On Our Cover

The next aspect of our Phase 2 Renovations in our Church will be the replacement of our mosaic icon screen, which has been compromised for a good 20 years as it has been buckling. On our cover is a rendering of the new one. We have endeavored to keep it as similar as possible, but also to make some corrections.

Byzantine iconography, although an ancient art form in early Christianity, was in limited practice after the fall of Byzantium and was somewhat "westernized" for several centuries, but was revived in the 20th century and here in America from around the 1960s.

The revivalist were good in the bodily features, but not always accurate in the color schemes. Our new iconostasion will correct this. You will notice a flip flop of the colors worn by Christ and the Virgin Mary.

*Christ's inner garment should be RED - the symbol of Divinity, for He came from heaven. His outer garments should be BLUE - symbol of the earth, for He took on earthly flesh at His Incarnation.

*The Virgin Mary's inner garment should be BLUE, for she is of the earth and the outer garment, RED for she received sanctity by bearing Christ in her womb.

(On our current icon screen she has the correct color scheme in the Annunciation icon, but not in her central icon holding Christ is her arm.)

Our new icon screen will also correct the colors on the two Archangels, Michael and Gabriel, for in the Byzantine tradition, they also have a specific pattern which was mixed matched on our current screen and no real distinction was made between the two of them.

*Still another correction will be to add in over Christ's head within His halo, the lettering – Ο ὉΝ – which means "I am" taken from the event of God speaking from the burning bush to Moses giving him instructions to tell the people as recorded in the Book of Exodus (chapter 3 in particular). Moses asked the voice coming from the bush (that was not consumed although on fire), who He was, the Voice responded - "I am (who I am) - the existing one."

Beloved in the Lord, we await the arrival of the new icon screen in mid-March and rejoice that as we near both the date of March 24 (the actual day in 1968 when our church was officially opened) and the date of March 25, our parish Patronal observance of the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary, that we "announce" as a parish community, our faithfulness and trust in the Lord, always ready to respond to His teachings in both our parish life and our personal life style, trust in His truth and love for others with peace and harmony.

Fr. Andrew +
Great Lent Began on Monday February 19, 2018

Great Lent is a time for reviewing and renewing our spiritual lives. It is a time for more frequent prayer, reading, fasting and alms giving. It is a time for more frequent worship in church at services and in particular the special Lenten services, served only in Lent. These services are so important for our "reviewing" and "renewing" which both comfort and challenge us on the ways of Christ, yet modestly attended.

Visit our parish web page and the special “Great Lent Link” for inspirational articles for our enlightenment.

Remember to schedule in at least one (if not more), of the Wed Pre-Sanctified Liturgies; one (if not more) of the Friday Salutations and one (if not more) of the Sunday Lenten Services at the various area Orthodox parishes. May Great Lent be rewarding to us all.

Pascha

At first, the celebration of the Resurrection was called Pesach, the Hebrew word for Passover, because the Passover feast was being celebrated when Jesus was raised from the dead, and because in his Resurrection, Christ fulfilled the promise of the Passover sacrifice. Pesach was adapted into Greek as Pascha.

Holy Week & Pascha Items

Please call the office if you would like to donate for Holy Week & Pascha items, (Palms, (Greek & American) Palm Fans, Bows, Icon Frames, Wreaths, Floral Basket, Candles etc.) It is a wonderful way for you to have a loved one remembered and have them with us during Holy Week and Pascha Sunday.

Easter Breads / it’s time!!!

Chairladies Mary Quinn and Helen Argeris will be taking orders for Easter Breads after Liturgy starting March 11—March 25.

Orders also may be taken by calling:

Helen Argeris at 508-337-3697. Please consider purchasing a loaf at $10.00 each in support of our commitment to Hellen College/Holy Cross.

Breads will be distributed on Palm Sunday, April 1, 2018.
Daylight Savings Time and Spring is Around the Corner

Sunday, March 11th, is daylight savings time, setting our clocks ahead 1 hour (Sat. night). This gives us more daylight and getting ready for our first day of Spring on March 20th. If you haven’t already been to church you must see the renovations, now that the weather is getting milder. Make a plan with the family or a friend, to come to service during Lent or for Sunday Liturgy. See how your Phase 2 donations have uplifted the spirit of God in our church.

Guest Speaker—Sunday March 18

Dr Maria Khoury, Ed.D, author the “Christina Series” of children’s books will be with us on Sunday March 18. Besides her authorship of materials that preserve and documents precious traditions, values and rich symbolism of the Orthodox faith, she also coordinates the Taybeh Fund in the Holy Land were she resides which assists young Christian newly weds with housing and also covers the school tuition for young children there which our parish has supported over the years.

