Train a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it."

(Proverbs 22:6)

I'm sure you will agree that the child on our cover is adorable! We can all pinch her cheek as the Greeks do in such cases. Look at the depth of her eyes as she both holds Christ icon and presents HIM to us.

Our Holy Orthodox Church does so in a renewed manner every September 1st as we observe the NEW ECCELISIASTICAL YEAR - the new church year as we begin again the observances of the life cycle of Christ (and His beloved mother) with the celebrations of the 12 Feasts, along with the Feast of Feasts, spread throughout the new year, September-August.

Of course as well, September brings with it the resumption of school for our children of all ages, both in the Mon-Fri school setting and here at our parish. See page 10 & 11 concerning our parish’s efforts. I'd like to share a few thoughts concerning the secular schools out there in the greater community.

Be steadfast in following the curriculum and speak up when you observe un-Christian topics being introduced. Ever more, seeds are being planted in the minds of our youth contrary to moral integrity. Anything a person wants to be or wants to do is being emphasized...do your own thing. All this contrary to the timeless teaching of Christ. Everything it seems can be said in the public school except anything of Jesus.

Television has been doing this for many years now with innuendo and the like, and now it is mainstream. It is appearing now in various schools I have heard from a number of parish parents and as I follow in the general national media.

Think not beloved that my kids are young and it won't matter. It does. Think not that my kids are teens and they know better. Some do and some don't for they are swayed by charismatic teachers and peer pressure to "fit in" or conform to the current societal trend.

Beloved parents, be hands on - watch, be steadfast on what is being taught to your children.

"So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us."

St Paul's 2nd letter to the Thessalonians 2:15
Festival Volunteers Needed Sept. 7-8-9

It’s not too late to **jump in and put your name down** to volunteer. Any hours that you are available for the 3/day Festival. Yes, bring a friend along, it really is fun to be a part of such a festive weekend.

**Join the group and volunteer / we appreciate your help**

Update Office Records While at the Festival

On the weekend of the Festival, Fran (the parish secretary) will be in the office Friday evening 5pm-7pm., during the day, Saturday & Sunday from 11am—5pm. If anyone has a new phone number, address, email or any other information you would like documented in the church system please stop by the office and we will take care of your request.

AREA GREEK FESTIVALS

**Labor Day Weekend** – Sts Anargyroi Parish– 9 Central St, Marlborough, MA
Sat Sept 1= Noon–11PM / Sun Sept 2= Noon–11PM / Monday Sept 3– Noon-5PM

Sat/Sun = Sept 15-16– St George Parish Dartmouth– 186 Cross St, Dartmouth, MA
Saturday = 11am—10PM / Sunday = 11am—5PM

CLOSING EVENTS AT MUSEUM OF RUSSIAN ICONS

“Icons of the Hellenic World: The Tiliakos Collection”

September 14—16
3-Day Byzantine Icon Workshop
With Christopher Gosey

Saturday Sept 15—Last Gallery Tour
Visit <museumofrussianicons.org>
For details & Registration Information
978-598-5000 (ext 121)

Candles for Sacraments

Please be reminded that our parish sells candles for Baptisms and Weddings. No need to go to secular businesses (who jack up the price greatly) nor to get them even from Greece or Greek specialty stores. Their candles tend to be inferior in quality and make a mess. Keep in mind as well that “size” does not matter. The average 12-22 inch candles are the best...no need for the 4 footers.
Sophia Petrou didn't need much convincing to come to Hellenic College. “My godparents are alums, my aunt and uncle actually met here as students, and four other relatives came here too. They all had positive experiences.” Also, Sophia knew HCHC firsthand, having attended the CrossRoad Summer Institute while in high school. “There were many life realizations and a great deal of spiritual maturation during my time on campus for CrossRoad. Those ten days contributed a lot to my decision to come here.”

Sophia is majoring in Religious Studies with a minor in Ancient Greek. Asked to name a favorite professor, she replies, “I honestly cannot pick one! All my professors have guided and helped me, each in a unique way, and offered insights that could not have come from anyone else. You’re able to build connections and friendships with faculty here that would be impossible at schools with thousands of students.”

