A BLESSED & HEALTHY NEW YEAR TO ALL
Avoiding The Post-Christmas Blues

1. **Stay focused on His Great Gift.** The holiday season can be expressed by goodness and generosity, but also with commercialism, emotionalism and many distractions. Christ came to save us from our often stress filled, empty, roller coaster life and to fill it with purpose and meaning. By worshiping and thanking Him and loving and serving those around us, we ultimately live more steady, peaceful and fruitful lives.

2. **Go to Church, Regularly.** Church is never a “one and done” experience. If we are to overcome our tendency for self-absorption and a myriad of vices, no matter how small, we must continually go to the “Fountain of Life” for refreshment, renewal and re-charging. God never meant for us to go through life on our own, but desires to fill us with His presence, love and grace on a moment-to-moment basis.

3. **Pray—Regularly.** If we are not intentional with our time, it will flee from us like sand. We must “seize the moment” on a daily basis and set aside prayer time each day. “The Kingdom of Heaven is taken by force” (Matthew 11:12).

4. **Read Scriptures—Daily.** The Bible is called Holy for a reason. In it we find the words of hope and promise of everlasting life. Reading the Scriptures daily and applying them to our lives will give us perspective and help level out the highs and lows of life.

5. **Read the Lives of the Saints.** Reading the life of another can be very powerful and encouraging. The Saints show us imperfect lives continually turning toward God. The death they endured for the sake of Christ admonishes us to be more courageous, steadfast, faithful and bold in our own lives.

6. **Take Care of Your Body.** It is the temple of the Holy Spirit. It is one of your greatest gifts from God. Eat real food and exercise daily.

7. **Go Outside, Daily.** We were never meant to sit at desks and in front of screens. God is most easily found in His glorious creation (Romans 1:19-20). Make it a habit to walk, run, hike even sit outdoors on a regular basis. It is an immediate mood booster!

8. **Touch the Earth, Often.** It is still winter, but start planning that garden you will plant this spring. The closer we are to God’s earth, the closer we are to God.

9. **Guard Your Thoughts.** At any given moment, we are bombarded by a myriad of thoughts. They are not all from God! Once we realize this, we can guard our mind and heart from those thoughts that negatively impact our vital connection to God and those around us. Practice mercy and love to ourselves and our neighbors.

10. **Receive the Sacraments** your whole life-long. God intended us to live sacramentally, that is, in a fashion in which we are always receiving His grace. Baptism, Marriage, Confession, Communion, Holy Unction, Home Blessings… these are all God’s way of saying, “I give you my blessing in all you do, that you may live for me and I may live through you.”

May 2019 be characterized by ardent prayer, seeking first His Kingdom, and being a light for a world in need of God’s love and mercy. Amen! 

- The Eikona Sisters
A BLESSED & HEALTHY NEW YEAR 2019
WITH HEALTH TO ALL
AND ALL THAT LEADS TO SALVATION!

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NOTE THAT BETWEEN JAN 8 ONWARD
Re-installation of carpet on the “raised areas” in the church, will be occurring
Perhaps through Jan 17 or 18 give or take.
SUNDAY SERVICES WILL BE HELD BUT WEEKDAY SERVICES
AND FUNERALS WILL BE RESTRICTED.
If we have a need for a funeral we will schedule use of the Assumption Parish Pawtucket

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COMING UP / SPECIAL EVENTS / SAVE THE DATES

