visit, www.oncd.us]

Faithfully Serving our parish and planning for its future,

Paul Pliakas, Team Leader   /   Fr Andrew G. George, Protopresbyter

Parish Revitalization Team Members:
Fr Nicholas Lanzourakis, Maria Leroux, Theofanis Markos,
Marianne & Kevin Phelan, Elaine Otto, Emile Sarkis, Lisa & Russ Wheatley
**Lazaros Saturday to Pascha**

**Sat. April 20**
**Saturday of Lazaros / Church School Communion**
- 8:15 am - Orthros
- 9:20 am - Forgiveness Prayers
- 9:30 am - Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

**Sun. April 21**
**Palm Sunday / Entrance to Jerusalem**
- 8:15 am - Orthros
- 9:20 am - Forgiveness Prayers
- 9:30 am - Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom with distribution of Palms

**Sunday Evening:**
- 7:00 pm - 8:15 pm — **Nymphios Service**

**Mon. April 22**
- 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm — **Nymphios Service/Forgiveness Prayers afterwards**

**Tues. April 23**
- 7:00 pm - 8:45 pm — **Nymphios Service/Forgiveness Prayers afterwards**

**Wed. April 24**
**The Sacrament of Holy Oil (Euchaliion)**
- 4:00 pm - 5:15 pm — Followed by anointing
  (especially for families w/ children)
- 7:00 pm - 8:45 pm — Nymphios Service — Followed by anointing

**Thurs. April 25**
**Commemoration of the Mystical Supper**
- 7:00 am - 8:30am — Vesper / Liturgy of St. Basil
  *Communion to be distributed within the proper context of the liturgy*

**THE PASSION OF OUR LORD / SERVICE OF THE CRUCIFIXION**

**Thursday Evening:**
- 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm Reading of the 12 Gospel Narratives
  *And Procession of the Crucifixion*

**Fri. April 26**
**Holy and Great Friday**
- 10:00 am - 11:45 am — **Service of the Royal Hours (Teens as readers)**
  *Simultaneously the decoration of the Tomb*
- 4:00 pm - 5:15 pm — **Service of the Descent from the Cross**
- 7:30 pm - 10:30 pm — **Service of the Lamentations w/ Procession**

**Sat. April 27**
**Holy & Great Saturday / Discovery of the Empty Tomb**
- 9:00am - 10:45am — Vesper / Liturgy of St. Basil
  *Communion will be distributed within the proper context of the liturgy*

**11:00 pm— Chanting of the Paschal Canon**
Please arrive early giving yourself time to park your car and enter the Church which will take extra time due to the large number of people who normally attend.

**11:45 pm - 2:15 am - Paschal Orthros & Resurrection Liturgy**

**Sun. April 28**
**Holy Pascha (Easter Sunday)**
- Noon—1:00 pm — Agape Vespers
  (Gospel Read in Various languages of the World)

*Children’s Easter Egg Hunt follows at 1:00 PM*
Dr. Mary Despina Lekas Endowment Fund News

Financial Report for the period ending 3/28/2019

Endowment Fund Portfolio $1,011,876.00
Endowment Fund Checking Account $3,547.95

A donation has been made to the Endowment Fund by:
Argiri Ghionis, M/M Constantine Rougas In memory of John Rengigas

A donation has been made to the Endowment Fund by:
M/M Lakis Andriotis, Haralampos Dafoulas, M/M James Degaitas, Anna Demetrakas,
M/M Arthur Kazianis, M/M Arthur Pappas, M/M Polydoros Petrou, M/M Gus Prouyous,
M/M Constantine Rougas, M/M Anastasios Stathakis, M/M Andrew Taxiarchos,
Antonia Vanikiotis, Maria Zaharakos
In memory of Ruth Moragemos

A donation has been made to the Endowment Fund by:
M/M Michael Haralambides In memory of Gregory Poulos

A donation has been made to the Endowment Fund by:
M/M James Pappas, M/M Kevin Phelan, M/M Gus Prouyous, Zambeta Xiarchos
In memory of Demetrios Markos

A donation has been made to the Endowment Fund by:
M/M Michael Haralambides, M/M Polydoros Petrou, Mary Samaras
In memory of Christopher Xynellis

A donation has been made to the Endowment Fund by:
Mary Samaras, In memory of Steven Drager

THE BELLS ARE RINGING

Tell everyone near and far
Our Endowment Fund deserves a “Star”.
May we all sing praise
The day has come.
Our 1st Million Dollar goal is done!