The academic life at Hellenic is enhanced for Sophia by the rich worship life that permeates the experience of being a student at HCHC. “This is a place where a lot of spiritual growth can occur. You can attend services every day with beautiful Byzantine chanting you won’t hear in many other places in the US, let alone in a college setting.”

Between attending classes and services and studying, Sophia could easily spend all of her time on campus, but her love of Christ and HCHC’s unique place in higher education often take her out into the world beyond Brookline. For example, she is in her second year of working as an Ambassador for the Admissions Office. Ambassadors are carefully selected HCHC students who travel to parishes around the country to assist with youth ministry and raise awareness of our school. “I absolutely love it,” she says. “I love seeing how diverse the parishes are and interacting with young people as a representative of the school.”

Another meaningful off-campus activity for Sophia was volunteering last year at a local Orthodox church’s soup kitchen. “It was the most powerful, hands-on experience of serving the community, my brothers and sisters in Christ,” she recalls. “It is a memory I always carry with me.”

After she graduates from Hellenic College, Sophia plans to apply to the Master of Divinity program at Holy Cross and hopes to intern with either the Admissions Office or the Office of Vocation and Ministry. In whatever future role she plays, Sophia will remain closely connected to the school she loves.
We have to date 352 parishioners with a pledge of $173,154.00  
The Actual Amount Received is $145,118.64

Since our last newsletter, the following pledges have been received for 2018
M/M Stephen Antoniou, Alexis Arsenis, Dr. & Mrs. Chris Chihlas, Michael Choy,  
Demetra Coclin, M/M James Degaitas, M/M Marcos Fountoulakis, M/M Thomas Frank,  
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Janigian, Jr., M/M Fotios Karageorgos, M/M James Maintainis, Ashley Mara-  
reira, M/M Christopher Pappas, M/M Matthew Parisi, M/M John Politis, Joanna Reves,  
Dr. & Mrs. Peter Sardella, M/M Peter Simone, M/M Sean Todd, M/M Jason Wheatley,  
M/M Jason Xynellis.

Remaining Projects of Phase 2
Following our Greek Festival demolition work will begin on the furnace at the church as well as the removal of asbestos associated to it. After the boiler, the AC will be replaced as well. Re-carpeting of the “raised areas” in the church will be re done due to the inferior installation that occurred earlier. To date we have covered all of the costs via donations. Lets push for no borrowing if possible.

Thank you one and all, Nick Tanionos

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PHASE 2
Our Capital Improvement Fund Raising efforts continue. Since the printing of last month’s Annunciator, we have received a total of two new pledges.

Thank you very much
Youssef, Sophia & James Rizk and Despina Kartson for your generous donations.

We have received 157 pledges totaling $290,312.00. That is nearly $300,000 in pledges. That really is fantastic!

It is important to note that $266,669.50 have been paid and deposited. That is nearly 92% of the total amount pledged. Again, that is fantastic.

Now another interesting statistic is that of the 157 pledges received there are 121 pledges have been completely paid. That is 77% of the total!

Conversely there are 36 pledges which are not yet paid in full. That represents another $23,642.50. Technically these pledges should be paid by December 31, 2018.

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
Dr. Mary Despina Lekas Endowment Fund News
Financial Report for the period ending 8/22/18
Endowment Fund Portfolio: $953,425.16
Endowment Fund Checking Account: $3,755.40

A donation has been made to the Endowment Fund by:
M/M Constantine Rougas in memory of Vickie Trombettas
A donation has been made to the Endowment Fund by:
M/M Michael Haralambides in memory of Dr. Demetrios Katsetos
A donation has been made to the Endowment Fund by:
Demetra Lambros in memory of William Vican Jr.
A donation has been made to the Endowment Fund by:
The Lambros Family in memory of Christine Chifotides

PLAN AHEAD—MON OCT 1
CPR TRAINING AND AED DEVICE TRAINING
On Monday, October 1st at 7:30pm to 9:30pm, we will be having instructions on how to use an AED device and CPR training on adults, children and infants here at Demetrakas Hall in the Mihailides Center.
The cost will be $35.00 per person and includes the instructions, course book and certification card from the American Heart Association. Material will be provided at the class.

