On Our Cover

HAGIA SOPHIA CATHEDRAL

We see on our cover an ancient rendering of how the great church of HAGIA SOPHIA looked before the fall of the Byzantine Empire in 1453, when thereafter it served as a mosque and the 4 minarets were built around it, as it is identifiable today in its appearance. Since 1934 however, it has functioned as a museum of great acclaim.

News reports during July of the intentions of the current government of Turkey to have this building function as a Muslim mosque, is beyond comprehension and shocking. Besides the history of the edifice, it is also a UNESCO World Heritage Convention, protected property and open to all. In fact, it is Turkey’s most visited tourist attraction with over 3 million people a year entering it. Hagia Sophia is more than just a regular building…..it is….. THE BUILDING, architecturally, iconographically and more!

This massive cathedral overlooking the Bosphoros, was completed in 537AD by the Byzantine emperor Justinian (one of Byzantium’s greatest emperors) and dedicated to the “Wisdom of God” as its name denotes in the original Greek. It was an architectural marvel of its time and for centuries served as one of the world’s most important centers of Christianity, serving as the Cathedral of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. It was also the world’s largest building for almost a thousand years.

We all know of the ever-fragile relations of Turkey and Greece, of Christians and Muslims as well, but this action is beyond comprehension and I am dismayed. It is a total blow to past treaties of the United Nations, to inter-religious dialogue, basic respect of history and the co-existence of people in harmony with one another. In fact, it is that region of the world that needs this co-existence the most in that the “East” is the homeland of the three monotheistic religions of the world.

All religious traditions should be acknowledged with tolerance. We need to realize that there is diversity and theological differences, yes; but there should also be a regard for each group’s history and identity.

Let us pray for decency and respect. Fr. Andrew
We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all that have honored the passing of our beloved

*Emmanuel “Manny” Mihailides*

He will be dearly missed by his family and the countless friends he touched throughout his 88 wonderful years of life.

May his memory be everlasting in all who knew and loved him.

*With Love to You and Your Families
Bessie Mihailides and Family*
AUGUST HAPPENINGS

We continue as a parish to function in all ways despite the coronavirus and our fire in the church. Thank God we have the Mihailides Center and it’s Demetrakas Hall for the conducting of services and also the modern technology of the internet and the recent wonder of ZOOM conference calling, that our meetings and educational programs have functioned and will for the foreseeable future.

Of special attention, please note the following:

**Traditional August Services and Observations will be held.**

*REFER TO OUR CALENDAR PAGE.*

We will adore the icons as usual for Paraklesis & the Transfiguration; of course grapes for distribution on August 6 as well. Please contact Fran in the office.

+++ 

**The Dormition of the Virgin Mary Observance – KOIMISIS - (August 15) will be “expanded.”**

Normally this is the largest and best attended church service of the summer, but with our state of Rhode Island mandated capacity restrictions, we might not be able to accommodate all who desire to attend services, if only on August 15.

Thus we will offer Orthros/Liturgy on the Pre-Feast of the Dormition as well...Friday August 14, besides August 15 (a Saturday this year). Sunday, August 16, also retains the flavor of the feast as well. So there are 3 dates to participate in the “summer pascha” as often the Dormition is referred to.

Our practice under coronavirus is to “sign up ahead of time for Sunday services” and we have said no need to sign up for the weekday services.

But in this case for the Dormition Feast (both Friday and Saturday) we ask that you sign up.

*A special email link will be issued for the 3-day flow, on August 1st*

AHEAD IN SEPTEMBER

As we enter the New Ecclesiastical Year, we will offer the Sacrament of Holy Unction as normally served during Holy Week.

As noted this past Holy Wednesday on our “live stream,” because people could not gather in church due to the height of the pandemic, we would set up a new date. And boy how we need it ever more for our protection, health and salvation!

