For our Medical Workers and Scientists  +Let us Pray to the Lord
ON THE COVER

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” - Joshua 1:9

In living within the reality of the Corona Virus Pandemic for the last 11 months we reflect not only on the challenges we have had but also on our various blessings. As we now pray during the Great Litany of our Divine Liturgy

“For our brethren, those who lead the fight against the coronavirus, the doctors, the medical workers and the scientists, let us pray to the Lord.”

Our Divine Liturgy has been largely unchanged for hundreds of years, yet because of our deep appreciation for doctors, medical workers, and scientists we offer them up to our Lord in our worship. This reflects not only our appreciation but also recognizes the fact that they have selflessly offered themselves for the betterment of our entire world. They sacrifice themselves for the benefit of all.

God is with us through their work and this is evident in our front-page cover art. The icon shows a doctor working with a sick patient yet goes on to show much more. Guiding the hands of the doctors are our Most Holy Theotokos as well as St. Luke the Surgeon, who was an Orthodox Bishop as well as doctor during the early part of the 20th Century in Russia. The icon shows that our Lord guides the hands of all involved through the intercession of His saints and holy mother.

If you personally know any doctor, medical worker, or scientist, make sure to thank them! We also offer thanksgiving specifically for the quick work of those in our medical field to engineer and produce a vaccine that will eliminate the risk of the virus and its ramifications for those at large. Rightly so, our first responders will be the first to receive, then our senior citizens, and finally it will be available to society at large. We will be able to “turn the corner” as we look forward in 2021 and beyond!

As St. Paul says in the Scripture “What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?” - Romans 8:31.

In Christ,

Fr. Nick
In Loving memory of a Wonderful Husband & Dad

“Christos Mantsos”

You meant the world to us and wish you were still here.

You’ve just walked ahead of us and we have to understand, you must release the ones you love and let go of their hand.

You will never be forgotten, in our hearts you will stay.

Memories of You are our treasure forever as we pray.

From Wife Paraskevi & Daughters Smaro & Alemis
Thank You

We would like to thank George Moragemos for the yearly supply of church incense. Contributions like this are graciously accepted, we thank you for your generosity.

Thank you for Christmas Plant Donations


********************************************************************************

An omission in our Christmas Card occurred

M/M Peter Simone

********************************************************************************

THIS YEARS CHALLENGE—10% INCREASE OVER 2019 GIVING

2020 PLEDGE PROGRAM REPORT

We have to date 433 parishioners with a pledge of $260,458.27

The Actual Amount Received $251,980.77

The following parishioners pledged since our December 2020 issue

M/M Matthew Anthony Jr, Nicholas Bouris, M/M Marcus Cacchillo, M/M Ronald Capraro, M/M Daniel Cardosa, Sherri Cesario, M/M Vassilios Chrysanthopoulos, Jason DiCarlo, Marissa DiStaolo M/M Nicholas DiStaolo Jr, M/M Paul DiStefano, Susan Ernakos, M/M Kenneth Falcone, Nicholas Filippou, M/M Steven Filippou, M/M Antonis Gavrielides, Christine Kitsilis, Demetra Lambros, Dr. Andrew Lekos, Jason Maintanis, M/M John Maintanis Sr, Peter Manis, David Massenzio, M/M Demetrios Melanis, M/M Andrew Mihailides, M/M David Mihailides, John Mihelakos, George Moragemos, Dr. & Mrs. Craig Nichols, Anthony Pappas, Lorena Pesek, Elaine Regopoulos, Joanna Reves, John Reves, M/M Steven Richard, M/M Robert Senerchia, M/M Ernest Sotirakos, M/M Robert Spagnolo, Jeanne Stappas, M/M Sean Todd, M/M Stelios Trikoulis, M/M Christos Tsiakiris, M/M George Tsimikas, M/M Michael Venditelli.

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2021 Pledge Program Report

Please see our parishioners starting off our new 2021

Elaine Allendorf, Dr. & Mrs. Stephen Carr, Aphrodite Christopoulos, M/M George Cicma, Maria Dygon, Michael Giouras, Eugenia Lekos, M/M Constantinos Perdikakis, M/M Dean Perdikakis, Giana Perdikakis, M/M Brian Rawlinson, M/M Damon Ray, M/M Dean Vose.