Advance registration with payment is REQUIRED and due by September 24th. Make checks payable to “Annunciation Church” with memo line noting CPR Training.
To reserve a space, please contact the office at 401-942-4188 or email office@annunciationri.org.

Condo for Sale
There is a condo for sale adjacent to St. Katherines Greek Orthodox Church. The address of the property is 2761 Citrus Lake Drive, Naples, Florida. The asking price is a firm $299,000. Please call 401-864-3133 if interested and more details.

Recent Deaths
Evelyn H. Rattie age 94 of Cranston, RI passed away on 7/7/18. Anastasia (Trambukis) Brun age 100 of E. Providence, RI passed away on 8/10/18. Her funeral and burial was held on 8/16/18.

~May Their Memory be Eternal~
Orthodoxy: More Than Meets the Eye

While I was still a Protestant (an Anglican, specifically) there was no shortage of fellow churchmen who would tell me, in light of my serious interest in becoming Orthodox, “You’ll never fit in, you’re not Greek or Russian.” At first glance, sure, such people could not be faulted for their misperceptions, however false they clearly are. What I knew then, and what has since been affirmed, though, is that Orthodoxy is a hidden treasure here in America. As with things hidden all one has to do, if their intention is true, is simply look hard enough, with eyes wide open, and the truth, the beauty, and the goodness that all human hearts seek will be right in front of them. This is how I – how all of us, even – should see our Orthodox faith. Once this happens it will be impossible for us to hide this treasure. So, sure, I am of Irish-French-Welsh ancestry but this has never once been a hindrance to any Orthodox parish I have found myself in welcoming and embracing me, as has been the case here at Annunciation. I’m still working on helping my former fellow Protestants to see this, of course.

Cory Dupont

“Knock on Wood”

St. Cyril of Jerusalem, in 349, said, “Already the whole universe is filled with fragments of the wood of the cross.” Most Christians at this time carried with them pieces of wood, which they believed were parts of the original cross. When danger threatened, they would touch the wood, thereby signifying that by the power of God through the cross, they would be able to endure. This is how the habit of saying “knock on wood” to avoid danger, originated. Originally it was not “knocking” on wood but touching a piece of which they believed to be a fragment of the cross.

A BLESSED HOLY CROSS DAY AHEAD—SEPT 14

BIG SCREEN MOVIE NIGHTS

Throughout the year, various parish organizations will host a “Movie Night” making use of our new Big Screen project and screen.

For September the 1963 classic movie “America-America” by director Elie Kazan will be shown on Sat Sept 22 at 6PM. The inspiring story of a young Greek immigrant’s journey to fulfill his dream, going to America in the 1890’s. A moving story of hope and pathos movingly depicting the trials and turmoil of the period.
**PARISH EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS RESUME**

+ Sunday Church School Classes Begin– Sun Sept 16 for Pre-K Thru 6th graders. On Sept 23 for 7-12th graders.

**Our new coordinator is Marion Pappas….**

Marion studied Elementary Education at Northeastern University in Boston, and worked at Elementary Schools in Pembroke, MA and is currently working at an Elementary School in Fall River. For many years she was a summer and winter Camp Counselor for the Metropolis of Boston Camp in New Hampshire. Marion taught at, co-directed, then became Director of the Metropolis of Boston Vacation Church School Program held on the grounds of Hellenic College. In our parish now for 8 years, she has both co-directed and assisted with the Vacation Church School program, co-chaired the Oratorical Festival, assists with the Elementary Division of the Odyssey Dance Troupe and sings in our choir having done so in her youth at her home parish as well. Marion has been teaching our 5th & 6th graders (and will continue as well besides being our new coordinator).