Sun Jan 27- RI BLOOD CENTER BLOOD DRIVE—by Yal w/ Gyro Sale
- see separate page
Sat Feb 2- 40 Day Presentation of Christ—morning services
- Families with infants thru 3yr olds are urged to attend.
Sun Feb 3- Our annual Godparent / Godchild Observance—in Liturgy
- Goya Sponsored Luncheon to follow in Demetrakas Hall
Sat Feb 8- GREEK DANCE—by Yal & Odyssey Dance Troup
- Watch for details
Sun Feb 17– TRIODION BEGINS—10 week period (Pre-lent/ Lent / Holy Week
Sat March 2- First Saturday of Souls
Sun March 3– Oratorical Luncheon & Festival
Mon March 11– First Day of Great Lent—Clean Monday
Sun March 24– Parish Name Day Luncheon & Greek School Program
Sun April 14—Special Visitation of HC/HC Staff, Chanter & Students
Sat April 20– Saturday of Lazaros & Weaving of Palm Crosses
Sun April 21—Orthodox Palm Sunday—Entry into Jerusalem
Sun April 28—PASCHA / Wed May 22- Mid-Pentecost
Sat/Sun May 4 & 5—Spring Greek Food Fair
Thu June 6– Ascension / Sat June 15– Souls Sat / Sun June 16—Pentecost
Sun June 23– All Saints Day /Mon June 24– Apostles Lent Begins (5-days)
Fri-Sat-Sun / Sept 6,7,8- Cranston Greek Festival
Thu Nov 28- Thanksgiving Day in the USA
THANK YOU for the Christmas Donations
Josephine Aliferakis, Elaine Allendorf, M/M Stephen Antoniou, M/M Dionysius Argeris,
M/M Dimitrios Arsenis, M/M Savvas Arsoniadis, Nicholas Bouris, M/M Michael Campopiano,
M/M Gerald Carignan, M/M George Coclin, M/M Thomas Coyne, M/M Constantinos Dafoulas,
Rev. Andrew George, Constance Georgeadys, M/M Constantine Grammas, Dionisia Grammas,
M/M James Grammas, M/M Carl Hague, George Hantzakos, M/M Michael Haralambides,
M/M Christopher Hoopis, Margaret Janikies, Dr. & Mrs. Apostolos Kallis, Julie Karahalios,
M/M Arthur Kazianis, Dr. & Mrs. Elias Koutros, James Kripotos, M/M Spiro Kyriakakis, Niki
Kyrou, Angelo Lazarides, M/M William Lehourites, Catherine Louth, Dr. & Mrs. James Manis,
Peter Manis, M/M Theocharis Markos, Marianthi Mastriano, M/M Vasilios Melanis,
M/M Emmanuel Mihailides, M/M Theodore Moran, M/M Harry Nicolopoulos, Andrea O’Hair,
M/M Christo Pakuris, Mr. Charles & Dr. Ann-Marie Paley, Mary Pereira, M/M Kevin Phelan,
John B. Quinn, Mary Quinn, M/M James Rebello III, M/M James Rengigas, Francine Robinson
& Family, M/M Steven Rothemich, M/M Michael Sotirakos, Ethel Streekouros, M/M Jose
Torres, Angelos Trombetta, M/M Hristostomos Tsiopplakis, M/M Aristoteles Tsonis, Sophia
Tzanetos, Antonia Vanikiotis, Dr. & Mrs. Michael Vezeridis, M/M Dean Vose, Carole Xanthakis,
M/M Socrates Zafirirates.

Christmas Season Special Floral & Decoration Donations
We wish to thank Tom Bovis & Theodora Bovis-Koch for the poinsettia and the Christmas
Icon in memory of Mary & Hercules Bovis.
A floral arrangement in memory of Harriet Butler and her son Mark Davis,
from Mr. & Mrs. Wilfred Demars
Argiri Ghionis for the Christmas Icon in memory of Peter Ghionis.
Mr. James Vose Sr. for 2 poinsettias.
M/M Constantinos Dafoulas for 2 candelabras,
celebrating the birth of their newborn Alessia
And a variety of items from Elizabeth Degaitas and
Elizabeth Degaitas & Carol Rothemich for Christmas Decorating in church
our gift of giving makes for a Blessed Christmas

Thank You to our Additional Thanksgiving Donors
M/M Thomas Coyne, Mary Pereira, M/M Michael Sotirakos

Christmas Card Donations
We are still accepting donations from parishioners that called or e-mailed the office
to have their name entered into the annual Christmas Card.
We would like to close the report for the year on the donations.
We would greatly appreciate you sending in your donation by January 31st.
Thank You for participating.
Dr. Mary Despina Lekas Endowment Fund News

Financial Report for the period ending 1/8/2019
Endowment Fund Portfolio $971,325.13
Endowment Fund Checking Account $2,189.00

A donation has been made to the Endowment Fund by:
M/M Polydoros Petrou in memory of Diana DiCarlo

A donation has been made to the Endowment Fund by:
Kenneth & Demetra Bianchi, Paula A. Karabelas, Philoptochos Society,
M/M Steven Rothemich, Mary Samaras, M/M Phillip SanSouci,
Drs. John & Eleni Zervos,
in memory of Elle Strekouras