*****************************************************************************

Congratulations

Cranston City Council back in the fall appointed our parishioner Dean Perdikakis to the Zoning Board for a 5 year term. He serves the Ward 5 area of the city. Congratulations are in order in this new responsibility.
Dr. Mary Despina Lekas Endowment Fund News

Financial Report for the period ending 1/19/2021
Endowment Fund Portfolio $1,341,752.23
Endowment Fund Checking Account $4,197.00

“Happy & Healthy New Year to All”

A donation has been made to the Endowment Fund by:
M/M Thomas Coyne, M/M Stephen Panichas in memory of Stephen Brun

A donation has been made to the Endowment Fund by:
M/M Constantine Rougas, Dean Trigg & Mary Migias, in memory of Matthew Voulgarakis

A donation has been made to the Endowment Fund by:
AHEPA, John J. Barry III, M/M George Bolton, James Cimino, M/M Thomas Coyne, Anna Demetrakas, M/M John Devaney Jr., Dr. Jean Dostou, Alexander Freedman, M/M Lawrence Ginsberg, M/M Michael Haralambides, Harmony Lodge No 9, F & AM, M/M James Harritos, M/M Stephen Higginbotham, Joanne Hirsch, M/M Howard Horsman, Jeffrey Hoyle, Dr. Edward & Mrs. Iannuccilli, M/M John Kennally, Phyllis Laporte, M & M New York System, Dr. James & Mrs. Manis, Joyce Marabello, Frederick Mattis, Jean Michelakos, M/M Joseph Mozzone, The Mulholland Family, M/M John Mulligan, M/M Stephen Panichas, M/M Arthur Pappas, M/M Gus Pappas, M/M Constantinos Perdikakis, M/M Gus Proyous, M/M John Psilopoulos, Robert Read, Rachel Roy & Janet Parker, M/M Steve Rock, M/M Constantine Rougas, Carol Silva, M/M Peter Taraian, M/M Ralph Tomei, M/M Frederic Topor, Alison Townsend, M/M Peter Vasilopoulos, Jean & Wendy Vican, M/M Manuel Vinhateiro, M/M Frederick Vinhateiro, Carole Xanthakis, M/M Frank Zavota, Drs. John & Eleni Zervos. in memory of George Mihailides

A donation has been made to the Endowment Fund by:
M/M Lakis Andriotis, M/M Ilias Antonakos, M/M Peter Botchis, M/M Robert Campbell, M/M Theodore Carellas, Annunciation Church Choir, Demetra Coclin, M/M David Costa, M/M Dean Costakos & Family, Vivian Dafoulas, M/M James Degaitas, Anna Demetrakas, Rosemary Demetriou, Maria & Ken Dygon, The Eleftheriou Family, M/M Charles Eliopoulos, Sylvia Ghionis, Dionisia Grammas, M/M Michael Haralambides, Demetra Lambros, Catherine, Mary-Ellen McCarthy, Margaret & Maryellen Louth, M/M Theofanis Markos, Stavroulla Mavroudis-Koetsch, Tom & Christopher, Costas Mavroudis, Claudia Merandi, Nicoletta Panos, M/M Michael Papigiotis, Nick Peroulakis & Family, M/M Polydoros Petrou, M/M Gus Proyous, M/M Steven Rothemich, M/M Edmund Sullivan, M/M Frank Vasiliadis, Dr. & Mrs. Ernest Violet & Family, M/M Leonard Wood, M/M Frank Zavota, Drs. John & Eleni Zervos. in memory of Presbytera Julia Papadoulas

A donation has been made to Endowment Fund by:
M/M Lakis Andriotis, Dr. & Mrs. Cosmo Haralambidis, M/M Michael Haralambides, M/M Arthur Kazianis, M/M Arthur Pappas, M/M Polydoros Petrou, Gus & Roula Proyous, Mary Samaras, M/M Frank Vasiliadis, Carole Xanthakis, Drs. John & Eleni Zervos, in memory of Zoe Mitrelis
-continued from page 5-

A donation has been made to the Endowment Fund by:
M/M Ilias Antonakos, M/M James Degaitas, Dionisia Grammas, M/M Daniel Wood, NCCSC
Lunch Ladies, Catherine, Margaret & Maryellen Louth, M/M John Menard, Jean Mihelakos,
M/M David Newkirk, Nicoletta Panos, M/M Arthur Pappas, M/M Polydoros Petrou, M/M Gus
Proyous, Mary Samaras, St. Demetrios Ladies Philoptochos Society, Nikki Stournaras,
M/M Edmund Sullivan, Eleni Trikoulis, M/M Frank Vasiliadis, M/M Andrew Vose.

in memory of Steve Daras

A donation has been made to the Endowment Fund by:
M/M James Pappas, M/M Polydoros Petrou, Gus & Roula Proyous,
M/M Constantine Rougas in memory of Dimitra Bereveskos

A donation has been made to the Endowment Fund by:
M/M Thomas Coyne, Gus & Roula Proyous, Demetra Lambros, Angelo Lazarides,
Dr. & Mrs. James Manis, M/M Manuel Vinhateiro (Ernest & Helen Pappas),
M/M Frank Zavota

in memory of Helen Pappas

A donation has been made to the Endowment Fund by:
Demetra Lambros, M/M Michael Papigiotis, Gus & Roula Proyous, Eleni Trikoulis

in memory of Christos Mantsos

A donation has been made to the Endowment Fund by:
M/M Arthur Pappas in memory of Dean Christelis