She will give a special lesson to our younger Grades in Sunday School that morning concerning The Holy Land and after coffee hour she will give a reflection concerning her life in the Holy Lands where Christ walk. Ideal topic for us all as we draw near to Holy Week!

Please plan to stay to hear her.

New Time for Holy Thursday Morning

With Holy Week just ahead— please note that this year, we will serve the Vesperal/Liturgy of Holy Thursday morning at a new time—7am (instead of 6am). This liturgy commemorates the Mystical Supper which was the institution of the Eucharist, the Holy Body & Blood of our Lord.

Memorial Bench

The warmer weather is approaching and now is the time to remember your loved one here at the church by having a Memorial Bench installed on the church property. The deceased’s name(s) are engraved on a metal plaque. There are several property locations for you to choose from. This is a lifetime remembrance for when you would like to feel closer to your loved one lost, come sit on the bench and spend some prayer time with them at church. Please call the office for more details (401) 942-4188
2018 PLEDGE PROGRAM REPORT
We have to date 204 parishioners with a pledge of $105,422.00
The Actual Amount Received as of February 26th, 2018 is $74,502.00
Here are our 2018 Pledges for January & February

Gregory Agakos, Zaharoula Agakos, George Alexion, M/M James Alexion, Josephine Aliferakis, Elaine Allendorf, Christina Arsenis, M/M Dimitrios Arsenis, Nicole Arsenis, Kyriaki Arsoniadis, M/M Savvas Arsoniadis, Karen Bablenis, Dr. & Mrs. Peter Barth, Dr. & Mrs. Peter Baziotes, Dimitri Benekos, M/M Lawrence Bousquet, Jr., Nicholas Bouris, M/M James Brubeck, M/M Michael Campopiano, M/M Ronald Capraro, M/M Alexander Carr, Efthimia, Cavas, M/M George Cicma, Sue Cimino, Dr. & Mrs. Spiros Constantinides, M/M Stephen Cross, Haralambos Dafoulas, M/M Gaby Daiaa, M/M Steve Dasar, M/M Joseph DiCarlo III, Helen DiMaio, Dr. & Mrs. Michael DiMaio, M/M Christos Dimos, Dr’s Jonathan & Thomai Dion, Louis Dostou, Maria, Dygon, M/M Stephan Erinnakes, M/M Louis Feula, M/M Eric Fitzhugh, M/M Spiros Fotopoulos, M/M Theodoros Fotopoulos, Arthur Frank, M/M Gregory Gatos, Alexis George, James George, Debra Georgeon, Michael Giouras, Anna Gountra, Dionisia Grammas, Elizabeth Grammas, M/M Carl Hague, M/M Anestis Halkidis, M/M Elias Haralambides, M/M Michael Haralambides, M/M John Hatjopoulos, M/M Michael Haveles, Ann Heberger, Jonathan Janikies, Melissa Janikies, Margaret Janikies, M/M William Janikies, Dr. & Mrs. Apostolos Kallis, M/M Peter Kanelakos, Julie Karahalios, Despina Kartson, M/M Michael Kirios, M/M Costas Kritikos, M/M Spiro Kyriakakis, Angelo Lazaredis, Jonathan Lehourites, M/M William Lehourites, Eugenia Lekos, Drs. Robert & Kathryn Leonard, Linda Limperis, Jason Maintanis, Sandra Maliangos, Chrsopher Maniatakis, Dr. & Mrs. James Manis, M/M Kyriakos Marantidis, M/M Christopher Mareira, M/M Theofanis Markos, Elizabeth Marses, E Nicholl Marshall, M/M Robert Masiello, M/M John Massenzio, M/Vasilios Melanis, George Michailides, M/M Emmanuel Mihailides, M/M George Mihailides, M/M George Mihailides, Jr., M/M Peter Mihalos, Jean Mihelakos, Sotirios Mioni, M/M Andrew Mitrelis, M/M William Mitchell, Anne Morrell, Dr. & Mrs. Kenneth Morrissey, Melissa Morrissey, Stephen Morrissey, Cynthia Muccino, Theodore Nicolopoulos, M/M George Nonis, M/M Richard Otto, M/M Christo Pakuris, M/M George Paloukas, M/M Theodoros Panagopoulos, M/M George Panas, M/M Stephen Panichas, Constantine Pantaleakis, Eleni Pantaleakis, Evgenia Pantaleakis, George Pantaleakis, Vasel Papa, M/M Constantine Papaioanou, Evangelia Papaioannou, M/M Spyridon Papaioannou, M/M Michael Papgiotis, M/M John Paraskevakos, M/M Arthur Passa, Mary Pereira, Dr. & Mrs. Peter Petropoulos, Thomai Petropoulos, M/M Polydoros Petrou, M/M Kevin Phelan, Lillian Placido, Dorothy Pliakas, M/M George Pliakas, M/M Thomas Pontikes, Christ Poulos, M/M Gus Prouys, M/M Brian Rawlinson, M/M Lyle Rawlinson, M/M James Rebello III, M/M David Rodin, M/M Alan Root, James Rosaki, M/M Constantine Rougas, Dr. & Mrs. Steven Rougas, Nanci Sarganis, M/M George Samatis, M/M Matthew Sampson, M/M Jason Savoie, Constantine Scapinakis, Georgia Scapinakis, Christopher Sheehan, M/M James Silva, M/M Anthony Silveira Jr., M/M Timothy Simonson, M/M Robert Spagnolo, C. Spires, M/M Leon Stamatakos, M/M Panagiotes Stasinopoulos, Elle Strekouras, Ethel Strekouras, Vasilios Strekouras, Virginia Strekouas, M/M John Taxiarhos, M/M Georgios Theodosiou, Lynda Theroux, M/M Richard Towne, Dean Trigg, Dr. & Mrs. William Tsiaras, Sophia Tzanetos, M/M Peter Tzanetos, Andriana Vanikiotis, Anthony Vanikiotis, Antonia Vanikiotis, M/M John Vanikiotis, M/M Theodore Vaphiades, Adam Vinhateiro, M/M Manuel Vinhateiro Jr., M/M Dean Vose, David Wernette & Dr. Golfo Tzilos, Mr. & Dr. Leonard Wood, M/M Christos Xenophontos, M/M Socrates Zafiriades, Maria Zaharakas, Jr., M/M Frank Zavota, Gregory Zervos