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

A donation has been made to the Endowment Fund by:
Dr. & Mrs. James Manis, George, Peter & Angeliki, &
Mary Samaras in memory of Elpis Bassakyros

A donation has been made to the Endowment Fund by:
M/M Demetrios Petrou in memory of Sue Cimino

A donation has been made to the Endowment Fund by:
Mary Samaras in memory of James Rosaki

A donation has been made to the Endowment Fund by:
Olga Haveles, M/M Demetrios Petrou in memory of
Michael Haveles

Happy New Year!
As we welcome the New Year 2019, please know that because of your invaluable
support of donations to the Endowment Fund,
we are very close to our first million dollar goal.
If we continue to faithfully donate to the Fund, the day will come when the income
earned on the principal will provide enough money to cover our yearly budget and
assure a strong and secure Parish.

Endowment Fund Committee, Mary Samaras, Secretary
2018 PLEDGE PROGRAM REPORT
We have to date 434 parishioners with a pledge of $232,764.00
The Actual Amount Received $221,790.00

Th following parishioners pledged since our November issue:
M/M Artur Amaral, Jr., M/M Matthew Anthony Jr., M/M Marcus Cacchillo, Sherri Cesario,
M/M Vassilios Chrysanthopoulos, M/M Richard R. Cragin, M/M Steven DiDino, M/M Nicholas
Distaolo, M/M Kenneth Falcone, Mersine Florio, M/M Theodoros Fotopoulos, M/M Antonis
Gavrielides, M/M Vasilios Kotsiris, M/M Peter Leite, Dr. Mary Lekas, Dr. Andrew Lekos,
M/M John Locezos, Theodora Maniatakos, M/M John Menard, M/M Stephen Michailides, M/M
Andrew Mihailides, Peter Mihailides, John Mihelakos, M/M George Moramos, Dr. & Mrs.
Craig Nichols, Lorena Pesek, M/M Petros Petrou, Dr. & Mrs. Demetrios Photopoulos, M/M
Steven Richard, M/M Steven Rothemich, Konstantina Sampalis, M/M Robert Senerchia, M/M
Michael Sotirakos, M/M Alexander Sterpis, Theodora Stone, M/M Christopher Tribelli, M/M
Basilios Tsimikas, M/M Kenneth White.

WITH APPRECIATION
We wish to thank Thomas Coyne, Jared Coyne and Jason Coyne of Traffic Signs &
Safety Inc., for the donation of new medal parking lot signs that are in the process of
being installed on our parking lot.  Also we thank Anthony George for the donation of
a new censer, first used on Christmas Eve.

STATE HOUSE INAUGURATION
On Tuesday, January 1, Fr Andrew was a participant in offering the Benediction Prayer
in the House Chamber of our State Government for the new 2 year term.  Thank you to
parishioners Harry Nicolopoulos and Tina (Mihelakos) Massimino for their role in
making this happen.  It was a major exposure of the Orthodox Church and our parish in
particular, something that had not happened for many years.

NEW ORTHODOXY 101 SESSION TO FORM
Our regular learning opportunity of the basics of Orthodox Christianity, for potential
converts, and likewise for born and raised Orthodox (desiring a refresher) is currently
forming.  Two coinciding sessions will be held...each, being a 4 part program.
+ Thurs:  Jan 31, Feb 7, Feb 28 and Mar 7— running 6:30-8:30PM
+ Sats:    Feb 2, Feb 16,  Mar 2, Mar 9—running from 2-4PM.
REGISTER FOR EITHER THE THURSDAY SERIES
OR
THE SATURDAY SERIES THROUGH FRAN IN THE PARISH OFFICE,
401-942-4188, or by email: office@annunciationri.org

SCHEDULE HOUSE & BUSINESS BLESSINGS
By calling the parish office.
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PHASE 2

Our Capital Improvement Fund Raising efforts continue. Since our last Annunciator newsletter, we have received 8 new pledges to donate money from the following people:

James & Jean Apostolou, Dr. Peter Barth, Aura & James Brubeck, Richard & Sabrina Campanella, George & Maria Coclin & Family, John S. Boretos & Georgia Fortunato, Dr. & Mrs. Robert Janigian and M/M Spiros Kryiakakis

Thank you very much for your new and generous pledge donations.

I am happy to announce that:
Russell and Lisa Wheatley have decided to increase their original pledge. Their new additional donation now places them in the “Sponsor” donor level category.
M/M Christopher Tribelli have also increased their original pledge. Their new additional donation now places them in the “Sponsor” donor level category.