A donation has been made to the Endowment Fund by:
Gus & Roula Proyous, M/M Frank Zavota in memory of Bessie Mihailides

A donation has been made to the Endowment Fund by:
M/M Thomas Coyne, Angelo Lazarides, M/M Steven Rougas, M/M Manuel Vinhateiro,
in memory of Emmanuel & Bessie Mihailides

A donation has been made to the Endowment Fund by:
M/M Frank Zavota in memory of Lyle Rawlinson

A donation has been made to the Endowment Fund by:
M/M Constantine Rougas in memory of Konstantinos Alexandropoulos

(Father of Vasso Sampalis)

A donation has been made to the Endowment Fund by:
M/M Christo Pakuris, Carole Xanthakis in memory of James Mihelakos

A donation has been made to the Endowment Fund by:
M/M Joseph Howard in memory of all the deceased in 2020

Your Endowment Fund Committee, Mary Samaras Secretary
Αγαπητοί αδελφοί και αδελφές εν Χριστώ, Καθώς ξεκινάμε το νέο έτος, μπορούμε να κάνουμε ένα βήμα πίσω και να είμαστε ευγνώμονες στον Θεό για όλους τους τρόπους που μας έχει ευλογήσει. Αυτό περιλαμβάνει την οικογένειά και τους αγαπημένους μας, την πίστη και την Εκκλησία μας, την υγεία και την ευημερία μας, τη δουλεία και τις ευκαιρίες της ζωής μας, ακόμη και για τις προκλήσεις και τους αγώνες μας. Μέσα από δύσκολες στιγμές μπορούμε να μάθουμε να εμπιστεύομαστε το Θεό και να δούμε πώς περπατά μαζί μας και μας βοηθά να γίνουμε καλύτεροι άνθρωποι.

Μπορούμε να δούμε πώς μπορούμε να γίνουμε καλύτεροι Χριστιανοί την Πρωτοχρονιά. Για πολλούς από εμάς ο τρόπος προετοιμασίας είναι μέσω της λήψης αποφάσεων που μπορούν να βοηθήσουν όχι μόνο στη σωματική μας ευεξία, αλλά κυρίως στους στόχους που σχετίζονται με την πνευματική μας ζωή και τις σχέσεις μας με άλλους. Οι στόχοι για το νέο έτος μπορούν να είναι χρήσιμοι στο ότι οι επιλογές που θα κάνουμε μπορούν να περιλαμβάνουν μια στάση ζωής γεμάτη από Θεία Χαρά. Μπορούμε να αντιμετωπίζουμε κάθε απροσδόκητο γεγονός στο Νέο Έτος επιλέγοντας να πιστεύσουμε ότι ο Θεός είναι μαζί μας, μας παρακολουθεί και μας βλέπει, ανεξάρτητα από το τι ζόγχριανοι, γνωρίζουμε ότι ο Θεός είναι έτοιμος να μας συγχωρέσει για το παρελθόν μας και μας λέει να μην ανησυχούμε για το μέλλον. Ο χρόνος που πρέπει να επικεντρωθούμε είναι στο παρόν. Εάν ζούμε κάθε στιγμή στην παρουσία του Θεού, μπορούμε να απολαύσουμε και να ανακαλύψουμε την ειρήνη και τη χαρά του μέσω των ανθρώπων που συναντάμε και των γεγονότων που βιώνουμε. Πρέπει να προσπαθήσουμε να προετοιμαστούμε για το απροσδόκητο καθώς κάθε μέρα μπορεί να φέρει κάτι νέο για εμάς. Ποτέ δεν ξέρουμε τι θα κάνει ο Θεός για εμάς ή ποιον θα φέρει στη ζωή μας. Ο Θεός έχει θέσει στον καθένα μας μοναδικές ευλογίες, εάν επιτρέψουμε στον εαυτό μας να τις δούμε. Μπορούμε να υπενθυμίσουμε την υπέροχη προσευχή από ένα ορθόδοξο βιβλίο προσευχής που συνέταξε ο Π. Anthony Coniaris που μπορεί να μας βοηθήσει και να μας προετοιμάσει να γίνουμε καλύτεροι Χριστιανοί το 2021:

Κύριε, βοηθήσε με
Σωπηλός να βρω ειρήνη όχι μόνο κενό
Στον πόνο για να βρω νόημα όχι μόνο αγωνία
Στη γνώση να βρω σοφία όχι μόνο πληροφορίες
Στη ρουτίνα να βρω τάξη όχι μόνο πλήξη
Για να βρούμε σκοτό όχι μόνο το αναιμενόμενο
Στην καθημερινή ζωή να βρω εκπλήξεις όχι μόνο συμμόρφωση
Στην προσευχή να βρω όχι μόνο τις δικές μου επιθυμίες
Σε αλλαγή για να βρω υποσχέσεις όχι μόνο απειλές
Σε ευκαιρίες για να βρω δυνατότητες όχι μόνο προβλήματα
Στην αμαρτία για να βρω συγχώρεση όχι μόνο ενοχή
Σε προβλήματα εύρεσης ελπίδας όχι μόνο απελπισίας
Στην απελπισία να βρω κατεύθυνση όχι μόνο δύναμη
Σε προκλήσεις να βρω εμπιστοσύνη σε ένα όχι μόνο προσωπική ανασφάλεια.