Our pledges are off to a great start, so we Thank You. If we could continue this support throughout the year we would be proud to say, “We give back to God a portion of what He has given us, in reality is already His.”
Dr. Mary Despina Lekas Endowment Fund News

A donation has been made to the Endowment Fund by:
M/M Michael Papigiotis in memory of Eleni Psikakos
A donation has been made to the Endowment Fund by:
M/M Nektarios Arsenis & Family, M/M Emmanuel Mihailides, M/M Ernest Pappas & Georgia Pappas, M/M Constantine Rougas in memory of Viola Degaitas

Our Legacy Defined

Kudos to our parishioners!
As noted in the February 2018 Issue #1, page 3, of the Annunciator, our Endowment Fund Portfolio now stands at the awesome figure of $935,579.69 – a stones throw away from achieving our goal of $1 million dollars! Only $64,420.31 is needed to reach this goal! Is it possible to meet this challenge by the end of this year?

Nothing is impossible when the spirit is willing!

Congratulations are in order to all whose donations have contributed to where we are today:

Heartfelt thanks to our precious Dr. Mary Despina Lekas, MD, whose recent donation of $30,000 this past December brought her total donations since 2006 to a magnanimous total of $516,078.06!
Thanks to our ever-giving Good Samaritan Philoptochos Chapter that has entered into their budget a donation as a yearly line-item!
Thanks to our YAL, GOYA and Church School for their donations, along with a beautiful sculpture and a very special thanks to our “little ones” who presented a total of $44.95, to Dr. Mary at a reception held in her honor.
Thanks to our parishioners who have supported the Fund so generously to date.

Our legacy will endure from generation to generation!
Your Endowment Fund Committee, Mary Samaras, Secretary

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Corporate Stewardship

We would like to Thank Mr. & Mrs. George Coclin for their Corporate Stewardship (Coclin Associates)

What is the “corporate stewardship” program? In brief… it is a pledge offering given to our parish in the name of business enterprise, through their business check, which offers tax advantage's to the business.
The Virgin in Song:  
*Mary & The Poetry of Romanos the Melodist*—by Thomas Arentzen

*I’m very excited about a new book—*

I know the author—a professor of theology at the University of Oslo—Norway, who about 2 years ago, as a visiting professor at Brown University, attended a number of our Pre-Sanctified Liturgies at our parish. He wrote this book while here in Rhode Island during his time at Brown.

In his book, Arentzen, explores some of Romanos’ 60 Kontakia Hymns and the characterizations of Mary, which inspired and comforted the mid-sixth-century Christians, especially in Antioch & Byzantium. The Akathist Hymn as we chant during Great Lent is just one sample of the magnitude of Romanos’ writings and the “high place” the Virgin Mary has in the church.

To have a “just released book” on this topic in the 21st century, by a convert to Orthodoxy, is tremendous! I hope you can understand its impact and importance.

We who are born and raised in the Orthodox Church, often overlook the magnitude of our heritage, while the convert picks up on it in amazing ways with great appreciation.