Our legacy to secure the blessing of financial security for
our parish and future generations is beginning to materialize. For that we extend to each and everyone a heart-
felt Thank You. We have been blessed.
Please join us now on our continuing journey to our now
2nd million dollar goal.
With pride & humility
Endowment Fund Committee, Mary Samaras, Secretary
2019 PLEDGE PROGRAM REPORT
We have to date 247 parishioners with a pledge of $140,742.00
The Actual Amount Received $94,838.66

Here are our 2019 Pledges since our last issue:
Karen Aliferakis, M/M Christodoulo Andriotis, Dr. & Mrs. Stephen Carr,
M/M Wilfred Demars, M/M Nicholas Filippou, Argiri Ghionis, Sia Grammas,
M/M Vasilios Harritos, Dr. & Mrs. Apostolos Kallis, M/M Mark Lavoie, M/M Vasilios
Liakos, M/M George Melanis, Tulla Mihas, M/M Theodore Moran, Dr. Charles &
Dr. Ann-Marie Paley, Nicoletta Panos, M/M Stamatis Revis, Joanne Spires-Fay,
Mr. Thompson & Dr. Tryforos, Andriana Vanikiotis, Anthony Vanikiotis, Christos
Vasiliadis, M/M Frank Vasiliadis.

SPECIAL APPRECIATION
Thank you to the Janikies family for their recent donation covering the expenses asso-
ciated to some new equipment and upgrades on our PA system in church; to Leonidas
Raptakis for the donation of a new Greek flag for our front driveway flag pole!

Epitafios Donations
Pauline Alexion, Josephine Aliferakis, M/M Dionysius Argeris, M/M Dimitrios Arsenis,
M/M Lawrence Bousquet, Jr., Theodora Bovis-Koch & Thomas Koch (in memory of
Mary & Hercules Bovis), M/M Michael Campopiano (in memory of Pres. Maria
George), Dr. & Mrs. Stephen Carr, M/M George Coclin, Dr. & Mrs. Spiros Constan-
tinides, Haralambos Dafoulas, M/M James Degaitas, Helen DiMaio, Nicholas Filip-
pou, M/M Antonis Gavrielides (in memory of father), Argiri Ghionis, M/M Nicholas
Gorgievski, M/M Constantine Grammas, Sia Grammas, M/M Carl Hague, M/M Anestis
Halkidis, M/M Nicholas Hantzakos, M/M Michael Haralambides, Margaret Janikies,
Julie Karahalios, M/M Arthur Kazianis, James Kripotos, M/M William Lehourites,
Dr. & Mrs. James Manis, Peter Manis, Marianthi Mastroian, M/M Vasilios Melanis,
Gina Michaels, M/M Andrew Mihailides, M/M Emmanuel Mihailides, M/M George
Mihailides, Jean Mihelakos, M/M Andrew Mitrelis, M/M Theodore Moran, M/M Harry
Nicoloopoulos, M/M Richard Otto, M/M Christo Pakuris, Mr. Charles & Dr. Ann-Marie
Paley, M/M Michael Papiotis, Mary Pereira, M/M Polydoros Petrou, M/M Kevin
Phelan, M/M Anthony Piscopo, John B. Quinn, Mary Quinn, M/M Nikiforos Revis,
M/M Stamatis Revis, James Robinson, Francine Robinson (in memory of Nicholas,
Helen F., George P. & Evelyn Katsapis) Mary Samaras, M/M Robert Senerchia, Ethel
Strekouras, Virginia Strekouras, M/M Edward Tarbox, M/M Aristotelis Tsonis, Antonia
Vanikiotis (in memory of George Vanikiotis), M/M John Vanikiotis, M/M Frank Vasili-
adis, Carole Xanthakis, M/M Thomas Xiarhos, M/Socrates Zafiriades Jr., Maria
Zaharakos, M/M Nondas Zarokostas, M/M Frank Zavota.
Thank you to Our Lenten & Holy Week Liturgical Donors