Save the Date from Now:

Wed Sept 23—4PM—Service of the Holy Oil - with anointing following

7PM—Abbreviated Prayers—with anointing following
This Year's Challenge -10% Increase Over Your 2019 Giving

2020 PLEDGE PROGRAM REPORT

We have to date 334 parishioners with a pledge of $196,930.00

The Actual Amount Received to date is $164,045.96

Since our last newsletter, the following pledges have been received for 2020

M/M Artur Amaral Jr., M/M Ilias Arsenis, Zoe Bruno, M/Richard Campanella, Claire DiNobile, M/M Eric Fitzhugh, M/M Theodore Kacharo, Richard Kidd, James Kripotos, M/M Nicholas Lambros, M/M Charles Lazarakis, M/M Christopher Mareira, Ashley Mareira, Maria Markos, M/M Constantine Mares, Elizabeth Mares, Sotiris Mioni, Pamela Mitchell, Dr. & Mrs. Kenneth Morrissey, Melissa Morrissey, Stephen Morrissey, M/M George Nonis, M/ Charles & Dr. Ann-Marie Paley, M/M Christopher Pappas, M/M Paul Pliakas, Angela Provost, M/M George Rakas, M/M Grigorios Sifakis, M/M Peter Simone, M/M Raymond Sinapi Jr., M/M John Taxiarchos, Eleni Trikoulis, M/M Russell Wheatley, George Xanthakis, George Xiarhos, Zambeta Xiarhos.

Donation Received From a Will

Our long time parishioner Angelo Frank left in his will at his death, a gift to our parish in the amount of $10,000.00.

What a wonderful example of love and support past his earthly life!

Thank You for the Lovely Live Plants

To—Anna Demetrakas and Mary Samaras for the numerous plants placed in our temporary church now in the Demetrakas Hall. Our worship doors are open and with your generosity you have made a difference in the appearance....inviting, pleasant, and calm atmosphere that we are trying to set forward during these difficult times. So we Thank You for initiating the idea of having plants and making it happen.

Recent Deaths

Calliope Eliadis, age 86 of Warwick, RI passed away on 6/4/20. Her funeral was private in the funeral home. Barbara Botsaris, age 87 of Providence, RI passed away on 6/5/20. Her funeral and burial was private in MA, Susan (Aliferakis) Fidas, age 78 of Coventry, RI passed away on 6/6/20. Her funeral and burial was on 6/12/20. Robert Sulyma, age 82 of South Yarmouth, MA passed away on 6/13/20. He is the husband of Elaine (Stefanis) Sulyma formerly of our parish. Souad Elia, age 92, beloved mother of Jamal Sarkis passed away in Lebanon on 6/16/2020. George Stergis, age 92 of Cumberland, RI (husband of Dorothea (Savvides) Stergis) passed away on 6/24/2020. His funeral & burial was private from the Assumption Church, Pawtucket, RI. Beloved sister Maria of parishioner Nikolas Sifakis passed away in Greece. Despina Bravakis, (sister of Julie Karahalios) passed away in Greece on 7/10/20. John Panagou, age 75 of Attleboro, MA passed away on 7/14/20 brother of parishioner Vaso Lazarakis. His funeral service took place in Attleboro Ma. funeral home on 7/17/20. Heleni Michalina, mother of parishioner Tina Jarvis passed away in Greece. Elizabeth Pappas, age 99 1/2 of Arlington, MA, passed away 7/22/20, the mother of our parishioners Nikki Karon & James Pappas.

May their memory be Eternal
Dr. Mary Despina Lekas Endowment Fund News
Financial Report for the period ending 7/21/2020
Endowment Fund Portfolio: $1,231,974.36
Endowment Fund Checking Account: $2,920.00

A donation has been made to the Endowment Fund by:
M/M James Degaitas, Drs. John & Eleni Pappas Zervos
in honor of Mary Samaras’s 99th Birthday….God Bless

A donation has been made to the Endowment Fund by:
M/M Michael Haralambides in memory of Susan Fidas