Thank you for increasing your very generous donations.

We have now received 171 pledges totaling $326,712 in pledge donations. Of this amount $316,907.00 have been paid and deposited. There are still 16 donors who have not yet completed paying their full pledge, which total $9,805.00.

If you have not yet submitted a pledge donation, please do.
If you have not yet fulfilled your pledge donation, please do.

Thank you all for your continued support of your church.

Submitted by James Silva

RESTORING YOUR HOME
DEATH OF TWO BISHOPS

As an Orthodox community, we share in the sorrow of the Catholic Diocese of Providence at the death of Bishop Emeritus, Robert Mulvee (at age 88, residing at the St Antione Community in N Smithfield, RI), who served here in RI from 1995-2005 as the Bishop of Providence. Amongst his many roles, was that he served on the International Orthodox / Catholic Dialogue and had great respect for the Orthodox Church. Over the years he attended meetings with His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and visited at the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Istanbul, the Orthodox Retreat Center on the island of Crete and spent time on Mt Athos as well. Here in RI during his years of active service, the Orthodox Clergy of RI meet with him a number of times and also shared in meals. At the death of the late Pope John Paul II, we Orthodox clergy made an official visit to the Diocese Offices to express condolence and met in his private office. I thought I walked into an Orthodox bishop’s office, he had a huge silver icon of the Panayia with an oil lamp lite hanging in front of it. Again I repeat, he had great respect for the Orthodox Church. In fact, it was during his tenure as Bishop of Providence that he directed all Catholic parishes to install an icon of the Virgin Mary within the church proper...as is manifested still to this day. May his memory be eternal.

Orthodoxy this past week also lost one of it’s brightest new bishops – ATHANASIOS Akunda, the Bishop of the Diocese of Kisumu in Western Kenya, at age 48. This is the bishop on a visit to the USA who took sick back in November and has been hospitalized in MA ever since. A graduate of our Holy Cross Seminary, he served as deacon to Metropolitan Methodios for a 3 year period and visited here in Cranston a number of times, both as deacon and when a priest, covered for me at one point when I was away. You will recall his extremely sweet chanting voice! Presvytera Maria and I also had the joy of having him at our home for a dinner at one point. He was guest speaker at our November Boston Metropolis Clergy meeting before taken ill and spoke lovingly of his diocese and its struggles and its growth and his initiatives for its development. May the Lord comfort his direct family and his diocese trusting in the mystery of his untimely passing and in the Resurrection ahead. May his memory be eternal.

RECENT DEATHS

Artemis Diana DiCarlo age 74 of Cranston, RI passed away on 12/26/18. Prayers were offered on December 29. Angela Kasiola age 42 passed away on 1/7/19 in Greece, the niece of parishioner Kate & Robert Senerchia.