Thank you to James Cimino for the Lenten Icon in memory of Sue Cimino

Thank you to M/M Joseph DiCarlo III for the Lenten Icon in memory of Artemis Diana DiCarlo

Thank you to Fr. Andrew George for the Lenten Icon in memory of Presv. Maria and her parents Anthony & Helen Voulgarakis

Thank you to M/M Michael Haralambides for the Lenten Icon in memory of The Haralambides, Katsetos, & Koulax Family

Thank you to M/M Nicholas Sarkis for the Lenten Icon for family health

Holy Week

Thank you to Haralambos Dafoulas for the Holy Week donation in memory of Konstantinos & Stamatia Dafoulas

Thank you to Fred & Estelle Demars for the Holy Week Donation in Memory of Ernest & Catherine Panagiotopoulos

Thank you to Anna Demetrakas for the Holy Week donation in memory of Husband Gregory Demetrakas in memory of Artemis Diana DiCarlo

Thank you to Georgia Fortunato for the Holy Week donation in memory of Samuel & Catherine Boretos

Thank you to Sylvia Ghionis in memory of Peter Ghionis for the Holy Week donation

Thank you to Dr. & Mrs. James Manis for the Holy Week donation in memory of George & Helen Manis, Elias & Elpis Bassakyros & Trigona & Demosthenos Liakos

In memory of Stella & Bill Pappas for the Holy Friday Afternoon from their great grand-children. Thank you

Thank you to Thomai Petropoulos for the Holy Week donation in memory of husband Arthur Petropoulos

Thank you to Vikki Poulos for the Holy Week donation in memory of parents William & Bessie Poulos, M/M George Stamatakis & M/M James Poulos

Thank you to M/M Nicholas Sarkis for the Lenten Icon for family health

Thank you to M/M James Silva for the Holy Week donation in memory of M/M Manuel Silva & M/M Andrew Tsomi

Thank you to Drs. John & Eleni Zervos for the Holy Week donation in memory of M/M Charles A. Pappas & M/M Charles Zervos

Thank you to Dr. Eleni Zervos-Pappas

We would like to thank Dr. Eleni Zervos-Pappas for having her Birthday gifts she received credited to our Choir Fund. In appreciation we thank, M/M Thomas Cragin,

M/M Athan Constantine, M/M Basil Constantine, M/M Richard Pelosi,

Linda Limperis, M/M Arthur Pappas, M/M Matthew Zaremba.

The Choir thanks you for your generosity.

OUR PARISHIONERS

Congratulations to Nicholas and Kelly Carr, the new owners of “Granny SQIBB’S Organic Ice Tea” manufactured and distributed here in RI and sold at various markets...another RI original. Congratulations also to 22 year old Nicole Michalopoulos daughter of Sophia (Mitrelis) Michalopoulos who has ventured out on her own endeavor offering floral arrangements. See her ad at page 16 as the Greek Gardener!
SPRING FOOD FAIR BAKING DATES
Tuesday, April 16th @ 5:00pm
Come join the fun, learn the process, a lifetime memory
Bring a relative or a friend

LAST CALL FOR ODYSSEY DANCE TROUPE SIGN UPS
If you missed singing up….joining is simple. <odysseydancetroupe@gmail.com>
1st practice for the Sr Division—Thurs April 11—6:30PM
1st practice for the elementary/junior division—Tues April 30—6PM

Concerning Parish Scholarships
Applications for the “Annunciation Scholarships” (which encompasses the Christelis Goya, Stella Pappas, George Pakuris and Andrew/Helen Vican Awards) will be available after April 20. The application process includes the submittal of the academic transcript and the writing of an essay. Deadline date to submit is May 23. // The Savvas Savvides Scholarship is a separate standing application process administered by a different committee as it has been for the past 40 plus years. These applications will also be available after April 20 and also requires an academic transcript. Deadline date to submit is May 23. /// Note that the local Ahepa Scholarship is also a separate application process, handled by the Sophocles 106 Chapter themselves. Contact Lakis Andriotis directly at (401) 451-1046.