Σας ευχόμαστε ευλογημένο, χαρούμενο και υγιές 2021,
Πατέρας Μελέτιος Γιαννιώδη
Thank You for the Thanksgiving Donations

Josephine Aliferakis, Karen Aliferakis, Elaine Allendorf, M/M Christodoulos Andriotis, M/M Ilias Antonakos, M/M Dionysius Argeris, M/M Ilias Arsenis, M/M Dimitrios Arsenis, Nicholas Bouris, M/M Michael Campopiano, M/M Gerald Carignan, Dr. & Mrs. Stephen Carr, Demetra Cocolin, M/M George Cocolin, Dr. & Mrs. Spiros Constantinides, M/M Thomas Coyne, M/M Constantinos Dafoulas, Haralambos Dafoulas, M/M Gaby Dariaa, M/M James Degaitas, Estelle Demars, Anna Demetrakas, M/M Stephan Erinas, Georgia Fortunato, Rev. Andrew George, Constance Georgeadys, Argiri Ghionis, M/M Constantine Grammas, Dionisia Grammas, M/M Michael Haralambides, M/M Demetrios Harritos, James Harritos II, M/M Joseph Howard, Margaret Janikies, John Kanelakos, Julie Karahalios, M/M Arthur Kazianis, M/M Vasiliou Kotsiris, James Kriplotos, M/M Spiro Kyriakakis, Niki Kyrour, Angelo Lazarides, Catherine Louth, Jason Maintanis, Dr. & Mrs. James Manis, Peter Manis, Artemis Mantsos, Mananthi Mastriano, M/M Theodore Moran, Dr. & Mrs. Kenneth Morrissey, M/M Harry Nicolopoulos, Edward Ouellette, Carole Panos, Vasel Papa, M/M Michael Papigiotis, Georgia Pappas, Mary Pereira, M/M Demetrios Petrou, M/M Kevin Phelan, Angela Provost, John Quinn, Mary Quinn, M/M Constantine Rougas, Mary Samaras, M/M George Samatis, Valerie Sampalis, M/M James Silva, M/M Peter Simone, M/M Raymond Sinapi, Jr., Michael Sotirakos, M/M Leon Stamatakos, Ethel Strekouras, M/M Aristotelis Tsonis, Sophia Tzanetos, M/M John Vanikiotis, James Vose, Carole Xanthakis, M/M Frank Zavota, Drs. John & Eleni Pappas-Zervos.

We THANK YOU Graciously during these difficult times...........Total $4,730.00

Thank You For The Christmas Donations

Zaharoula Agakos, John Alexion, Pauline Alexion, Josephine Aliferakis, Elaine Allendorf, M/M Artur Amaral Jr., M/M Christodoulos Andriotis, M/M Ilias Antonakos, M/M Stephen Antoniou, M/M Dionysius Argeris, Nicholas Bouris, M/M Michael Campopiano, Andrew Cocolin, M/M Thomas Coyne, M/M Constantinos Dafoulas, Haralambos Dafoulas, M/M Gaby Dariaa, M/M James Degaitas, Estelle Demars, Rosemary Demetriou, Rev. Andrew George, Constance Georgeadys, Argiri Ghionis, M/M Constantine Grammas, Dionisia Grammas, Nicole Grammas, M/M Nicholas Hantzakos, M/M Michael Haralambides, Alexis Harritos, M/M Demetrios Harritos, James Harritos III, M/M Vasiliou Harritos, M/M John Hatjopoulos, M/M Christopher Hoopis, Margaret Janikies, Dr. & Mrs. Apostolos Kallis, John Kanelakos, Julie Karahalios, M/M Basil Karanikos, M/M Arthur Kazianis, Maria Kontomerkos, James Kriplotos, M/M Spiro Kyriakakis, Niki Kyrour, M/M Charles Lazarakis, Angelo Lazarides, M/M Anthony Lopez, Catherine Louth, M/M James Maintanis, Dr. & Mrs. James Manis, Paraskevi Mantsos in memory of Christos, M/M Theofanis Markos, Mananthi Mastriano, Jean Mihelakos, M/M Harry Nicolopoulos, M/M Richard Otto, Edward Ouellette, M/M Christo Pakuris, Dr. Ann-Marie Paley, M/M Michael Papigiotis, Georgia Pappas, M/M James Pappas, Stoyanka Passaretta, Mary Pereira, M/M Polydoros Petrou, M/M Kevin Phelan, Angela Provost, M/M Gus Proyous, John Quinn, Mary Quinn, Sen. & Mrs. Leonidas Raptakis, M/M James Rengigas, M/M Nickiforos Revis, Mr. & Dr. Youssef Rizk, M/M Constantine Rougas, M/M Robert Senerchia, M/M Raymond Sinapi Jr., Michael Sotirakos, M/M Leon Stamatakos, Ethel Strekouras, Virginia Strekouras, M/M Hrisostomos Tsioplakis, M/M Aristotelis Tsonis, M/M Frank Vasiliadis, M/M Dean Vose, Carole Xanthakis, M/M Charles Xynellis M/M Frank Zavota, Drs. John & Eleni Pappas-Zervos.