A donation has been made to the Endowment Fund by:
M/M Andrew Bilodeau, Classic Entertainment & Sports, Inc., M/M George Coclin,
Anna Demetrakas, Peter Fontaine. Vickie Hall, Olga Haveles, Julie Heston, Elaine Hunt,
M/M Spiro Kyriakakis, Anna Kulakis, Christopher Kulakis, Patrick Lynch, M/M Lucien Menard,
Moon American Inc., NE Regional CTR for Economic Dev Inc, M/M Arthur G. Pappas,
Georgia Pappas, Helen Pappas, M/M Kevin Phelan, Philoptochos Society, M/M Gus Proyous,
M/M Peter Simone, Louis Thomas, M/M Anthony Traini, M/M John Vanikiotis,
Theodore Vaphiades, Michael Winter, Maria Zaharakos, Drs. John & Eleni Pappas-Zervos,
in memory of Manny Mihailides

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

A donation has been made to the Endowment Fund by:
Mary Samaras in memory of Vangel Thomas Benno

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

A donation has been made to the Endowment Fund by:
Anna Demetrakas, M/M Gus Proyous in memory of Andrew Mitrelis

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

A donation has been made to the Endowment Fund by:
M/M Gus Proyous, M/M Constantine Rougas, Eleni Trikoulis, George Trikoulis & Family
in memory of Antonia Vanikiotis

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

A donation has been made to the Endowment Fund by
Jean Mihelakos, Carole Xanthakis in memory of Despina Bravakis

Respectfully Yours, Mary Samaras, Endowment Fund Secretary
Common Statement on Hagia Sophia

As leaders of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston and the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Boston, we wish to voice our strong opposition to the decision of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to re-convert Hagia Sophia into a mosque. President Erdoğan’s decree undoes that of his predecessor, President Kemal Atatürk, who converted Hagia Sophia into a secular museum in 1935. This action alters the status quo that has existed for the last 85 years and causes great pain to many throughout the world.

Hagia Sophia, completed in the year 537 during the reign of Emperor Justinian the Great, served as an important center of Christian worship for over 950 years. When the city of Constantinople came under the control of the Ottomans in 1453, the conquering power converted the great Christian cathedral into a mosque. Thus, Hagia Sophia served as a preeminent place of Christian worship for almost twice as long as it did a mosque. Since its conversion into a museum, countless visitors have passed through its great bronze doors and appreciated its distinctive architecture and historic mosaics. Hagia Sophia’s structure in general, and pendentive dome in particular, is as much an engineering marvel today as it was when the Eastern Roman Empire built it. This is truly a unique building that the entire world admires and respects.

UNESCO has designated Hagia Sophia as a World Heritage Site. Recently, the Director-General of UNESCO, Audrey Azoulay, also expressed deep regret over the decision to convert Hagia Sophia into a mosque without any discussion. The Director-General is not alone in this opinion, and we join our voices to hers, as well as those of secular and religious leaders throughout the world, to express our profound disappointment at this most hurtful change in status.

We call upon President Erdoğan to reverse his recent decision on Hagia Sophia and restore it to its previous state as a museum. This return to the status quo will allow people of all faiths to draw inspiration from Hagia Sophia’s rich history and serve to strengthen the relationship between Muslim and Christian communities, both in Turkey and throughout the world.

Metropolitan Methodios of Boston  
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Boston

Cardinal Sean O’Malley  
Roman Catholic Archbishop of Boston
Annual Greek Festival

Unfortunately this year will be the first year in 34 years we will not be able to have our traditional Annual 3-Day Greek Festival due to the Coronavirus restrictions for social distancing, and gathering capacity limits.

This would have been our 35th year.

Next year, God willing we will be ready and able to go.

Keep the Faith that it will happen.

As we go to press, there is some discussion of doing a small drive thru type of food pick up ... perhaps just Gyro & Souvlaki.

It could be the traditional date of the festival or another date thereafter.

To share your thoughts on this idea—

Contact Evan Andrikos @ 401-419-0644 or email to: eandrikos16@gmail.com

This could only happen if enough people commit to work.