MEDICAL STUDENT SEEKING HOST HOUSING FOR A MONTH
Fr Constantine Cambas (one of our previous parish assistants) has contacted us concerning a student in the Physicians Assistant Program at Massachusetts School of Pharmacy and Science in Worcester, who he knows personally, who is looking for a host family for a 5 week clinical rotation from May 6th 2019 to June 12th, 2019. The student’s name is Christina Kosmidis. She is about 25 years old, and a member of the Holy Trinity Church in Fitchburg, MA. She is in her final year in the physician assistant program.
“...She is a good kid, and very quiet, respectful and bright and her family are good people.
We have known the family for many years.”
Christina is currently doing her last years of clinical rotation in East Providence, RI and will be going to Aspire Dermatology in Riverside, RI with Dr. Jason Michaels, MD and Physician Assistant, Fallon Beyer, PA-C. There are 5 locations of the practice, however the primary ones she would be rotating are: Barrington Medical Center, Riverside, Aspire Dermatology -Johnston, Aspire-Warwick, Aspire Dermatology-Tiverton. “If there are any families from the parish who would be willing to host her for this short time, I know she would greatly appreciate it. If there will be a fee or some cost associated that is fine also.” Contact Effie Kosmidis (Christina’s Mom) directly. Effie Kosmidis cell # 978-602-2686. Thank you. + Fr Constantine 978-314-4992

RECENT DEATHS
Ruth Moragemos age 87 of Smithfield, RI passed away on 3/18/19. Her funeral and burial was held on 3/23/19. John Rengigas age 96 of Johnston, RI passed away on 3/19/19. His funeral and burial was held on 3/29/19. Anne (Leatos) Morrell age 98 of North Kingston, RI passed away on 3/21/19. Her funeral and burial was held on 3/26/19.
Τά Καίσαρος καὶ τά τοῦ Θεοῦ

Γνωστή ἡ ἀποκρουστικὴ τακτικὴ τοῦ φαινομένου. Τὴν εφαρμόζουσαν πάντα ὁι δειλοὶ καὶ ὁι ὑποκριτοὶ. Μέθοδος τοὺς ἡ παγιδευότα τῷ ἀπάτη. Τὸ ὑποκατάχειμα. Δὲν πικραίνουσαν κατὰ πρό- ϋσομα. Ἐξεισάγουσαν. Δὲν μιλάνεν καθαρὰ. Κρύβοντα. Δὲν λένε αὐτὸ παρείσπάντα. "Ἀλλα λένε καὶ ἀλλοι στοχεύουν. Παντοὶ δείχνουσιν. Δὲν τόλμουν νὰ ἀντιμετωπίσουσι τὸν ὄλον ἀνοικτά, παλι- καριόν. Τοὺς λείπει ἡ λειτουργία, γατὰ δὲν ἔχουν χαρακτήρα ἐλεημονία, τίμων.


Καὶ νὰ τὸ ὑποκατάχειμα καὶ ὑποκατάχειμα ἐρωτήται: "Διδα- σκαλῖ, οἴδαιμ ὅτι ἂληθείας εἰ καὶ τὴν ἐκκόμιον τοῦ Θεοῦ ἐν ἄληθείας διδασκαί, καὶ ὡς μέλει σα να ὑπερεν- σὸς εὐ ᾿δέλετε εἰς προσωπαν ἄνθρωπον εἰπεῖν ἢμεῖν, τι σοι δοκεῖ; Ἔξετε δοῦνα κήρυν Καί- σαρ ἢ σου;" (Matt. κεῖθες 16: 16-17). "Ὅρα τὴν καλο- κλειστα καὶ τὸν ἔργοντες ἄληθείας παρα- τιμεῖ ὁ ἄγνοι Ισαάκος ὁ Ἡρόδοτος. Κολλωσσία καὶ ἑπανοὶ κρίνοντας τὸν δόλον. Τὸν ἀνοίγον ἄληθή καὶ διδασκαλοῦ τῆς ἂληθείας, χωρὶς νὰ τὸ πιστεύον, ἄρος αὐτοὶ οἱ ἱδιοὶ τὸν κατηγοροῦν τὶ πληνὶ τὸν κόσμο. Χρησιμοποιοῦν τὴν γλῶσσα τῆς ἂληθείας οἱ δόλοις υπῆρετες τὴν σκοπιμότη- τας. Οἱ Φαρασσίοι, ἀναθέτουν χωρὶς ἠθές ἀρχές, κανονοῦν χωρὶς ἀναδότης τὸν ἀποκειμένον τὸν σωματία.