**Afternoon Greek Language School Registration is on Sun Sept 16 in coffee hour, with classes meeting that week, Tues-Thur.**

**New this year is adjusted class times.....4:15—6:15PM**

Our teachers Koula Rougas, Eleni Trikoulis & Ioanna Andreapoulou are looking forward to another year of Greek language lessons with the children. A gift of knowledge our teachers offer to the children in helping them 

“achieve a milestone in their lives”.

**BIBLE STUDY RESUMES—Thur Sept 20**

Come and join us this Fall as we discuss The Book of Psalms, one of the most crucial books of the Old Testament within Orthodox worship services. The psalms offer us prayers of praise, thanksgiving, repentance, and much more. We may not read the entire canon of Psalms in this series, however we hope to share in lively discussion and fellowship as we aim to gain a new perspective and appreciation for the wisdom writings of King David. If you are unfamiliar with the Book of Psalms, this Bible study series will offer an introduction. All are welcome to join us, bring a non-parishioner friend as well. If you have been wanting to explore more of the Old Testament this will serve as a great opportunity. Starting Sept 20th (7:30-9PM). Leading the study will be our parishioner seminary graduate, Emile Sarkis—Holy Cross Seminary M.Div
Reflections on 2018 Clergy Laity Congress  
By- Paul Pliakas, Parish Council Delegate

I was grateful for the opportunity to attend the 2018 Clergy-Laity Congress of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, in Boston on Sunday July 1 and Monday July 2. The Clergy-Laity Congress reminded me that our parish part of a much larger Archdiocese of America, with 8 Metropolises—including our own Boston Metropolis, and a ninth, “Direct Archdiocesan District” (NY & CT) The Archdiocese includes approximately 600 parishes.

The Congress officially commenced at 9:30 AM, on Monday, July 2, with the Congress Official Opening and Keynote Address. Featured speakers included the Mayor of Boston, Marty Walsh, Former U.S. Ambassador Nicholas Burns, His Eminence Methodios and a Patriarchal Message from Patriarch Bartholomew.

The afternoon session on Monday was devoted to the “Presentation and Discussion Concerning the Financial Status of the GOA”. Most of this session dealt with the financial crisis that was uncovered at the Archdiocese offices in 2017. The presentation focused on how the crisis was uncovered, and the steps that were taken in 2017 and 2018 to correct and reform the financial operations of the Archdiocese.

As you can imagine, this was a very emotional topic that elicited many sharp questions, and a good deal of frustration, from the delegates at the Congress. I left the session with the feeling that this crisis has caused a serious breach of trust between the Archdiocese hierarchy and headquarters staff, and the individual parishes in the Archdiocese.

I believe it will take time, and a lot of work and forgiveness, to heal this breach. In spite of this, I believe that the Congress was united in love for our church, and that this crisis will lead to positive financial reforms at the Archdiocese offices in New York.

The Clergy-Laity Congress is a great opportunity to meet parishioners, clergy and Parish Council members from parishes across America. I observed that our parish is similar to many other parishes in our financial situation, stewardship, and the pride that we take in our Greek heritage, and our Orthodox Christian faith.

In our next issue we will include the reflection of Anthony Pappas our other parish delegate.
Greek School Language Classes

Our afternoon language school program focuses on the basics of the alphabet and pronunciation, vocabulary and common expressions. But it is also more than just language for your children will learn some history, tradition, customs and dance of Greece. Expose your children to this opportunity (normally a 6 year program) but do even 3 or 4 years as a minimum.

We have often heard from a number of young adults how they were sorry that they never took Greek or quit mid-way through the program and realized this after the fact. The irony here is that once our youth enter college they see the value of having learned their Greek (or not knowing it) but fail to see always its worth when they are young.

Thus it is up to the parents to lead the way and plan for this important aspect of their upbringing. Remember that 38% of the English language comes from Greek, so many words in math, the sciences, medicine, religion etc. are all rooted in Greek, so you see, you are already speaking Greek but don’t realize it.

The expression “It’s all Greek to Me!” usually means that a person has no awareness, but in reality it is through Greek that one can understand English even better.

You will never regret giving your child a chance to know a second language.