This book is a fascinating journey to discover how Romanos the Melodist, the sixth-century byzantine poet, recasts the figure of the Virgin Mary in his Kontakia. The result is surprising. Through poetic sensibility and sharp examination, Arentzen unveils the absolute uniqueness of Romanos’ poetry, where “the transcendent collapses into the palpable” (p. 16). The theological poetic to create tension, ambiguity, and suspense, as well as to grasp, ever more profoundly but never exhaustively, the mystery of the Virginal Motherhood of Mary, which is indissolubly related to her divine Son.

Nevertheless, Arentzen argues that in representing the Virgin, Romanos differs from the classical theological perspectives of his time, namely “both from ascetic strands and from the Christological strand of earlier Marian texts. He reveals a developed fascination with Mary’s personal qualities, and he takes interest in various aspects and stages of her life, her psychology, and her emotions” (p. 39).

By using paradoxical imagery, Romanos’ Virgin Mary is observed in active interaction with the female ideals and social Constantinopolitan world of the sixth century. Thus, in this assortment of similarity and dissimilarity, the Virgin is depicted in her singularity: Virgin but Mother, who breastfeeds her Son, One of the Trinity who suffered on the cross, and participates and cooperates in the divine salvific plan for all humankind through her voice and her presence. Mary is represented as the opened door, yet sealed by her Son, through which it is possible to access into the mystery of Christ and, ultimately, of the Triune God.

Fr. Andrew
"The reason I attend church regularly is mostly to receive the sacrament of communion. The Holy Eucharist, the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ, is prepared for those who have prepared themselves to receive it. We are invited by God the Father to become participants in His Divine energies. We are called to be in communion with God and one another.

The church is our refugee, our safe space, for those bogged down and afflicted with sin. Our church is our hospital; not a courtroom. It is a place for us to find healing in a fallen world in which we find ourselves, in broken relationships, and in search of repair.

My church attendance is not led by a need for validation of cultural identity, but rather a desire to foster a lasting relationship with God. There are other social institutions that may offer fellowship and a sense of belonging; but what other human agency can offer transformation? What other institution can offer transcendence?

Transformation and transcendence are to be found in the Chalice of the Eternal mystery of Communion. There is one Eucharist that all Orthodox believers consume, no matter where they are on earth.”

We welcome the submittal of other parishioners to write as well “why they come to church.”

Save $50, When You $50 Donate to International Orthodox Christian Charities

Please call (401) 572-3644 for an appointment.

2018 Tax Season Office Hours
Monday through Thursday, 9 AM to 9 PM
Friday & Saturday, 9 AM to 5 PM

Terms - Valid Dates, March 1 to 31, 2018. Save $50 on our tax preparation fees, when you donate $50 by check, to IOCC, during March, 2018. Valid only at Liberty Tax Service, 2775 Pawtucket Avenue, East Providence, RI 02914. Cannot be combined with other offers, or used toward past services. One discount per client, and per return. Other exclusions may apply. Void where prohibited by law. We do not prepare C-Corp, S-Corp, Estate, Trust or Partnership tax returns.
Christmas Card Donations

Thank You all for your kind donations towards our Annual Christmas Card. If you have not yet sent in your donation and we listed your family name on the card, please do so. Your donation helps immensely in producing this card and is greatly appreciated!

Donating / Receiving

You have your home where you live daily and your church, the second home where you come to be forgiven of sins, pray, learn your religion and many more valuable contributions to your life. So with God giving us a place to come to spend quiet time making it possible for us to refresh ourselves we give back, with a gracious Thank You to God+.

When we give to God, we get blessed. And although most of our giving goes to the church, we don't give to a church. We give our offerings to God alone. In fact, the Bible teaches us to give for our own good and for our own blessing, ~from a cheerful heart. ~

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PHASE 2

WE ARE FINALLY BACK IN CHURCH! On Sunday February 4, our liturgy was held inside our Church since once again. The new carpet has been installed and the pews have been refinished and repaired. The church exterior doors have also been refinished. It’s great to be back in church.

Our Capital Improvement Fund Raising efforts continue. Since the printing of our last Announcer we have received 9 new pledges from the following people:

M/M Lakis Andriotis, Stephen & Diane Antoniou, Dr. Maria Constantinou & Michael Santos, M/M James Degaitas, Ann Heberg, M/M Nicholas Lambros, Stavroula Marsis, Dr. & Mrs. Kenneth Morrissey and Dr. Thalia & Leonard Wood.

We now have 129 families who have pledged a total amount of $253,447.00. Of this amount $213,442.00 or 84.2% of pledges have been paid.

Thank you to all who have pledged a donation. If you have not yet made a pledge please do so. Every dollar that is pledged is one less dollar we will need to borrow from the bank.