DEATHS & BAPTISMS

Back in the fall in one of my “parish news updates” emails, I noted the high number of deaths we had had from mid-summer through mid-fall...at that point 17, rather high! In the “Ecclesiastical Report” in this issue at page 11, you will see that for the full year, we had 21 funerals of parishioners, but an additional 3 also passed whose services were held elsewhere. Looking now at the baptism, we had 25—thank God for the small gain!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baptismal Listing for 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sophia Muriel</strong> daughter of Spyridon Papaioannou &amp; Samantha Vazquez on Feb. 3. Godparent was Nicholas Papaioannou.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sophia Michelle</strong> daughter of Peter &amp; Lesley Tzanetos on Feb. 3. Godparents were Sophia Tzanetos &amp; Leticia Lekos.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cyrus Pierre</strong> son of George &amp; Meagan Sarkis on Feb. 17. Godparent was Craig Nichols.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Charlotte Thespina</strong> daughter of George &amp; Meagan Sarkis on Feb. 17. Godparent was Beth Nichols.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sterling son of David &amp; Nicole Rodin</strong> on April 22. Godparent was David Mihailides.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Zemira Jean</strong> daughter of Nickiforos &amp; Kahla Tarbox on April 29. Godparents were Katerina &amp; Ed Tarbox.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mia Rose</strong> daughter of Matthew Noury &amp; Nicole Papantonis on May 19. Godparent was Angelia Papantonis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nikolino George</strong> son of Anthony &amp; Sara Hebert on June 2. Godparent was Gina Brunelas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Marina Katerina</strong> daughter of Adam &amp; Melina Hill on June 16. Godparent was Devin Evangelinos.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>John William</strong> son of William &amp; Alison Panagako on June 16. Godparent was Dr. Alex Mancini.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Richard Joseph Jr.</strong> son of Richard &amp; Dolly Towne on July 7. Godparent was Joyce Torres.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Penelope Grace</strong> daughter of Eric &amp; Bianca Fitzhugh on July 8. Godparent was Anne Julia Sinapi.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adeline Fay</strong> daughter of Jason &amp; Jennifer Wheatley on July 14. Godparent was Jameson Wheatley.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kalliope Antonia</strong> daughter of Jason &amp; Ioanna Savoie on July 21. Godparents were Kimon &amp; Judy Dafoulas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Niko James</strong> son of Michael &amp; Jennifer Kyriakakis on July 29. Godparent was Eric Henderson.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Madeline Maria</strong> daughter of Marco &amp; Maria Conti on Aug. 19. Godparent was Evangelos Bouras.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Milania Barbara</strong> daughter of Marco &amp; Maria Conti on Aug. 19. Godparent was Evangelos Bouras.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Elan Abu Aita</strong> son of Samer &amp; Eliana Awwad on Sept. 1. Godparent was Saher Abu Aita Awwad.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Garifalia Giulia</strong> daughter of Demetri &amp; Flora Melanis on Sept. 16. Godparents were Nikolaos &amp; Katerina Kesaris.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Niko Orion</strong> son of Ryan &amp; Christina Meggison on Sept 23. Godparent was Effie Thomaidis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lucas Constantinos</strong> son of Marus &amp; Dawn Cacchillo on Oct. 13. Godparent was Matthew Markos.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sophia daughter of Ray &amp; Alexandra English</strong> on Oct. 21. Godparent was Stephanie Paparasenos.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Demetrios Sotiriou</strong> son of Peter &amp; Eleni Xiarchos on Nov. 11. Godparent was Dean Andrikos.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Soterios Alexandros</strong> son of Basilios &amp; Elizabeth Tsimikas on Dec. 30. Godparents were Eleni &amp; Corey Milazzo,</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Marriages 2018:

Richard Lowell, from Harrisville, RI to Evgenia Panteleakis, from Cranston, RI on April 14.  
Sponsor was Constantine Panteleakis.

Juan Montoya to Demetra Lazarides both from North Providence on May 26.  
Sponsor was Yousef Rizk.

Steven Drager from Providence, RI to Christine Coleman from Warwick, RI on June 9.  
Sponsor was Douglas Drager.

Jose Torres to Joyce Mnayarhi both from Cumberland on June 15.  
Sponsor was Dolly Towne.

Konstantinos Erotakritakis of Fairhaven MA to Efrossini Stamatelopoulos of Johnston, RI on July 1.  
Sponsor was John Tsonis.

John Renzi to Danielle Lavoie both from Warwick, RI on July 14.  
Sponsor was Jamie Lavoie.

Richard Wheeler to Lynda Theroux both from Sterling, CT on August 18.  
Sponsor was Renee Beaudoin.

Michael Venditelli from Johnston, RI to Nicole DeMarco from Cranston, RI on August 18.  
Sponsor was Ashley Mareira.

Panormitis Katsourakis to Arista Pialtos both from Worcester, MA on October 7.  
Sponsors were Penny McLaren & Eftihia Katsourakis

Thomas Day to Christina Arsoniadies both from Warwick, RI on October 7.  
Sponsor was Kristen Melanis.

Jeffrey Casione to Eleni Panteleakis both from Johnston, RI on October 21.  
Sponsor was Constantinos Perdikakis

Kiriakos Arsoniadis to Courtney Lafareire both from Chepachet, RI on December 1.  
Sponsor was Demetri Melanis.

Nicholas Pechstein of Reston, VA to Olivia Carr from Barrington, RI, on December 1.  
Sponsor was Alexander Carr.

### Chrismations (Adult Conversion)

Michael Campopiano on April 7 from the Catholic Church.  
Sponsors were John & Alexia Hatjopoulos.
Youth Report
From the desk of Fr. Nick

New Years Eve Party Enjoyed by 100 Plus People
Our New Years Eve Party was a great success. Families with Children were treated to a wonderful evening of food, fellowship, and dancing! Entertainment was provided by DJ Niko and a guest entertainer.