We THANK YOU for Remembering Your Church............Total $5,967.00
**Youth News**

We all look to turn a corner in 2021 and our youth are no exception! Needless to say, they have been active in Church School, Greek School, and various ministries. Our Church School and Greek School Classes have been continuing to meet, respectively. Speaking of our Church School classes, in lieu of the Christmas Pageant, they put together a Christmas message that went out via e-mail and social media. Our children offered Christmas greetings as well as songs and readings. In addition our GOYA had their Zoom Gingerbread House Making Event and our HOPE/JOY had their Christmas Retreat as well over Zoom. Finally, we sent an “Encouragement Gift” to our families which consisted of an icon, of the **Three Holy Youths in the Fire**, a booklet on Building an Orthodox Christian Home, as well as a personal message from Fr. Andrew and Fr. Nick.

**HOPE/JOY (Pre-K-5th Grade)**

Parent Check-In-Friday, January 29th at 8:00PM.
Valentine Zoom Time-Sunday, February 14th 2:00PM

**GOYA (6th-12th Grade)**

Installation of Officers-Sunday, February 7th following Divine Liturgy
Hang-Out Event- Friday, February 12th at 7:00PM
**MBC South Winter Camp** on Saturday, February 27th. This event will be hosted by our Annunciation Parish and will have all the MBC flavor we have known and come to expect! Event will be socially distanced and take place both outdoors and indoors in our hall-church. From 1:00pm—6:00pm. To register and for more information, please visit [www.metropolisofbostoncamp.org](http://www.metropolisofbostoncamp.org).

**YAL**

Hang-Out following every Sunday Divine Liturgy in February
MBC South Young Adults/ Orthodoxy on Tap Event at 7:00PM on Saturday, February 27th.

**Orthodox Christian Mentorship Network**

“The Orthodox Career Mentorship Network” has been established in order to help offer advice and guidance to our parish young adults in regards to their discernment of future career paths. The Orthodox Career Mentorship Network will pair young adults with a professional in a specific career field of their interest in order to help them gain insight into that field. This opportunity will involve Zoom Networking Meetings as well as lunch/dinner meetings when things clear up. The age of the mentees will range from those in college, such as OCF members, to those leaving college and seeking to enter the job market. If you are a Professional and considering being a mentor and assisting with this endeavor please contact Fr. Nick by e-mail at fr.nick@annunciationri.org
What Can We Simple People Do?  Jan 17, 2021 / Hebrews 13:17-21
Reflection by Fr. Andrew George

On Friday’s world news in the morning on one of the national stations… I heard something really interesting that could be backed up with facts (yeaks…facts??) facts, that everyone could agree on?!??!

Are you wondering what it was ? ??
That 2020 was the 2nd hottest year in the recording of national temperature records!
To me this was sooo refreshing even though it was about “heat.”

But far longer in time than the recording of temperatures in the USA…..are the words from today’s Epistle Lesson from the Letter to the Hebrews - written by (most believe it to be St Paul) back around 70AD…. Obey those who rule over you and be obedient for they watch out for your souls as those who must give account. (verse 17)

This passage is not concerning meteorologists - but rather our spiritual leaders….our current clergy over all, but especially past acclaimed clergy, often proclaimed as saints of the church.

Our news channels have for months now been badgering us with political in-fighting. Enough bia!

Beloved - let’s be sure we are focusing on spiritual matters that are more important towards salvation and not just a 2 year or 4 year period of time of any particular politician or party. We certainly are called to pray for our civic leaders and their right and prudent actions as we do in each and every service in Orthodoxy, but …… we should NOT OVERSTRESS the daily details.

Look back into world history, Rome. Byzantium, modern day Greece, Israel, Cuba if you will - or any nation, our own USA certainly, when past presidential conflicts (did occur).

It is all temporary. Let’s focus more on the eternal and the everlasting.

Truth be said…this is difficult to do, for our secular environment and our routine educational system in this current era (perhaps a few centuries now actually) tends to focus on what is seen…on the physical world, science and technologies … and … does not give attention much to the unseen….the heavenly, the angelic, the eternal.

What has been often called the classical education model is pretty much non-existent to the public school systems of America, which would always feature religion, teach Greek & Latin as well as the acclaimed heroes of the ancient world, philosophers and scholars of great wisdom!