All grilling would be done outdoors and with social distancing in mind.

Printing Needs for business re-openings

For many years Print Craft located in Warwick, RI has been printing our Annunciator which we have been more than pleased with quality, price and service. During these times of restaurants (disposable paper menus) and other businesses opening, Print Craft has offered their service to help businesses get back on the road to opening.

Give them a call at 401-739-0700, ask for Andy Vanable or email: andy@printcraftri.com and let them get you started making the new transition affordable, presentable and quickly for your business needs.

Adult Greek History Class / Sept. 2020

"Beginning Monday, September 14, the Adult Greek Class will resume its on line seminar which will run until Monday, November 30th. This semester's study will be Plato's "Republic", a major philosophical work that has greatly influenced the Western World and the Christian thought. The main theme of the Republic is the virtue of justice and a well governed City-State can only be successful if its citizen members can harmoniously balance the various needs of the individual soul under the guidance of Reason.

The class will be offered every Monday from 7:00 to 8:30 PM via Zoom with the technical assistance of Bill Frangos.

For further information, please call John Lyssikatos at 401-728-4452.

Thank you for asking!

Donations are warmly welcomed for the various items purchased to enhance our hall into a reverent worship space...dividers, silk plants, plant pots, roping and the like.

Contact the Parish office for details!
Security & Live Stream Viewing

Recently, security cameras were installed around the church and hall in response to a safety and security recommendation made to the parish council by the Cranston Police Department. Parishioner Richard Cragin and family from Ocean State Electronic Security Systems, generously offered his company's services to quickly complete this installation for the church at a very discounted cost. The Golf Tournament Committee provided the funds to cover any costs related to this project, and installation was completed in March for the church, and more recently in May for the hall.

A secondary benefit of this system is that it also allows for the use of the security cameras for live streaming. This is something that worked out to be perfect timing due to the onset of the pandemic in March. Originally the live streaming service was setup in the church, and then was reconfigured in the hall due to the fire. The live stream of services is sent simultaneously to both YouTube and Facebook. If you haven't taken a look yet, visit the parish's Annunciation RI YouTube channel at

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCldHg9Yki4s99UaD6Au0DQQ

or visit the church's Facebook page for future live streaming events and services.

Live Stream Tally

In the past month we have seen a great increase in our livestream viewership. We have experienced a 23% growth in viewers, bringing the total number of unique viewers to 415. Since we began streaming in March on YouTube, we have reached a total of six thousand people! Since June 20th alone, we have had over 332 hours of total view time.

We hope to increase the number of views and dedicated viewers in order to build our online presence. Please subscribe to our YouTube channel and we encourage you to share our videos with your friends and family.
**Masks, Mask, Masks**

This is a word in the past that was rarely mentioned unless by a hospital or someone being ill. Now it has become an everyday word with everyone.

Don’t leave home without your mask, don’t enter into a crowd, don’t enter a store, don’t don’t don’t, do anything now without your mask on.

But in respect to all the restrictions and new rulings the mask has become our friend to keep everyone healthy.

This will continue for some time, numbers of cases have been on the rise in other states.

We are on a good track but who knows.

Our Rhode Island cases could spike which we would not like to see.

It certainly is a shame people that have cradled their health for many years to live a long healthy life, have been taken from us by this virus.

This is why to protect yourself not only, use your mask to protect others that that could be on the fighting path to stay well.

**Thank You to a Military Family**

We would like to kindly thank Mr. & Mrs. Hopton. The family visited our church during the Christmas season. The husband is active duty military and they are currently living in Germany. In contemplating their finances, they enjoyed the liturgy very much and during this time of need they made a very generous donation to the church. May we quote their request “I felt that God told us to send it for a special reason”.

**Office Bookkeeping Assistance**

Please note that Paula is the bookkeeper here in the office, meaning she handles all the transactions pertaining to money, donations, stewardship etc. Please when you have questions call her from Tuesday-Thursday 9:30-2:30pm.