Enroll your child or (children) into our afternoon classes, our teaches are highly qualified and experienced. Classes take place right here in the Church Center. If you have any questions you may contact: Koula Rougas at 401-944-7572 or email gusandkoula@verizon.net
YES, Sunday Church School IS VALUABLE

Fortunately, Sunday school offers much more than reading. Teachers introduce children to the great Biblical dramas, connecting God’s Story with their own. They teach children prayers, showing them the reality of an inner realm where God speaks to them and through them. They sing with children. They nurture creativity through crafts, projects, skits, and more.

There are many reasons why children don’t attend Church or Sunday School. One of the main reasons is increased competition for their time. The wide availability of activities on Sunday morning is a massive change from what was available in the 1970s, 80s, or even 90s. In fact, almost all structured institutions have seen decreases in participation over the past few decades, because of this trend.

Here at The Annunciation Church we want to sustain Sunday School, it is worth doing. Sunday School is a place of nurture. A place where, if nothing else, children are taught and shown that God loves them more than they can ever imagine, and that Jesus is with them, always.

We are faithfully trying to balance worship and formation. Make the time for Liturgy and Sunday School this September, even if you have not come recently have your (child) or children re-join us.
Saturday September 15 / Bowling
All 6th through 12th graders are welcome to join us at the Lincoln Mall where we will be bowling. Flier with prices and times to follow shortly.

Sunday September 23 / Goya Officer Elections
Following Sunday School, all 6th through 12th graders are encouraged to attend the elections of the 2018-2019 Goya Officers. If anyone is interested in running for office or has questions regarding the prerequisites, please contact CJ Mitrelis.

Saturday November 24 / Goya Dance
All parish teens are invited to attend the annual Goya Dance. SAVE THE DATE FROM NOW...thanksgiving weekend. Information regarding price, theme, and time of the dance will be released in the next few weeks.

Saturday December 8 / La Salette Shrine
Our teens will be going to La Salette Shrine together to see the beautiful Christmas lights. After we will be gathering at Bliss Ice Cream for some fellowship. Flier with more information to follow.

Any questions can be brought to CJ Mitrelis at 401-632-8752 or cmitr1@Unh.newhaven.edu

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Back 2 School Prayer....
Dear Lord, use my eyes to see new friends.
Open my ears to hear my teacher.
Open my mind to learn new things.
Let my heart remember you are near when I’m afraid.
Help me to love others like you do.
I want to shine your light so bright in my school.

Amen
ΤΙ ΘΑ ΠΕΙ Ο ΚΟΣΜΟΣ!

Δεν είναι λίγοι οι συνάνθρωποι μας που ρυθμίζουν τη συμπεριφορά τους από τη γνώμη του κόσμου γι' αυτούς. Το «τι θα πει ο κόσμος» είναι κανόνας, σύμφωνα με τον οποίο κάνουν αυτό ή αποφεύγουν έκείνο.

Αυτό ισχύει για θέματα άπλα της καθημερινότητας, όπως είναι η έμφαση και η ένδυμασία, αλλά και για θέματα βαθύτερα και πνευματικότερα, όπως είναι αυτά που σχετίζονται με τη θρησκευτικότητα και τη σωματική της ψυχής μας.

Και βλέπουμε πολλούς άνθρωπους - και μάλιστα γυναίκες - να συμμορφώνονται με τη μόδα και να έμφανιζονται όπως θέλει ο κόσμος για να αποφεύγουν τα άρνητικα σχόλια του κόσμου.

Βλέπουμε επίσης άλλους να παραστάνουν τον άθεο και αδιάφορο ως προς την πίστη και την έκκλησιαστική ζωή, για να μη θεωρηθούν απόκοσμοι, «βυζαντινόπληκτοι» και άνθρωποι στενόμυλοι και με παραπάνω, όπως θεωρούν τους τίποτες οι κοσμικοί άνθρωποι.