It is the church pretty much alone trying to do this more wholesome teaching, but the church is so overpowered by earthly other forces that mesmerize and tantalize us to no end, (so-called) educators, school superintendents and even we parents and grandparents.

So this morning in conjunction with this Biblical Epistle, I wish to quote a few acclaimed Christian Orthodox writers that we will become MORE knowledgeable on concerning Christian principles that direct us upward and much less on the things that are on the earth….that overwhelm us on the TV news. In particular, I will quote 3 wonderous saints all observed these current days, who wrote in past centuries. Note how what they said then… are so applicable today. Only if more people could adhere to these writings who hold high level positions in secular society….what a great thing that would be!

~continued on page 11~
I begin with St Anthony the Great who is remembered today… the greatest of the Desert Fathers and monastics of the 4th century…. He wrote: A time is coming when people will go mad, and when they see someone who is not mad, they will attack him saying, you are mad, you are not like us. Truly my children (he writes) my heart is in wonder and my spirit in terror, that even when we were given the full freedom to become saints, we all take our pleasure like drunkards on new wine. I beseech you not to neglect your salvation, that this transitory life may not deprive you of eternal life, nor the skin of this corruptible body, deprive you of the kingdom of light ineffable.

St Maximos the Confessor as he is known, who is honored this coming Thursday, Jan 21, writes, that we have to acknowledge that we have a lack of knowledge on the faith and this disbelief or weakness is expressed in daily behavior that often places us in fear of the future. Maximos says that the person who has come to know the weaknesses in their human nature, will gain the experience of divine power to address the issues of the world that we live in.

Such a person will then be able to help other human beings who are struggling.

St Isaac the Syrian who is remembered next week on Jan 28 writes on the importance of improving on our faith (depending it) and not being stagnant in any age of our life. He writes: Growth in spiritual knowledge creates an awareness of all things and is an act of the total personality, which includes all the elements of personal life.

In this spiritual growth, we will be able to transform our mode of living that is full of diversions, meaningless activities and petty anxieties, …

to a more authentic mode that is not based on the values of a self-centered world.

(Recall…this was written centuries ago… but so ever true today!)

CAN WE AGREE THAT THIS WORLD IN GENERAL AND THE USA – IS SO SELF CENTERED – even - CORRUPTED?

So what can we simple people do???

1. Worship God seriously, regularly and let others know that you do and find benefit from doing so.
2. Listen to the news channels less…and listen more to spiritual programs…there are so many Orthodox podcasts now a days for our benefit and growth in the faith.
3. Discern carefully – back track to the great writers of the past, even if only a few people do so today and share what you learn with others to fortify them as well.
4. Protect yourself and fortify yourself with pure biblical teachings and the truth of our doctrines and salvation to come.

It is “the forever” that matters and not the temporary of today nor the immediate tomorrow that the news media pushes at us. Trust in the infinite love and care of the Lord, not of earthly men.

Use Psalm 119:114 as a guide…

“You are my refuge and my shield; I have put my hope in your word.” (written back in 1000 BC)

And by all means… don’t fantasize or fear what may or may not happen in the future, for the future is always bright with Christ and His second appearing.
Thank you for purchasing and/or donating to the 2021 Vasilopita online bread purchases. We baked approximately 85 breads on Monday, December 27 in our church kitchen. Those who helped that day included our own Lakis Andriotis who did the heavy lifting, Elizabeth Degaitas who fine-tuned her recipe for mass production and Ethel Strekouras, Eleni Zervos and Marianne Phelan who wrapped quarters, beat eggs, watched yeast rise, made the numbers to decorate the breads and bagged the breads! Also, thank you to Kevin Phelan who shopped the last minute items needed! The breads were picked up on schedule and Demetria Carr and myself safely greeted all those who drove by for pick up. It felt so good to see people we have not seen for months on end. Donations are still coming in but we are seeing a profit of over $1,300.

Our January meeting was a general zoom meeting on January 18th. We had a guest speaker - Athena Kalyvas, our Boston Metropolis President - who talked about what our Metropolis chapters are doing during COVID. Father Andrew discussed current church renovations.

Due to the current nationwide situation, we do not yet have much to plan for this spring. We are hoping to close out this term with a gathering, the likes of which we have not seen since who knows when!

National Philoptochos has approved Jen Carr as Corresponding Secretary until the end of this term; I thank Jen very much for filling this role. Due to our successful foray into making Vasilopita breads using an online platform, a few members are interested in baking Easter Tsoureki breads; we will discuss ideas. We anticipate having the bazaar in November 2021 with Georgia Pappas continuing as our chairperson. Donations are always welcome for the booths, including the White Elephant!