-Εἴσοι ἂληθείας καὶ ἄριστες τῆς ἂληθείας καὶ διακρίσιμον πρὸς σάνα καθηδροῦν τῆς ἂληθείας, χωρὶς νὰ ἐπερετέρωθε ἀπὸ πρόων ὁι ἁμαι καὶ ἀν διεθάνουν. Πές, λοιπον, καθαρά, πς δὲν πε- τεί νὰ πληροφορήσει φρόνι τοὺς Ρωμαϊοὺς κατα- κτητιστα. Αὐτὴ τὴν ἀπάντητα περιμένουν. Καὶ τὴν περιμένουν διὰ γατὶ τὴν στιγμή αὐτὴ τῆς ἔνδοικα- ρεί ἡ πληρωμή τοῦ φόρου. Τοῦ ἐνδοικαρεί ἡ πα- γιδευν τὸν Ἰηροῦ. Μὲ μᾶ τέτοια ἀπάντητα δὲν ἔμισεν τὸν κατηγοροῦν σὰς ἐπαναστατή καὶ θα. Τὸν πα-}
Make Holy Week, A Week Long Experience

Our Orthodox Holy Week is late this year, personally I like it when it is late, for it “feels” more right... warmer usually, nature is springing forth and turning green and flowers are blooming, imagery of Christ Rising and life is renewed. But of course the week starts off in darkness, distress, arrest, a trial, crucifixion. In experience the “hard” part of Holy Week, we then celebrate the festal part better. Make plans for a full week in church!

A GAIN THAT COMES THRU FASTING

During the six weeks of Lent and Holy Week, (and in the other 3 Lenten season of the year) our Orthodox faith directs us to fast from certain foods. The gain is not in weight, but rather in life -- longer life on earth with our family. The over use in our diets today of cheeses, sugar, salt and other harmful foods is way out of proportion. Balance is needed in our eating. The traditional fasting foods actually clean out our bodies of the impurities and benefits us so very much. Improve your health by fasting.

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METROPOLITAN METHODIOS WILL BE WITH US
HOLY TUESDAY EVENING FOR THE NYMPHIOS SERVICE
WHICH INCLUDES THE CHANTING OF THE HYMN WRITTEN BY ST KASSIANIS
TO BE OFFERED BY OUR CHOIR—7PM
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Faith & Fire—Sunday, May 5th following Divine Liturgy

Join us as we hold a Seminar during our Spring Greek Food Fair!
We will fully delve into the Post Pascha Period towards Pentecost as one of the disciples that had been changed by the fire of the Holy Spirit! The Disciples were “on fire” to preach Christ to the Jews and Gentiles in a way that challenged the norms of the time period but used the same language of the time period.
Why do we think the way we do?
How was thought and authority decided throughout the ages and at that time?
What is the significance, power, and context behind our Divine Liturgy?
What was philosophical thought like at the time the Gospels were written?
How did our Gospel writers and Church Fathers attempt to engage the intellectuals, philosophers, and contemporaries of their time?
How did the Cross change the course of history?
What exactly did Christ mean when he said “Take, Eat, this is my body?”

Please join Fr. Nick, and PHD Candidate Maximos Dupont as they explore the depth, power, and hard hitting facts of our faith.

We look forward to a succinct session that invokes thought, curiosity, and renewed interest, in all that is involved in the beauty that is our Orthodox Faith.

Have your meal and then join us in the session in the Vanikiotis Room—bring a friend too!
A Financial Reflection from Fr Andrew
-sharing basic facts for our consideration-

The regular Stewardship Pledge Program of the parish (for our general operation) has experienced some challenges overall in recent years, as concerns the number of units who participate. Many factors can be attributed to this which is not the purpose of my sharing for that would take many pages. But it is important that we know at least in brief the bare bone facts.