GOYA
Our GOYANS had a successful Carmel Apple Fundraiser and made a total of $1000. They look forward to continue their success in the New Year with Activities, Outreach, and Fellowship. We invite all Youth from 6th-12th grade to participate in our GOYA Ministry. All those interested should see Fr. Nick or call/text at 847-942-8103.

Sunday, January 20th- Ice Skating
GOYA will have an Ice Skating Event at the Alex and Ani Center in Providence. Following this Event, we will be going to eat at Luxe Burger. This event is FREE of charge for all GOYA Age Youth! Please RSVP directly to Fr. Nick if attending by E-mail at fr.nick@annunciationri.org

Sunday, February 3rd- Godparent Luncheon
Our GOYA will host the Godparent Luncheon. Godparent Sunday is the perfect opportunity to nurture the relationship of Godparent and Godchild through worshipping together. Following this opportunity, all may continue to enjoy the company of one another through our Luncheon.

Metropolis of Boston GOYA Winter Camp – Fri Feb 15 Weekend
Our Metropolis camp is an excellent opportunity for our GOYA aged youth to unplug, recharge, and reinvigorate their faith! Whether you are a previous camper or a new comer, all youth can benefit from this outstanding ministry of our Metropolis.
Dates: February 15th-18th (Presidents Day Weekend)
Cost is $250 per child
Please contact Fr. Nick if you have any questions! https://www.metropolisolbostoncamp.org/winter.html

Friday, March 1st- Saturday, March 2nd- GOYA Lock-In Retreat
Our GOYANS will enjoy fellowship, food, games, a movie, and other activities. Seminarians will be here from Hellenic College / Holy Cross to engage our Children to help facilitate an excellent evening.

Basketball
Our Youth Ministries will be attending a University of Rhode Island Basketball game in which all youth will be invited to attend. Information soon to follow.
What have our Young Adults been up to?

On December 20th, nearly twenty young adults attended the Orthodoxy on Tap Event at the Uno’s in Kenmore Square in Boston.

A great time was had by some 100 in attendance.

We enjoyed food, drinks, and fellowship as we engaged a speaker (Fr. Panteliemon Nashi) who discussed the importance of Authentic Relationships. We left the Church at 5:40PM and were back in Cranston by 10:30PM!

Please look for information regarding the next Orthodoxy on Tap.

On Tuesday, January 8th we had our “College Home for Break Get-Together” at the Chellos in Cranston.

Sunday- January 27th- Blood Drive

On Sunday, January 27th our YAL will be hosting a Blood Drive following the Divine Liturgy.

Did you know that one donation of a pint of blood can save up to three lives?

Gyro and Fries will be served free of charge as a courtesy to participants!

They are available for purchase to eat in or take out for non-blood donors as well.

Saturday, February 9th-Greek Dance Event Sponsored by YAL and Dance Troupe

We are thrilled to announce that a Greek Dance has been planned for Saturday, February 9th.

More details will be soon to follow.

Friday, February 22nd-Sunday February 24th

YAL Ski Weekend

YAL will be holding their Ski Weekend Retreat in New Hampshire at the St. Methodios Camp and Retreat Center!

The Cost of the event will be $160 which will include two nights at the facility, plus food.

Please contact Fr. Nick directly if interested, also please pass info along to all YAL aged youth!

Call for Membership

Do you know any College Aged or Young Adults 18-35 that would enjoy Christ-Centered fellowship with other young Orthodox Christians? Please E-Mail Fr. Nick at fr.nick@annunciationri.org or call at 847-942-8103 with this person’s Email and or phone number.
Happy New Year From Philoptochos!

“We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year’s Day.” Edith Lovejoy Pierce.

This new year will provide plenty of opportunities for the involvement and enjoyment of new and existing members of Philoptochos. Below is an outline of events and happenings:

* Vasilopita Luncheon will be held on Sunday, January 13th directly after church. The Vasilopita committee will send final details by email early next week as to the time of Saturday set-up and Sunday program of events. Please support this event by attending and enjoying the luncheon and with a gift card donation of your choice for the raffle. Proceeds of this luncheon will be donated to Saint Basil’s Academy.