Τι φανερώνει δώς μια τέτοια συμπεριφορά; Το λιγότερο ότι οσοι υπολογίζουν τόσο πολύ τη γνώμη του κόσμου δεν έχουν προσωπικότητα. Παρασύρονται εύκολα όταν το ρεύμα του κόσμου και δεν μπορούν να πουν «όχι» στις απαιτήσεις του. Είναι αδύνατοι χαρακτήρες, κι ως παρατάνονται τους εξυπνούν καθ' τους Ικανούς.

Ο άνθρωπος που έχει ισχυρή προσωπικότητα μπορεί να βαδίσει αντίθετα στο ρεύμα του κόσμου, όπως και τα ζωντανά ψάρια μπορούν και κινούνται αντίθετα στο ρεύμα των πλατημών και των βαλασάσων.

Ο άνθρωπος με ισχυρή προσωπικότητα δεν καταδέχεται να γίνει ένας άπλος αριθμός μέσα στο κοπάδι, όπως θέλει τους άνθρωπους στην κοινωνία με τα ΜΜΕ ο κόσμος σήμερα.

Ο άνθρωπος με προσωπικότητα μπορεί να ντυθεί και να έμφανισε ο όχι ότι υποδεικνύουν οι κοσμικοί οίκιοι μόνας, όλο' ότις αισθάνεται ο ίδιος και ότις νομίζει ότι άρμοζε στον χαρακτήρα και στην έργασιά του.

Το να σκέφτεσαι και να υπολογίζεις «τι θα πει ο κόσμος» και να προσπαθείς να συμμορφώνεσαι σ' αυτό είναι σκλαβία του χειριστού είδους. Δεν μπορείς να κινηθείς έλευθερα. Δεν μπορείς να έκφρασες έλευθερα. Δεν μπορείς να χαρείς την έλευθερία σου.

Το πράγμα μάλιστα γίνεται ακόμη βασικότερο όταν σκεφθείς ότι σκλαβώνεσαι σε κάτι άροιο και άββασιο. Γιατί αυτό δεν είναι στην ούσια του ο κόσμος; Σήμερα πιστεύει αυτό και αύριο έκεινο. Σήμερα προτείνει αυτό και αύριο επιλέγει το άλλο. Δεν έχει σταθερότητα και αρχές ο κόσμος.

Η σωσίβεβαια δια αυτά να φαίνονται σε πολλούς κάτως αδιάφορα ως προς τη χριστιανική ζωή. Όμως οι σκέφθηκες καλύτερα ποιος κινείται άπολιτα μέσα στον κόσμο και ποιος επιχειρεί να έπη-
ρεάζει τη ζωή των άνθρωπων στον κόσμο, βλέπουμε ότι το θέμα «τι θα πει ο κόσμος» έχει μεγάλη σημασία για την πνευματική μας ζωή.

Σε πολλά σημεία της Αγίας μας Γραφής γίνεται λόγος για το ότι ο Διαβόλος είναι αυτός που δρά και κινείται στον κόσμο με πολλούς τρόπους. Αυτός και σήμερα ύποκειται ορισμένους άνθρωπους να διαθέτουν τα χαρισματά που τους έδωσε ο Θεός για τους δίκοι τους σκοπούς. Και αυτοί με τις μουσικές, με τις ζωγραφιές, με τα περιοδικά, με τα βιβλία, με τα ραδιόφωνα και τις τηλεοράσεις δημιουργούν το λεγόμενο πνεύμα και τη νοοτροπία του κόσμου. Αυτοί ντύνουν και ξεντύνουν τους άνθρωπους. Αυτοί επηρεάζουν και δημιουργούν τη νοοτροπία και ζωή των νέων και των μεγαλυτέρων. Αυτοί προβάλλουν ως έρημο το πλείστον το χυδαίο, το άσεμνο, το άμαρτωλό.