The 2018 budget projected stewardship receipts – at $240,000
The 2018 stats are: 428 Units, pledged $218,714 / with $210,190 deposited.
Of course there are spill over 2018 payments that were received in 2019 January and February, totally $5,801.66. Grand total towards 2018 stewardship = $215,991 end of Feb 2019 collections).

It is important to note that – 84 other units of people gave financial support in 2018 in “other means” and not in the stewardship program, totally $19,291.00 to the General Fund. That gives a base of 512 financial supporting units in 2018.

Postscript on 2018 Giving to the Parish
It should be noted as well, that in 2018 we had 171 participating units in the Phase 2 Pledge Program, totally $326-K pledged (over a 2 yr period).The “overwhelming majority” were also in the formal Stewardship Program; only 14 were not (who normally in previous years, were active in the stewardship pledge program.)

Comparing apples to apples (just stewardship giving in the calendar year) from10 years ago…we see the following:
The stats for 2008 are: 555 units $269,424 pledged, with $253,069 deposited.
The stats for 2018 are: 428 units $218,714 pledged, with $210,190 deposited.
Difference of:127 units $ 50,710 pledged, with $42,879 deposited

LOOKING AHEAD:
The new 2019 appeal has been mailed out and we hope that the “missing 127” units will support their parish this year. Yes, we have had numerous deaths over all, but their offspring remain in the parish.

We also have had many marriages and births in the past 10 years which pretty much balance the deaths out. In fact our weddings and baptisms have NOT declined but have held steady. We pray these families will support the parish financially (and equally in person through attendance).

Those who stepped out of the stewardship program, we pray equally, that they understand the importance of financial sharing in the parish operational budget. It is basic that we give back to God (through the local parish) from what God has given us.
Calling all Young Adults and Young Professionals

Our YAL is expanding to a ministry entitled “Providence Young Adults/Young Professionals.” We have begun to gather contacts for this expanded ministry to our Parish.

Do you know any Young Professionals or Young Adults in the Providence Area that would be interested in a ministry that was focused on them? This ministry will focus on fellowship, networking, and topics and events pertinent to the life of Orthodox Young Adults in the Providence Area. Please contact Fr. Nick for more details!

Bryant University Orthodox Christian Fellowship

Orthodox Christian Fellowship has just been formally recognized as a Club by Bryant University! The Students presented their love, affection, and need for the Club to the Student Senate! The Club defended how they will give Orthodox Students belonging, share the joy, and love of Christ, and give students who come to Bryant from all over the world an opportunity to engage their orthodox faith, have fellowship with other Orthodox Christians, experience Christ, and attend regular worship at the Church of the Annunciation! The Students also expressed interest in volunteering, experiencing, and taking part in the ministries of our parish!

Fr. Nick will serve as the Spiritual Advisor to the group. We look forward to our Bryant College Students identifying with our Church of the Annunciation as their Parish away from home!

YAL St. Patrick’s Day Get Together

Our Young Adults/Young professionals worshiped the Divine Liturgy together on Sunday, and then went for Fellowship and their Lenten Menu!

We said the Prayer of St. Patrick in a packed house with many Irish Catholic on-lookers joining in and also had a powerful discussion concerning the innocence, faith, and love of our children.

We contrasted that to the faith of Young Adults today. We also spoke on how the Orthodox Church engages various ethical issues and the Orthodox Mindset as it pertains to our current culture. Just as the Church conquered armies, and oppression it will also conquer relativism and religious indifference.

We also look forward to the expansion of our Providence Area Young Adults/Young Professional Group next year and many years to come of fervent meaningful worship, engaging discussion, and fellowship.

2019 High School Grads!

Do you know where you are going to College Next Year? Please contact Fr. Nick as we will be sending out regular communications to our recent Grads and look to include you! Your involvement in parish life, youth activities, and opportunity to get to know Christ isn’t ending… It’s just beginning!
Annunciation Youth Ministries
From the Desk of Fr. Nick

We commend all of our young people and their efforts during our Greek Independence Day Celebrations. Our Greek School Students were greeted by Mayor Alan Fung and partook in poems and songs as they celebrated the victory that is our Greek Independence and the Feast Day of the Annunciation with the raising of the Greek flag at City Hall! They also represented our Annunciation Community at the Rhode Island Statehouse. Our students also took part in a program at our own Parish and shared in a luncheon with their families. The pride and love of our Children for the Greek Culture and their faith shook our hall with laughter, joy, and pride! On April 7th we look forward to bringing our pride and love to the City of Boston for the Greek Parade!