Submitted by James Silva

RecentDeaths

Amalia Nychis, age 86 of Providence passed on Jan 23, funeral on Jan 24. Pareskevi “Viola” Degaitas, age 91, of Cranston, passed away on 2/9/18, her funeral and burial was held on 2/14/18. Our former parishioner Florence (Alexion) Vezos passed away in Greece. Other recent deaths include: the brother of Paul Petrou, Spyros Petrou, in Cyprus. the brother of Richard Otto, David Otto, from New Britain, Conn. And the mother of Pam Arsoniadis, Chrisoula Papadopoulou, in Greece.
ΦΟΒΑΣΑΙ ΤΟΝ ΣΤΑΥΡΟ;

Γιατί η άνθρωπος ο εκείνος στη ζωή μας; Γιατί η άνταξιος, και η δυνάμεις συνεχά; Γιατί το σταυρός φέρνει την ευαισθησία της καρδιάς μας; Γιατί τόσες άρχαιες γύρω μας; Γιατί η δοξιά για το πάθος και όχι άλλη θέληση μας; Γιατί τόσοι λόγοι για αγάπη και τόσο χάρες παπάς; Γιατί τόσοι διαφωτισμένοι; Ενα σημάδι ες τον βασιλικός «γιατί», σε στις ουσίες μας και αυτή και της σκέψης μες και πληνίως της καρδιά μας.

Καί ο Κύριος μας από το Σταυρό, της άγιες τούτης ήμερας, μάς άνθρωπος και στοιχικά έστειλε στον καθένα μας; Γιατί, παιδί μου, τόσα «γιατί»; Δεν το είχαμε, πώς οι δοκίμασες δεν είναι για να σε καταβάλλουν; Είναι για να σε ίσο νυφή. Το γνωρίζεις. Η ζωή είναι στίβος, είναι άλλη, κόσμοι ευγενικών αγώνων.
Και σε είναι άθλητης και πρέπει να κατακτήσει τη στεφάνια της νίκης. Πώς ομως; Χωρίς άκρης, χωρίς κακοπάθεια; Δεν μπορείς να νικήσεις χωρίς κόπους, ιδρύτες, δοκίμασες.

"Υπερα, λές, πώς είσαι μαθητής μου, στρατιώτης σε πνευματικές μάχες. Πώς ομως; Γιατί ληπτομενες τους λόγους μου «όστις ου βασίζεις τον σταυρόν αυτού και έρχεται σπίτις μου, ού δύναται είναι μου μαθητής»; Δεν μπορείς να είσαι μαθητής μου, αν δεν μάθεις να θαυμάζεις τον σταυρό σου σου παρουσιάζει και την ήμερα. Και τον σταυρό αυτόν δεν θα τον φέρεις μονάχα στους ώμους σου. Πόσες φορές θα χρειασθεις να τον φέρεις μέσα στην καρδιά σου. Πόσες φορές θα αισθάνεσαι, στ τέλος της σταυροφορίας πορείας σου, τα γόνατα σου να λυγίζουν! Άλλα μή φοβάσαι. Τις ώρες αυτές ο σταύρος θα γίνεται στόλος επάνω στην οποία θα μπορείς να άκουμπας, να στηρίζεσαι με εμπιστοσύνη και να μενος άσσαλετος στις καταγίδες.

Προσέξε όμως. Η προστατεύη ή δική μου είναι να φέρες τον σταυρό σου με γενναιότητα, με αυτάπαρνηση." Ένας τέτοιος σταυρός γίνεται πηγή δυνάμεως, αφορμή βαθείας έωστερης χαράς. Το να φέρεις τον σταυρό σου και να ακολουθήσεις οπίσω μου, είναι ασφαλέστερο και εγγυήση της νικηφόρου πορείας σου. Διαφορετικά υπάρχει κίνδυνος να άρνησαι τον ζωηρό σταυρό να κατασκευάσεις μέσα σου τα τρομήθη και να σταυρώσεις την ψυχή σου στο έμπλο της ποιητικής οδύνης, του φόβου, της άγνωσειας.

Ναι, παιδί μου, αυτό να φοβηθείς. Όχι τον σταυρό. Τα καρφιά που σε έδωσε χαλκεύεις στην καθημερινή σου ζωή.

Τα πυρώμενα καρφια του μίσους που βυθίζονται χας μόνο στην καρδιά του αδελφού σου, άλλα ταυτόχρονα και στη δική σου καρδιά.

Τα άκαθαρτα καρφια της ηπιατείας που καταρκάζουν υπολήψεις, διαλύουν οίκογενείς, δημιουργούν βαθίες ήθεικι πληγές και άσημες μυστικώς βρήκες.