Αυτός είναι ο κόσμος σήμερα. Όλοι δηλαδή οσοι δεν έχουν σχέση με τον Θεό και την Εκκλησία. Και δεν είναι ύπερβολή ότι και σήμερα τον κόσμο, όπως και σ’ όλες τις επιχειρήσεις, ως σατανοκίνητο. Το γράφει η άλλη άγια Γραφή και είναι αλήθεια: «Ο κόσμος δόλος εν τῷ πονηρῷ κεῖται», γράφει ο άγιος ευαγγελιστής Ιωάννης (Α’ Ιω. ε’ 19). Όσοι δεν έχουν σχέση με τον Θεό, έξουσιαζόνται και επηρεάζονται από τόν Σατανά. Ο ίδιος Ευαγγελιστής για να μιλήσει για τόν Διαβόλο χρησιμοποιεί τις λέξεις «ο εν τω κόσμω», αυτός δηλαδή που ένεγε και έξουσιαζε μεσα στον κόσμο των άνθρωπων που δεν υπολογίζουν τό θέλημα του Θεού (Α’ Ιω. δ’ 4). Γι’ αυτό ονομάζεται και άρχων του κόσμου τούτου (Ιω. β’ 31) και οι δαίμονες του λέγονται «κοσμοκράτορες των σκότων του αίωνος τούτου» (Εφ. c’ 12).

'Επομένως οποίος υπολογίζει τη γνώμη του κόσμου και σκέφτεται τι θα πει ο κόσμος γι’ αυτόν και ρυθμίζει ανάλογα με τη σκέψη αυτή τη ζωή του υπολογίζει στην ούσια, χωρίς ίσως να το καταλαβαίνει πλήρως, τη γνώμη του Διαβόλου. Και βέβαια ο Σατανάς ποτέ δεν θέλει το καλό μας. Δεν θέλει την εύτυχια και τη συνεργία μας. Έχασε οριστικά ο ίδιος την εύτυχια που είχε κάποτε κοντά στον Θεό και κάνει το πάν για να εμποδίσει τον άνθρωπο να συνδέει ουσιαστικά με τον Θεό για να εύτυχισε. Και ρίχνει αυτή τη σκέψη, «τι θα πει ο κόσμος», και όπου πάει. Επιχειρεί με αυτήν, παραδειγματικά χάριν, να εμποδίσει έναν έπιστημον να κάνει υψηλόβαθμο υπάλληλο να εκκλησιάζεται, για να μη θεωρηθούν καθυστερημένοι. Προσπαθεί με την ίδια σκέψη να εμποδίσει την πολυτεκνία και ούτω καθεξής.

Είναι πολυμηχανής ο Πονηρός. Δεν «άγνοιαζε» όμως τα σχέδια του, γράφει ο άποστολος Παύλος (Β’ Κορ. β’ 11). Γνωρίζουμε τις δόλες της επινοήσεώς του. Μέ κάτι που φαίνεται ίσως άθρωο επιχειρεί μας να ύποπτοποικαίο έπος και Θεό. Βλέπει ο ίδιος γνωρίζει πολύ καλά αυτό που έγραψε ο άγιος Ἰάκωβος ο Ἀδελφόθεος να θέλει να τα έχει καλά με τον κόσμο γίνεται «ἐχθρός τοῦ Θεοῦ» (Ἰακ. δ’ 4). Και αυτό είναι που θέλει τελικά να επιτύχει παρακινώντας μας να προσέχουμε τη γνώμη του κόσμου.

Ο άγιος άποστολος Παύλος επίσης ξεκαθαρίζει το θέμα. Αν ήθελα να αρέσουν άνθρωποι, γράφει, «Χριστός δούλος ούκ ἂν ἦμην», δεν θα ήμουν δούλος του Θεού και Απόστολος του (Γαλ. α’ 10). Χρειάζεται λοιπόν μεγάλη προσοχή και σταθερή αποφασιστική συμπεριφορά. Μή μάς ένδιαφερεί η γνώμη του άστατου και σατανοκινητού κόσμου, αλλά η γνώμη του άγιου Θεού, στον Οπόιο θα δώσουμε τελικά λόγο για τη ζωή μας. Και ας άγνωστος με τη Χάρη τού να ζούμε σύμφωνα με τό θέλημά του, όπως δόλοι οι άγιοι τής Εκκλησίας μας.
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September / Early October 2018