Sunday of Orthodoxy
Can you imagine a Church without Icons? The Fathers of our Church definitely couldn’t which is why they vehemently defended their place in our Churches! On the Sunday of Orthodoxy, our Children held icons in a procession that celebrated our Orthodox Faith. “This is the Faith that established the Universe!”

GOYA End of the Year Trip
Our GOYA is in the midst of planning their end of the year trip! We are proud of the year we have had as a GOYA and look for continued success!

Good Friday Retreat-April 26th - Through the Cross, Joy!
Our Youth will participate in their annual Good Friday Retreat. Sessions will be held which engage our children and encourage them to reflect on the Passion of our Lord and Savior as well as anticipate His Glorious Third-Day Resurrection! There will be a game, lesson/discussion crafts, as well as song and hymn instruction. Our 7th-12th graders will have a discussion with Fr. Nick as well as have the opportunity to decorate an icon used during the “Service of the Descent from the Cross” This retreat will be for children of all ages! Please RSVP to Maria Leroux at Maria_leroux@hotmail.com

St. Symeons Play Group!-Wednesday, May 8th at 11:00AM
It is our pleasure to reintroduce this ministry to our Parish. This ministry is for all mothers with children who are from 0-4 Years Old! Please share with all who may be interested! More info coming soon! This ministry gives our children the opportunity to take part in activities that revolve around faith, fellowship, and service. Please let us know if you have any questions and to RSVP for our first event please contact Presvytera Eleni at eklanz17@aol.com. Our first trip will be a trip to the Roger Williams Park Zoo on Wednesday, May 8th at 11:00AM.

Metropolis of Boston GOYA Summer Camp
Registration for our Metropolis of Boston Camp is in full gear! There are many families already signed up. Fr. Andrew and I are so excited to spend time with our youth during this very immersive experience.

Dates are as follows
Session 1: July 8 - July 14
Session 2: July 15 - July 21-Cranston Week
Session 3: July 22 - July 28-Cranston Week
- Simultaneously the Olympiacos Soccer Week
Session 4: July 29 - August 4

For more information on our Metropolis of Boston Camp.
Please Visit https://www.metropolisofbostoncamp.org
Philoptochos Good Samaritan Chapter News

April Philoptochos News!

For many of us Easter is about family and friends celebrating the Risen Lord. We celebrate with our religious services, feasting on our delicious foods and just being together on a very special day no matter what the plans may include! The Philoptochos board wishes you a blessed Easter season!

Our next meeting will be on April 15th and then again on May 20th. We invite all Orthodox women and even men to join us and learn about our outreach and see why we are the right arm of the Orthodox Church.

Our April National Ministry Obligations are IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities) and the Sisterhood of Saint Basil Academy. We also donated $2,000 to Saint Basil Academy as part of our Vasilopita celebration.

Our Annunciation Vespers Reception was an outstanding success with a special and heartfelt thank you to Antigone and Soterios Tsimikas for their sponsorship of the ever so delicious foods and their very generous donation in honor of their grandson, Evangelos.

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:**

The Metropolis of Boston invites us to attend ‘An Evening with Chef Maria Loi, Greek Food Ambassador, Restaurateur, author, healthy lifestyle expert and Dr. Stefanos Kales, Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School where they will discuss the health benefits of the Mediterranean diet and lifestyle as featured in Chef Loi’s book ‘The Greek Diet’. It is Thursday; May 2, 2019 with reception / wine tasting at 6:00pm with the presentation and book signing at 7:30pm at Saint Demetrios Church in Weston, MA. If you are interested in attending the cost is $65 per person and we will be carpooling. Please let Marianne Phelan know at 401-743-7596 or Marianne.phelan@gmail.com.