Τα χρυσά καρφιά της φιλαργυρίας που προκαλούν άκατάλληλα αιμορραγία στην ψυχή.

Τα καρφια της ένωσης που σε άκηπτοποιούν στο νότο ζωλο του ενώ σου, άνκαρο σε έργα προσφοράς και άγαπης.

Τα καρφια της αρχαιότητας που αντι του μάνα προσφέρουν χολη και πληγώνουν ευαισθητες ψυχές αναπηρόμενους υπάρξουν.

Και ακόμα πολύ να φοβηθείς τα καρφια που κάθεται χαλκεύεις με τη ζωή σου, για να τα βυθίσες, χωρίς να το θέλης, στο δικό μου σώμα. Τα καρφια αυτά είναι το ιδίο οδύνηρα με έκεινα των Ρωμαίων στρατιωτών.

Νά γιατί στα πολλά σου «γιατί»; που έχουν για κέντρο τον έαυτό σου, θα έπρεπε να προσβέσεις και μερικά άλλα που θα σου δημιουργούσαν άλλην έξοδο και διάδοξο. Ερωτήματα που είναι και απαντήσεις. Γιατί θα είναι μια έξοδος από το άρρωστη και στο φωτεινό χώρο της άγαπης, της άπεραντης δικής μου άγαπης, που σου φανέρωσα με τους σταυρικούς μου θυσιά.
Every year in January, our Good Samaritan Philoptochos Chapter normally host the Annual Vasilopeta luncheon. The profits from this luncheon are sent to St. Basil’s Academy located in Garrison, New York. This year our hall was being used for church services and thus was not available to accommodate the luncheon. It was decided to offer a “Foodless Ticketless Luncheon” providing people the opportunity to donate toward St. Basil’s Academy. All donations will be sent to the National Philoptochos.

The following people have donated money for this wonderful cause:

Josie Aliferakis, Karen Aliferakis, Anonymous, M/M Ilia Antonakos, Zaharoula & Gregory Agakos, M/M Dionysius Argeris, M/M Dimitrios Arsenis, M/M Savvas Arsoniadis, Demetra Carr, M/M Spiros Constantinides, M/M Constantine Dafoulas, M/M James Degaitas, M/M James DiMaio, M/M Hercules Fircanis, Father Andrew George, Argiri Ghionis, Michael Giouras, Anna Gountra, Katherine Grammas, M/M Anesti Halkidis, M/M Jimmy Harritos, M/M Michael Haveles, Ann Heberg, Julie Karahalios, Dr. James & Nikki Karon, M/M Arthur Kazianis, Georgia Kounavis, Angelo Lazarides, Elizabeth Marses, Peter Manis, Marianne Mastriano, Vasiliki Melanis, M/M Emmanuel Mihailides, Jean Mihelakos, M/M Andrew Mitrelis, M/M George Moragemos, Dr. Kenneth & Mrs. Morrissey, Elaine Otto, Charles & Anne-Marie Paley, M/M Michael Papigiotis, Presbyter Julia Papadoulias, M/M Arthur Pappas, M/M Ernest Pappas, Georgia Pappas, Dr. & Mrs. Peter Petropoulos, M/M Demetrios Petrou, M/M Polydoros Petrou, John Psikakos, M/M Kevin Phelan, Angela Provost, M/M Kostas Prouyos, John Quinn, Mary Quinn, M/M Brian Rawlinson, Carole Rothemich, M/M Kostas Rougas, M/M Charles Samaras, Angela San Souci, M/M James Silva, M/M Leon Stamases, Ethel Strekouras, M/M Kostas Trikoulis, Margaret Tryforos, Basil’s Pizza / Tsimikas Family, Antonia Vanikiotis, Carole Xanthakis

Total Donations were $3,815.00.

Thank you all.
Submitted by Kate Silva
SAVE THE DATES

MARCH 2018
Saturday March 17th into Sunday March 18th will be our first Lock in of 2018. We will be going on an excursion to an “escape room” in Providence and return back to the center for our discussion sessions, prayer and fellowship. More information to come.

APRIL 2018
Sunday April 22nd will be our trip to the Greek Independence Day Parade in Boston. All youth are invited. We will be taking a bus up to Boston to march together to celebrate our Independence.

MAY 2018
Goya will be hosting its first ever Movie Night on Saturday May 12th. We will be watching the film “God’s Not Dead” a spiritual movie about how one student’s beliefs were tested by his philosophy professor. This is open to the entire parish. More information to come.

JUNE/JULY 2018
We are happy to announce that our 2018 Goya End of Year Trip will be to Washington DC. The trip is open to all 6th through 12th grade youth and family members. We will be having an informational meeting for all interested.