Also you may email Paula only at: accounting@annunciationri.org.

Emails that are being sent to others in the office are confusing the line of communication and of getting your request processed. - Thank You.

**Emails are Important**

During this pandemic several homes have changed their email addresses. Please call the office or email the office with your correct email address of where you would like all the church emails sent to. Hopefully we are seeing the last of this virus, but in a situation as we have had, without a correct email address your family and children are missing out on plenty of events that still are being done by Zoom. If you notice your not receiving the church emails, especially for student sessions & gatherings coming up, this means your email is coming up as a not accepted address and we have been unable to contact you to correct it.

*Please do not wait, lets be ready for September.*
«Ως τού ἄνω στερεώματος τήν εὐπρέπειαν, καὶ τήν κάτω συνοπέδειας ὑφαίστητα, τοῦ ἄγιου σκηνώματος τῆς δόξης σου, Κύριε. Κραταίωσον αὐτό ἐκς αἰώνα αἰῶνας, καὶ πρόσδεξαι ἡμᾶς, τάς ἐν αὐτῷ ἀπάυστως προσαγομένας σοι δεήσεις, πρεσβείας τῆς Θεοτόκου, ἢ πάντων ζωῆς καὶ ἀνάστασις.»

Παναγιώτατε αδελφέ.

Μετὰ θλίψεως πολλής λάβαμε γνώση περί της αποφάσεως της τουρκικής κυβερνήσεως να μετατρέψει την Εκκλησία της Αγίας Σοφίας σε τζαμί, ανατρέποντας το μέχρι τούδε καθεστώς. Λυπούμαστε για αυτήν την απόφαση και καταδικάζουμε όλες τις ενέργειες που θα μπορούσαν να παραποιήσουν την ιστορική ταύτητα της καθ’ ἡμᾶς Ανατολής. Η απορρίπτει αυτή απόφαση στοχεύει στην περιθωριοποίηση της χριστιανικής παρουσίας στην Ανατολή, ενώ δεν θα θέλαμε να θεωρήσουμε πως στοχεύει στην προσπάθεια εξάλειψης του εναμισέντας πρωτοποριακοῦ ρόλου των Χριστιανών, που συνυπάρχουν ειρηνικά με τα άλλα θρησκεύματα. Άλλωστε, άρθρον είναι τις αποδεικτικές στοιχεία της ανοχής και της ανεξίθρησκείας και του αμοιβαίου σβασμού μας. Παρά τούτα, η εν λόγω απόφαση έρχεται να υπονομεύσει όλες τις προσπάθειες των χωρών της Ανατολής, στο πλαίσιο ενέργειών με τις οποίες οι χώρες αυτές επιδιώκουν να οικοδομήσουν ένα περιβάλλον, όπου οι πολίτες θα σέβονται τη θρησκευτική πολυμορφία και θα προσωπούν τις θετικές αξίες του κοσμικού κράτους. Δυστυχώς, όμως, η ως άνω απόφαση μας γυρίζει πίσω σε τραυματικές καταστάσεις, ενισχύοντας τον εξτρεμισμό και την κατάργηση της διαφορετικότητας.

Ευρισκόμαστε δίπλα σας, Παναγιώτατε, και ενώνουμε την προσευχή μας υπέρ της καθ’ ἡμᾶς Αγίας Εκκλησίας και υπέρ της πληγωμένης Ανατολής. Συντασσόμαστε σε κάθε προσπάθεια που επιχειρείτε για να ενισχύσετε την παρουσία Σας στον τόπο Σας και στη γη των προγόνων Σας, στη Μεγάλη του Χριστού Εκκλησία της Κωνσταντινουπόλεως, της Νέας Ρώμης, με την οποία μας συνδέει η αδελφοσύνη και η ενότητα της πίστεως στον Κύριο και Σωτήρα μας Ίησού Χριστό.