* Our January meeting will be held on Monday, January 21st at 7:00pm. The board meeting will start at 6:30pm. This is your opportunity to become involved in the world of Philoptochos and make a difference in our world. We will be reviewing the wealth of information on the Philoptochos website as well as the Metropolis website. We will also like to hear your ideas and suggestions for the upcoming year.

* We are in need of two volunteers to be hostesses for our January meeting. Please just text me at 401-743-7596 if you would like to bring a dessert to the meeting. Thank you in advance!

* Although we will not have a meeting in February, please note we will be planning a flower arrangement workshop and details will be formalized at the January meeting. Also, we are planning on hosting a Mardi Gras party for the children of Amos House and again details will be forthcoming. Our retreat to the Metropolis Camp is scheduled for the weekend of April 5th and we are looking for suggestions as to events and speakers.

* The dates for the March, April and May meetings are respectively March 18th, April 15th and May 20th. We will be looking to formulate committees for the upcoming elections, Audit and Budget committees, Senior Luncheon, Annunciation Vespers, Easter events and End of Year event.

We had a busy and exciting 2018 and the momentum continues. Our bazaar was an outstanding success and I thank you to all those who supported us by volunteering and attending. Also thank you to Carol Rothemich and Georgia Pappas for a delightful Christmas concert and dinner.

Hope to see you at the Vasilopita Luncheon and the January meeting.
With Sisterly Love, Marianne Phelan
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 Nardolillo, Jr.

Robert A. Nardolillo, Jr.
David M. Nardolillo
Angelo M. Nardolillo
Robert A. Nardolillo, Jr.
Ronald L. Nardolillo
Angelo M. Nardolillo, Jr.
Anthony F. Nardolillo

Theresa M. Nardo
Robert F. Nardo
Jeffrey D. Wilcox
John K. Najarian, Jr.
Kenneth F. Avramidis

1528 Peace Avenue
Cranston, RI 02910
(401) 942-1220

1111 Boston Neck Road
Narragansett, RI 02882
(401) 789-6300
Sanctity of Creation—Sun. Feb 10th—
6:00pm
St Michael
60 Harris Avenue
Woonsocket, RI 02895

An evening gathering of significance on an
important topic as concerns God’s visible and visible creation,
including our human nature.
All are invited, Orthodox & non-Orthodox alike
6:00pm Moleban Service
6:30pm Presentation by Fr. Anthony Perkins
Staff member at St. Sophia Seminary of Southbrook, NJ
and pastor of St Mary Cathedral, Allentown, PA.
(formerly here with us Rhode Island).
“WOODLAWN” Funeral Home
600 Pontiac Avenue
Cranston, Rhode Island
421-0289

Four Generations of Dignified Service for over 100 years…
We continue to serve our Thomas Gattone & Son families, formerly of Broadway,
Providence at our Woodlawn Family
Michael P. Tasca, President
Susan M. Tasca, Funeral Director
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Personalized assistance with Advanced Planning
www.WoodlawnGattone.com

Coclin Associates
P. O. Box 8485
Cranston, RI 02921
(401-944-7792
Email: coclinassociates@aol.com

We support the 2019 Pledge Program!

- Internal Auditing
- Bank Consulting
YAL Blood Drive
Following Divine Liturgy on Sunday, January 27th

Our YAL will be hosting their Blood Drive
This will take place in our Demetrakas Hall

Did you know one pint of blood can save up to three lives?
One in seven people entering a hospital need blood.
Shortages of all blood types happen during
the summer and winter holidays.

Gyros and French Fries will also be available for purchase,
and free for donors! Prepared by our YAL!
Mid– January - Mid-February 2019

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

NOTE THAT BETWEEN JAN 8 ONWARD for about 10 days
Re-installation of carpet on the “raised areas” in the church, will be occurring.
SUNDAY SERVICES WILL BE HELD BUT WEEKDAY SERVICES
AND FUNERALS WILL BE RESTRICTED.
If we have a need for a funeral we will schedule use of the Assumption Parish Pawtucket

Sun Jan 13—Sun after Theophany / Martyrs Hermyllos and Stratonikos
MEMORIALS: Helen Salonokios-5 yrs / Christos Theodoridis—13 yrs
VASILOPITA LUNCHEON—Benefit of St Basil Academy
Tues Jan 15—Parish Council meeting—7:30PM
Thu Jan 17—St Anthony the Great—services ONLY IF carpeting is completed.