Thank you! Marianne Phelan

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Thank You for Your Prayers
Fr. Andrew, Fr. Nick, Philoptochos Ladies, Family & Friends: Catherine Chippis would like to graciously thank all of you for your prayers and get well wishes during her recent health problem. Prayer is powerful, May God Bless Catherine on her way to recovery and May God Bless All of You.
Baptismal Listing for 2020

Francesca Marie daughter of Austin & Rozlynn Perez on February 22.
  Godparent was Vikki Poulos
Alexander Michael son of Peter & Mallory Barth on February 22.
  Godparent was Casey Burgholzer
Christian James son of Grigorios & Gina Sifakis on February 29.
  Godparents were Alexia Sterpis & Haralambos Arsenis
Sebastian William son of Travis & Lea Drappi on May 9.
  Godparents were Joanna & Alex Tuneski
Alexander Jason son of Jason & Razan Kilsey on June 28.
  Godparent was Brandan Ferguson
Aluciano son of Samuel Cardarelli & Alexandra Deshaies on August 29.
  Godparent was Demitria Cardarelli
Antonio George son of Constantine (Dean) & Melissa Perdikakis on September 5.
  Godparents were Demos & Tiffany Spiridakos
Jackson John son of Constantine (Dean) & Melissa Perdikakis on September 5.
  Godparents were George & Christina Valiotis
Anthony son of Jason & Ioanna Savoie on September 20.
  Godparent was Constantinos Dafoulas
Zara Konstantina daughter of Stelios & Deborah Trikoulis on October 24.
  Godparents were Constantine (Dean) & Melissa Perdikakis
Carson James son of Marcus & Dawn Cacchillo on October 25.
  Godparent was Alexander & Phoebe Hosey
Konstantinos Dimitri son of Fr. Nicholas & Eleni Lanzourakis on December 19.
  Godparent was Katerina Hazimihalis

Adult Baptisms for 2020

Phoebe Joy daughter of Kurt & Michele Stenberg on June 20.
  Godparent was Stevra Soucy
Ian Sivo son of David & Coleen Sivo on December 20.
  Godparent was Craig Nichols

Certificate of Baptism
**Marriages 2020**

Michael Imbaro to Veronica Hodges both from West Roxbury, MA on January 11  
Sponsor was Mark Giannangelo  
Athanasios Mitros to Jennifer Harris both from Attleboro, MA on February 8.  
Sponsor was Aleka Kaloudelis  
Alexander Hosey to Phoebe Stenberg both from Cranston, RI on July 11.  
Sponsor was Dawn Cacchillo  
Christos Pissios of Peabody MA, to Alexa Monti of East Greenwich, RI on September 3.  
Sponsor was Speros Venios  
Charles Michael Bradshaw II to Christina Mary Sinapi both from Cranston, RI  
on September 27.  Sponsor was Bianca Fitzhugh  
Stavros Rallis Gabriel from Haverhill, MA to Lori Ann Ball from Pawtucket, RI on Oct 24.  
Sponsor was Alexander Gabriel

*--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------*

**Chrismations (Adult Conversion)**

Carole A. Panos on August 29 from Catholic Church  
Sponsor was Maria Synodi

**~BEST WISHES AND BLESSINGS TO ALL~**

With the Covid restrictions and limitations placed, we were able to service all Sacraments requested. Times of joy and times of sorrow we all have experienced throughout this year. A strain placed in every household.  
Please do not hesitate to schedule a Baptism, Chrismation or Wedding during this time. We take every precaution in making your Sacrament safe for you to come and receive your blessing. State restrictions are always followed.  
Please call to schedule for 2021.

**New ORTHODOXY 101 to Form**

Our bi-annual program on the basics of Orthodoxy will form if there are interested attendees  
These classes serve as a refresh for born and raised Orthodox and for those considering conversion. Dates are (Saturdays) 11:30 – 1PM = Feb 27, Mar 6, 13 & 20.  
Contact the parish office to register. Based on Covid restrictions at the time and the number of people attending…. a determination will be made if these will be held in-person or via zoom.
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RECENT DEATHS

Dimitra Bereveskos age 97 passed away on 11/27/20. (Fr. Nick’s grandmother in Indianapolis, IN.) Steve Daras age 93 of Cranston, RI passed away on 12/6/20. His funeral and burial was held on 12/9/20. Ivo Ivanov age 38 of Charlestown, RI passed away on 12/9. Prayers were on 12/14/20. Presv. Julia Kaliope Papadoulias age 93 of Pascoag, RI passed away on 12/11/20. Her funeral and burial was held on 12/16/20. The father of parishioner Katerina Minasidis passed away in Greece, as also the father of parishioner Vasso Sampalis in Greece as well. Matthew Voulgarakis age 78 of Newton, PA (brother-in-law to Fr. Andrew) passed away on 12/20/20. Bessie (Goluses) Ferrara age 90 of Warwick, RI passed away on 12/23/20. Burial was held on 12/28/20. George Mihailides age 92 of Barrington, RI passed away on 12/28/20. His funeral and burial was held on 1/2/21. Paul W. Zios age 41 of Cranston, RI passed away on 12/29/20. His burial was on 1/6/21. Stephen Brun age 73 of East Prov., RI passed away on 1/13/21. His funeral and burial was held on 1/19/21. Tulla Mihas age 88 (mother of Maria Kallis) of Barrington, RI passed away on 1/20/21. Funeral and burial in Toledo, OH.