Basketball Up-Date
OUR BASKETBALL Program is in full swing—Practices on Friday nights 7-9:30PM (except March 9) at Hope Highlands Middle School—Cranston. Games are played every Saturday at 8:30am East Providence Haven Church. Let us support our team(s) and cheer them on!
Contact Stephen Sterpis for information at 226-3116 or via email at <ssterpis621@gmail.com>

Don’t Forget “Be the Bee”
Visit the Archdiocese Youth Office web page <y2am.org> for the archived postings of the exciting 5 min youth orientated short videos. Tremendous themes of benefit—practical, inspirational and formative for our Orthodox Youth.
**Good Samaritan Philoptochos Chapter News**

**March 19th 7pm Meeting Guest Speakers:** Our March meeting will be honored to host presentations by 2 members of our parish. Paul Pliakas will speak regarding the Parish Revitalization Initiative and its endeavors and Kevin Phelan will represent the Parish Council to discuss any questions or concerns that we wish to address.

**March 24th Annunciation Vespers & 50th Anniversary of the Church Edifice:** Reception co-chairs Nancy Harritos and Elaine Crabtree, along with their committee, ask for your food donations for the reception and hope that all will attend and participate.

**Friday, April 13th Senior Citizens Luncheon:** Don’t miss a delicious meal prepared by Elizabeth Degaitas and Chairman Bessie Papigiotis, along with Georgia Pappas, Josie Aliferakis, Karen Drager and Maria Kallis. We are planning an event with Amos House and are coordinating our effort with Kelly Carr. More details will follow. We welcome you to all of our events!

**Save the Date! Thursday, April 26th Metropolis Fundraiser!:** The Metropolis of Boston invites you to attend an evening with Author and Emmy Award Winning Journalist/Extra Producer Yvette Manesis Corporon at the Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Weston, Massachusetts. The evening begins with a reception and wine-tasting, followed by the author’s presentation and signing of her book, *Something Beautiful Happened: A Story of Survival and Courage in the Face of Evil*, which is the fascinating story of her grandmother who helped hide a Jewish family on a Greek island during World War II. Our Chapter will be reading the book at an upcoming “Book Discussion” and an order has been placed for purchase. Please let Marianne Phelan know if you are interested in a copy.

**Parish Directory Project:** We have begun our quest to bring our parishioners a new and updated printed directory. A committee has been formed and is working on the format. See separate page on this topic.

**Sisterhood Contributions:** Heartfelt thanks to the following who have contributed: Josie Aliferakis, Efthemia Cavas, Karen Drager, Argiri Ghionis, Maria Kallis, Thea Kazianis, Bessie Mihailides, Thomai Petropoulos, Marianne Phelan, Angela Provost, Helen Quinn, Carol Rothemich, Koula Rougas, Mary Samaras, Nikki Samaras, Fadia Sarkis, Ellie Strekouras, Ethel Strekouras, Maria Zaharakos.

**Welcome to Our Newest Member!:** We’re thrilled to welcome Maria Kallis who comes to us from Hinsdale, Illinois and an active parishioner of the Holy Apostle Greek Orthodox Church in Westchester, Illinois.
Students of our Sunday Church School have been asked to write a brief essay about our parish. Enjoy the following initial submittals

**WHY I COME TO CHURCH**

I love going to church. I get to play and God forgives my sins. I also get communion and the blood of God. When I go to church I go to Sunday School and learn about God. In Sunday School I learned the Nicene Creed, the Our Father prayer, and the true story behind the different holidays including Easter, Christmas, etc. I also like the church ceremony. In church Fr. Andrew recites passages from the bible and recites prayers. We also have special parties for different occasions. On Christmas we put on a Pageant about God’s birth. For all these reasons I love going to church. **Age 11, Grade 5.**

I come to church for many reasons. One reason is that it is very quiet. I can close my eyes and not think about all the school work or projects, just what I am doing right now. I like to think of it as “me time.” I also enjoy listening to the chanting. It is calming and relaxing. Lastly, I like to look at all of the different icons and saints and the disciple icons overhead. When I was younger, I would count the disciples just to make sure there were twelve. I would also see if I could guess the name of the disciple just by looking at the icon. In conclusion, I love church because it is calming, quiet and relaxing. **Age 11, Grade 6.**

There are many things that I love about my church. One of my favorite things about my church is Sunday School. All the teachers are so nice, and teach us so many amazing things about our church and our faith. Another thing I love about our church are our priests. They are always loving and sweet and kind to everyone. They volunteer their time every Sunday morning (and other days, too) to come and teach us about God, and to teach us to pray to Him, and much more. SO DO OUR SUNDAY School teachers. Those are some of the many things that I love about our church, and put together, they create an amazing church, that we should all be so grateful to have and to be able to go to whenever we feel the need to pray to God. **Age 11, Grade 5.**