Ασπαζόμενοι την Υμετέραν Παναγιώτητα εν Χριστῷ, μεταφέροντας την αλληλεγγύη του φιλοχριστιανού πληρώματος της Εκκλησίας της Αντιόχειας και Πάσης Ανατολής, αναπέμπουμε δεήσεις στον Κύριο και Σωτήρα να Σας παρέχει πολλά ἐπὶ διακονίας καὶ διακυβερνήσεως του ιεροῦ πολιτεύματος της Εκκλησίας εἰς νομᾶς σωτηρίους.
Thank you to our Orthodox Christian Fellowship Leaders!

Alexis Arsenis (Bryant University 2020) was the Founder and President of our OCF at Bryant University! Through her hard work, she not only had OCF recognized by the University, but she also helped raise awareness of our Orthodox Faith to the entire University. Due to her efforts, we look forward to OCF continuing at Bryant for years to come!

Nicholas Soucy (University of Rhode Island 2020) was the President of OCF at URI this Year! He provided continuity and leadership to the group as they continued to meet. He developed a relationship with the Catholic Center where our meetings were held. Due to his efforts, we also look forward to OCF continuing at URI for many more years!

Look out for Information for a Zoom Orthodoxy on Tap in August!

We look forward to meeting with our Providence Area Young Adults for another engaging Orthodoxy on Tap. Speaker will be announced soon as well as date. Stay tuned for more info.
Youth News

Our Youth have been enjoying our Virtual Hangouts and Virtual Sunday School Classes which came to end on Sunday, June 14th. The transition to Online Virtual Ministry has been met with enthusiasm and support. We are thankful for all our Teachers and Youth Workers who have taken on this endeavor! In addition, we were able to honor all of our High School and College Graduates via a Slideshow that was posted on YouTube and showcased on our Social Media Accounts.

Virtual Vacation Church School (VCS)-Through Zoom!

Young Heroes of the Old Testament, Following God’s Plan in Faith
Monday, August 3 through Friday August 7
9:30am to 10:45am each day (Late Start on Thursday, August 6th)
so as to attend the Feast of the Transfiguration Services
For more information and to register contact Beth Nichols at nichols22@verizon.net

We love the Sun! We go out of our way to soak it up, especially in the summertime. Whenever there is a stretch of gloomy days we yearn for the day that we will be able to go outside and get all the sunshine we can. The sun makes us feel good, has health benefits, and illuminates everything making it glow golden and bright. In addition to soaking up the Sun we need to continue to soak up the “Son” of God, our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus tells us, “you are the light of the world”-Mat 5:14. When we pray, forgive one another, attend Divine Services, we soak in our Lord and then we radiate his light to the world!

“For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.”- Psalm 36:9
Each week our Archdiocese Youth Office puts out activities on this theme.
Check it out at Goarch.org

New Goya Officers

Recently, our GOYA held their elections via zoom. We would like to introduce and congratulate all of our Officers for the 2020-2021 Ecclesiastical Year!

President- Angela Marse, Vice President- Anastasia Coclin
Treasurer- George Grammas, Recording Secretary- Yiannis Fotopoulos
Corresponding Secretary- Thea Marse, Social Media/Photographer- Chris Lambros
Dear Philoptochos Sisters,

I am very hopeful we will be together soon and share fellowship on our church grounds. In the meanwhile, I have been corresponding with our Metropolis President about various information she needs to have completed for our upcoming virtual National Convention in August 21st—22nd. I will forward information on as it is received.

Our good news to share is that in calculating, we have gleaned from our talks and calculating the number of meals we have provided through the Interfaith Food Ministry. We went through the food items we provide, times the number of family’s we service and since January 1, 2019 until June 30, 2020 we have provided over 60,000 meals for the needy. Thank you for all these many years of support both financially and physically.

I am planning a board meeting during the month of August and we will discuss a plan to start our year. On my agenda is having a food drive drop off on designated times for we are just barely keeping up with the demand. I need to know your thoughts on what you are hoping we can accomplish during these unprecedented times.