~May their memory be eternal~
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OUR TRADITION WILL CONTINUE

Godparent / Godchild Sunday 2021 – February 7
Covid 19 does not prevent relationships and prayer
In fact
They would become more vivid under the current pandemic

Thus we invite all to gather for liturgy together as usual
(no luncheon however this year)
+
For those unable to gather in Liturgy,
Certainly, make the time on the 7th of February
For a facetime telephone call or other means of communication
available to your circumstance.

Keep the relations warm – re-kindled – build on it.
No virus can separate our sacramental bond.
+
As we read in Galatians (etc)
All of you who have been baptized in Christ have put on Christ.— Galatians 3:27
**February—Mid March 2021**

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

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**Fri Jan 29**— Parent’s Check-In Zoom meeting (Pre-K thru 5th graders) – 8PM

**Sat Jan 30**—NO SERVICES (for we will commemorate the 3 Hierarchs on Sunday)

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**Sun Jan 31**—Sun 15 of Luke—(Zacchaeus Sunday) / Kyros & John

**Tues Feb 2**—40 Day Presentation of Christ to the Temple (YPAPANTE) 

*Services per usual morning hours*

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**Sun Feb 7**—Sun 16 of Matthew—Righteous Parthenios / Luke of Greece 

**MON** **Memorials:** Matthew Voulgarakis- 40 days / George Mihailides- 40 days

**Wed Feb 10**—St Haralambos the Hieromartyr – *services per usual morning hours* 

- Church School Teachers – 7:30PM

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**Sun Feb 14**—Canaanite Women—Righteous Auxentios, Maron & Abraham

Hope & Joy (Pre-k thru 5th graders) Valentine Zoom Gathering – 2PM

**MON**

**Mon Feb 15**—YAL Planning Meeting – 7:30PM

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**Wed Feb 17**—St Theodore of Tryo – *Services per usually morning hours*

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**Sun Feb 21**—Triodion Starts (Publican & Pharisee)/ Righteous Timothy/Eustathios of Antioch

**MEMORIAL:** Stephen Brun – 40days

**Fri Feb 26**—St Photine the Samaritan Woman – *services per usual morning hours*

**Sat Feb 27**—Opening Session for Orthodoxy 101 (11:30am -1PM) for those pre-registered

* MBC South* Winter Camp – 1PM – 6PM (on our church grounds)

Orthodoxy on Tap – for Yal - 7PM

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**Sun Feb 28**—Prodigal Son—Confessor Basil / New Martyr Kyranna

**Sat March 6**—1st Saturday of Souls- Services per morning hours w/ Memorials

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**Sun March 7**—Meat Fare / Martyrs Cherson, Basil, Ephraim, Eugenios

**MEMORIAL:** Calliope Sotirakos – 6 months

**Mon March 8**—YAL planning – 7:30PM

**Wed March 10**—Church School Teachers- 7:30PM

**Sat March 13**—2nd Sat of Souls / Nikephoros, Patrirach of Constantinople

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**Sun March 14**—Cheese Fare / Righteous Benedict

**Mon March 15**—GREAT LENT BEGINS / CLEAN MONDAY (KATHARA THEFTERA)

4PM Children’s Compline / 6pm Traditional Compline
During this very difficult year for many of us, our faith, our patience and our ability to endure the tribulation of our generation, a global pandemic, has been challenged. For myself, one of my biggest disappointments has been not able to host the camp and OCMC teams that come every year to brighten the lives of the children at the Orthodox Home of Hope in Albania. This was the first times in 10 years that I haven’t been able to host this activity.

**Fundraising Drive:** This year the children have been literally confined to their facility. They are located on the Resurrection of Christ Theological School campus, so they have at least had access to liturgy, although extremely modified. They have a small playground, but the equipment is 20 years old, broken and rusty. For two years we have been trying to fundraise for new equipment and this Christmas several former team members are committed to participate in raising the funds we need to improve the playground. If you would like to donate to this project donations can be mailed to:

_Anastasia Pamela Barksdale, M. Div._

OCMC 220 Mason Manatee Way, St. Augustine, FL 32086

*Be sure to indicate Home of Hope Playground in the memo line*

**Join A virtual OCMC to the Home of Hope team in March:** Since travel is still restricted, we are planning a **virtual camp for March 5, 6, 7, 8 and 13th**. The team will commit two (2) hours on these days to be online in a zoom setting with the children. We will offer Bible studies, songs and games and conclude with a talent show. If you or someone you know are interested in participating in this event, please contact

Presbytera Renee Ritsi or Andy Lekos at:

missions@ocmc.org. (904-829-5132) for more information.