Here are some of the things that I love about my church. I love the bread they give me at communion because it is so warm and delicious. Another thing that I love about my church is the coffee hour they have after church where they have donuts! Lastly, I love the church yard. I have so many memories playing on that church yard with my friends, Alex and Chris. These are three things I love about my church. **Age 12, Grade 6.**
Encore Showing of “Beneath the Olive Tree”
Friday, March 16 following the Salutation Service.
The 1st showing of this film was well attended and word spread throughout the parish of its impact. Philoptochos is thus pleased to present this encore showing. The film documents a piece of modern Greek history the world knows very little about concerning post WW II events as concerns journals found buried under an olive tree on the island of Trikeri.

***Voluntary Donations Welcomed***
**Lite Refreshments**

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March 2018

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

Sun Mar 4—Sun of 2nd Great Lent / St Gregory Palamas / Righteous Gerasimos / Martyrs Paul & Juliana

MEMORIALS: Charles Gionis-1yr / Eleftheria Perdikakis—1yr Fr Matthew Baker—3yrs
- St John Chrysostom Oratorical Luncheon & Festival following

5PM—Joint Lenten Vespers—St Michael's Ukrainian Parish - Woonsocket

Mon Mar 5— YAL Meeting / Lenten Pot Luck / Compline Service

Tue-Wed— Metropolis Clergy Over Night Retreat—NH

Wed Mar 7— Pre-Sanctified Liturgy—6PM / Choir Practice—7:30PM

Thu Mar 8— Marriage Preparation Seminar (Part 2) - 7PM

Fri Mar 9— Confessions by Appointment / Salutation Service (3rd Stasis) - 6PM

Sun Mar 11— Daylight Savings Time Begins

Sun of 3rd Great Lent / Veneration of the Cross / Queen Theodora of Arta

MEMORIAL: Nikolitsa Tamis—1 yr / Scout Troop Fund Raiser—3PM

5PM—Joint Vespers-St Mary's Antiochian Parish - Pawtucket—5PM

Mon Mar 12— Goya Advisor & Officers—6:30PM

Wed Mar 14— Confessions by Appointment / Pre-Sanctified Liturgy—6PM

Thu Mar 15— Phase 2 Committee—7:30PM

Fri Mar 16— Confessions by Appointment / Salutation Service (4th Stasis) - 6PM

- Encore Showing of “Beneath the Olive Tree” - 7:30PM

Sat Mar 17— GOYA LOCK IN (over Night) - for 6th-12thgraders

Sun Mar 18—Sun of 4th Great Lent / St John Climacus / Cyril of Jerusalem

MEMORIAL: Voula Degaitas—40 days / Guest Speaker – Dr Maria Khoury

5PM-Joint Lenten Vesper– St John's Romanian Parish– Woonsocket– 5PM

Mon Mar 19— Philoptochos Board—6:15PM / General Membership—7PM.

Tue Mar 20— State House Observance—Annunciation / Greek Independence—4PM

Wed Mar 21— Confessions by Appointment / Pre-Sanctified Liturgy—6PM / Choir Practice

Thu Mar 22— Flag Raising -Cranston City Hall—4PM

Fri Mar 23— AKATHIST HYMN SERVICE—6PM

Sat Mar 24— 50th Anniversary of the Door Opening of our Church

Eve of Annulation Feast - Great Vespers—6PM / Reception Following

Sun Mar 25—ANNUNCIATION OF THE VIRGIN MARY

Greek Independence Day

Doxology / Flag Raising / Luncheon & Children’s Program Following Liturgy

Sun Mar 25—5PM—Lenten Service—St Mary/Mena Coptic Orthodox Parish—Cranston—5PM

Tue Mar 27— Ahepa—7PM / Revitalization Initiative—7PM

Wed Mar 28— Confessions by Appointment / Pre-Sanctified Liturgy—6PM / Choir Practice

Sat Mar 31— Saturday of Lazaros Services – Followed by Brunch and Palm Weaving

Sun April 1—Orthodox Palm Sunday / Holy Week
Annual Annunciation Observance Luncheon
And Children’s Program

Join us at the luncheon to commemorate
Our Parish Feast Day and
Greek Independence Day

Sunday March 25, 2018
Luncheon Time: 11:30 AM

RESERVATIONS BEFORE MARCH 18, 2018
Fish Dinner $15.00
Macaroni Dinner $ 8.00

RESERVATION AFTER MARCH 18, 2018
Fish Dinner $20.00
Macaroni Dinner $10.00

For Reservations Call
James & Kate Silva 946-1935

Church of the Annunciation