Upcoming events include our end of the year event of which we are looking at a few venues. More information to follow. Also, we will be hosting the Senior Citizens Luncheon on June 6, 2019 at the center with the theme being ‘Red, White & Blue and All-American Grill! This event is open to all our seniors and is sponsored by the Philoptochos and no charge to you, our seniors!

Our bazaar committee is exploring new ideas for booths and volunteers to help us in our only major fundraiser of the year! Our POD is filling up with treasures and we will gladly take yours anytime. Remember us when you are spring cleaning or moving.
SUNDAY APRIL 14

“Hellenic College - Holy Cross Seminary Day in our Parish”

+ Rev Fr Christopher Metropoulos, president

will serve Liturgy and preach.

+ and various students to be with us!

-Special Lenten Coffee Hour following-

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- Bank Consulting
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Saturday, May 4th & Sunday, May 5th

Saturday 11am - 7pm • Sunday 11am - 5pm
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www.annunciationri.org
**Mid – April - Mid-May 2018**

*Divine Services (year round) Orthros (morning prayer) 8:15 am / Liturgy 9:30 am*

Sun April 7 – 4th Sun of Lent / St John Climacus / Sts Kalliopios & Akyлина

**MEMORIALS:** Christ Poulos- 1yr (and additional Poulos family members)
- Despina Maintanis– 5 yrs
- Greek Parade in Boston – 1PM
- RI Orthodox Joint Vespers– 5PM (St Michael’s Parish– Woonsocket)

Mon April 8 – **Compline Service– 6:15PM** / Church School Teachers– 7:15PM

Wed April 10 – Confessions by advance appointment

**Pre-Sanctified Liturgy– 6:15PM** / Choir Practice– 7:30PM

Thu April 11 – Myrofori Practice Session– 6:15PM / Sr Dance Troupe 1st Practice– 6:30PM

Fri April 12 – **Akathist Hymn Service: 6:15PM (last Friday)**

Sun April 14 – 5th Sun of Lent/ Mary of Egypt / Apostles Trophimos & Aristarchos (70)

- **MEMORIAL:** Gregory Poulos– 40days
- RI Orthodox Sponsored Service– 5PM (St Mary/Mena Coptic Parish-Cranston)

Mon April 15 – **Compline Service– 6:15PM** / Philoptochos Board– 6:30PM

- Philoptochos General Membership– 7PM

Tues April 16 – **Baking for the Spring Food Fair— 5pm (koulourakia)**

- Parish Council Meeting— 7:30pm

Wed April 17 – Confessions by advance appointment

**Pre-Sanctified Liturgy– 6:15PM** / Choir Practice– 7:30PM

Thu April 18 – Sr Dance Troupe– 6:30PM / Revitalization Initiative– 7:30PM

Sat April 20 – **SATURDAY OF LAZAROS– Services at the usual morning hours**

- Brunch following sponsored by Yal, with Palm Cross Weaving afterwards

Sun April 21 – **PALM SUNDAY**—Passion Week Begins

(see page 4) Full list of Services thru PASCHA

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Tues April 30 – Start Up Practice for Elementary & Jr Dance Troupe– 6PM

Friday May 3 – **ZOODOCHOS PEGHI / Life-Giving Fountain Observance**

- **Services per usual morning hours**

Sat May 4 – **SPRING GREEK FOOD FAIR 11am– 7pm**

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Sun May 5 – Antipascha— Thomas Sunday / Great Martyr Irene / Woodworker Euthymios

**MEMORIALS:** Ruth Moragemos– 40days / Elizabeth Marses– 1yr

**SPRING GREEK FOOD FAIR 11am– 5pm**

Tue May 7 – Elementary & Jr Dance Troupe Practice– 6PM

Thu May 9 – Sr Dance Troupe Practice– 6:30PM

Sun May 12 – 3rd Sun of Pascha— Myrrh Bearing Women / Epiphanius of Cyprus

- Mothers Day Across America
So Blessed by You, Mom

A mother who always cares,
A mother who’s always there.
A mother who always prays,
A mother who always stays.
When things get rough,
When life gets tough,
When all is just too much to bear,
God’s Word she shares.
God’s light she shines.
So blessed God made this mother mine.

Author Unknown

Happy Mothers Day to all Mothers, Godmothers & Yia Yias