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

Sun Sept 2—Sun 14th of Matthew / Martyr Mamas / John the Abstainer MEMORIAL: George Grammas– 1 yr
Mon Sept 3- Office Closed—Labor Day—
Tues Sept 4- Honey Dip Diples & Melomakarona—9 am / 6PM Kitchen Work
Wed Sept 5- Festival Set up throughout the day / 6PM– Pack Pastries / Kitchen Work
- Combined Dance Troupe—6-8PM
Fri. Sept 7—START UP OF OUR ANNUAL FESTIVAL @ 5:00PM—10:00PM
Sat Sept 8- Nativity of the Virgin Mary– Services per usual morning hours
ANNUAL FESTIVAL CONTINUES / 12 Noon—10PM

Sun Sept 9- Sun before the Holy Cross / Sts Joachim & Anna (the Virgin’s parents)
- Memorial: Savvas Xenophontos— 6 months / Dimitra Vourvachakis—1/yr.
ANNUAL FESTIVAL CONTINUES / Last day 12PM—9PM

Wed Sept 12- Choir Rehearsal—6:30pm
Thu Sept 13– Church School Teachers Meeting—6PM
Fri Sept 14- ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS– service per usual morning hours
Sat Sept 15– Goya Bowling at Lincoln Mall (all parish teens 6th-12th graders)

Sun Sept 16- Sun after Holy Cross / Great Martyr Euphemia Martyr Melitina
Sunday Church School Begins: Pre-K through 6th grade
Mon Sept 17- Philoptochos: 6:15PM Board / 7PM General Membership
Tue Sept 18- Greek Language School Classes Begin at 4:15pm—6:15pm
/Please note new time change
- Parish Council Meeting– 7:30PM
Thu Sept 20— Bible Study (Book of Psalms) - 7:30PM
Sat Sept 22- Big Screen Movie Night– 6PM “America/America”

Sun Sept 23- Sun of 1st Luke / Conception of John Baptist
Sunday Church School Begins for 6th-7th-12th graders
- Memorial: Anastasia (Trambukis) Brun—40 days
Tue Sept 25- Ahepa—7PM
Thu Sept 27- Marriage Prep Seminar-(Part 1) 7-9:30PM / Bible Study (Psalms)- 7:30PM

Sun Sept 30- Sun 2nd Luke / Gregory of Armenia / Church School Photo Day
Mon Oct 1- CPR training– 7:30PM
Thu Oct 4- Marriage Prep Seminar–(Part 2) 7-9:30PM / Bible Study (Psalms)- 7:30PM

Sun Oct 7- Sun of 3rd Luke / Sergios & Bacchus / Deacon Kaesarios
Mon Oct 8—Office is Closed/Columbus Day
Wed Oct 10—Choir Rehearsal-6:30PM
Thu Oct 11- Bible Study (Book of Psalms) - 7:30PM
A Walk for
Hellenic College Holy Cross
A Walk for future church leaders

WHY I AM RAISING MONEY:

After 80 years, HCHC needs a financial boost. As the father of two HCHC students, a strong Greek Orthodox supporter of the school and a man on a mission, I am walking 220 miles from Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, New Rochelle, NY, to HCHC, Brookline, MA. My goal is to walk 10 hours a day for 14 days to bring awareness of HCHC and raise as much funding as possible to insure that this vital school thrives!

HCHC students will be the future clergy and lay leaders of the Greek Orthodox Church. The church needs them, the school needs them, and our society needs them! It is imperative that each and everyone of us rises to the challenge!

Where will the money go?

100 percent of net proceeds raised will be donated to HCHC. It is entirely fitting that I will arrive at the steps of HCHC on September 14, 2018 – the day Orthodox Christians celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross!

How You Can Help

Thank you for supporting me by sharing my story and by donating to my GoFundMe account. Walk4HCHC To help me get the word out, follow me on Twitter @johndos1963 and share my link on your Facebook timeline. I will be sure to thank my supporters along the way - I will have plenty of time to do so as I walk!

Faith    Education    Service

Questions should be directed to John Dos Santos at 914-438-5632 or 1MDS631963@yahoo.com.