Sun Jan 20—Sun 12 of Luke / St Euthymios the Great
MEMORIALS: Jennie Mustakos 1yr and husband Jim Mustakos—18 months
Parish Council Installation / Goya Ice Skating Outing (Alex & Ani Rink)
Mon Jan 21—Philoptochos Board-6:15PM / Regular membership—7PM
Thu Jan 24—Eve of St Gregory the Theologian—VESPIERS IN MANSFIELD—6:30PM
Fri Jan 25—ST GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN—Liturgy in Mansfield—9:30am

Sun Jan 27—Sun 15 of Luke / Transposition of Relics of John Chrysostom / Zacchaeus
RI BLOOD CENTER BLOOD DRIVE—sponsored by Yal w/ Gyro Sale
Mon Jan 28—Goya Advisors & Officers—7PM
Tues Jan 29—Ahepa—7PM
Wed Jan 30—Three Hierarchs—services per usual morning hours
Thu Jan 31—Choir Practice—6:30PM
Sat Feb 2—40 Day PRESENTATION OF THE LORD TO THE TEMPLE (Ypapante)
- Services per usual morning hours /

NOTE THAT FAMILIES W/ INFANTS THRU AGE 3 URGED TO ATTEND

Sun Feb 3—Sun 16th of Matthew / Symeon God Receiver & Prophetess Anna
GODCHILD / GODPARENT SUNDAY OBSERVANCE
Thu Feb 7—Sr Citizens Luncheon (all age 65 and up INVITED) - 12 Noon
Sat Feb 9—GREEK DANCE—sponsored by Yal & Odyssey Dance Troupe.

Sun Feb 10—Canaanite Sunday / Hieromartyr Haralambos
MEMORIAL: Voula Degaitas—1 yr
SANCTITY OF CREATION OBSERVANCE—St Michael’s Woonsocket-6PM
-(sponsored by RI ORTHODOX CLERGY FELLOWSHIP—open to all)
Fri Evening Feb 15—MBC WINTER CAMP WEEKEND (NH) thru Mon Feb 18

Sun Feb 17—TRIODION BEGINS—Publican & Pharisee / Great Martyr Theodore of Tyro
- NO FASTING WEEK / School break for many area schools
- Fr Andrew to be out of State—Mon Feb 18—Sat Feb 23
REVITALIZATION INITIATIVE:  "Why I come to Church"

When it comes to our spiritual life, it is important that we realize the importance of going to Church. There are several reasons towards why we should go, but here I’d like to outline some specific reasons for why attending church is important to our spiritual life.

**My first reason** begins with our sacrament of Holy Communion. The importance of this is to continue to do as Jesus did and instructed us to do at the Last Supper. Mathew 6:26-28, tells us that while they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body.” This act that Jesus did began a Sacrament that has been practiced for almost 3,000 years. The importance of this is to step back and think about how Christ was crucified – how he died for our sins to save us from death. Jesus sacrificed his life for us so that we could have eternal life. As Christians, we take Holy Communion - thanking Jesus for the ultimate sacrifice so that we can have eternal life in heaven.

**My second main reason** is interacting with like-minded people like ourselves. Being Christians, we need to realize that we are different from other people. Our Christian values are different from our secular society of today, hence the importance of going to church is to understand that we have a community that backs us. Sometimes we might feel judged or uncomfortable at church, however, this is the place in which that should be alleviated. Being a part and active in this community, is important – where else in our society does everyone in our presence is like-minded with these same values? Church is a place where we can securely talk about those social issues, personal issues, and ultimately become friendly and share in each other’s positive presence.

**My third and final main reason** behind the importance of attending service is the sermon. Often times as the end of service nears, we can find ourselves counting down the minutes hoping to be out soon – however I invite you to change that mindset. The sermon is one of the most important parts of the service! The sermon is the way our priest explains the scripture reading, and how it applies to the world we live in today. Our sermon is our daily (weekly) lesson, and without the sermon, I feel a large part of our service is missing. I urge you to listen attentively and take in the message – you can walk away with several key take-aways from one sermon.

**This all being said**, I hope this brief piece reminds us going forward into 2019 the importance of physically being in Church. If you are healthy and able to come, try to make the effort and be in God’s presence, as well as be with people whom are cut from a similar cloth. May God bless and protect all of you through 2019.

-Anonymous-Young Adult Aged Parishioner