Please note we have members who have done an outstanding job of keeping in touch with our patient from Greece, Georgia Koutla. She will be leaving for Greece hopefully in August and we will have a report shared with you after that time. We cannot thank those of you who have gone above and beyond the call to help out that family.

Our donation of socks and hand lotion to the Hellenic Nursing Home will be delivered in July by Betty Ann Andriotis. Thank you for your time in doing this.

If there is anything your Philoptochos chapter can help you out with, please let our priests or myself know.

Marianne Phelan
### Continued Listing of Graduates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>School Graduating From</th>
<th>Future Plan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alexis Arsenis</td>
<td>Bryant Univ.</td>
<td>Assoc. Financial Analyst at Fidelity Investments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian J. Soucy</td>
<td>URI/BS in Business Administration</td>
<td>Health &amp; Insurance License Financial Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicholas A. Soucy</td>
<td>URI/BA in Psychology/BS in Kinesiology</td>
<td>Employed @ South Coast Collaborative, to pursue masters in Special Ed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

May God Bless you with a Successful Future, Happiness and many Opportunities

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**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."

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- Robert A. Nardolillo, Sr., Founder
- Robert A. Nardolillo, Jr.
- Angelo M. Nardolillo
- Robert A. Nardolillo, Jr.
- Robert A. Nardolillo, Jr.
- Angelo M. Nardolillo, Jr.
- Anthony A. Nardolillo
- Anthony A. Nardolillo

- Thomas M. Nardolillo
- Jeffrey D. Wilson
- John K. Nardolillo, Jr.
- James J. Andrade
- Karen Code
- Office Manager

**1278 Park Avenue Cranston, RI 02910 (401) 942-1220**

**1111 Boston Neck Road Narragansett, RI 02882 (401) 789-6300**
12th Annual Annunciation Golf Tournament
Sunday, August 30, 2020 @ 1:30pm
Valley Country Club, Warwick, RI

We hope everyone is doing well during these difficult and trying times. As we continue to move towards regaining some normalcy in our lives, we are pleased to announce that our annual golf tournament is back on schedule for August. Please join us for a fun filled day of golf and fellowship with family and friends for the 12th Annual Annunciation Golf Tournament at Valley Country Club.

As always, the proceeds from this event will benefit both the Church of the Annunciation as well as the Interfaith Food Bank.

This fundraising event takes on additional importance this year, as many of the church's fundraisers had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. If you have never participated in past years, we encourage you to make this year your first! And if you are not a golfer, please consider supporting the church through the many sponsorship opportunities.

Thank you

For Tournament or sponsorship information,
Please contact Dennis Sampalis (401-529-7054, dsampalis@aol.com).
Peter Manis (617-930-0099, pxm712@ymail.com).
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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
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Susan M. Tasca, Funeral Director
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Email: melissa.perdikakis@gmail.com

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This year we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the canonization of Saint Herman of Alaska, the patron saint of North America, and one of the greatest modern missionaries of our time.

As a young boy, Saint Herman loved going to church and prayed every day. When he was a teenager, he felt a calling to become a monk, so he went to live at the Holy Trinity-Sergius Monastery. The young monk found a painful cancerous sore on his neck. Instead of going to the doctor, Saint Herman went to his cell and prayed with warm tears to the Mother of God asking her to heal him. When he slept, the Theotokos appeared to him in a dream and the next morning, he was healed and confirmed his devotion to Christ.

After five or six years, Saint Herman moved to Valaam Monastery, located on a large island in the middle of Lake Ladoga near modern-day Finland. He studied the church, learned how to care for the sick, ministered to the poor and needy, and prayed for the dying ones. Abbot Nazarius selected a mission team to join Russian fur traders on a journey to Alaska and bring the message of Jesus Christ to the native people. He chose Saint Herman to join them. Saint Herman accepted the call of missions and set off to Alaska.

It took them a year to arrive at Kodiak, Alaska. Saint Herman and the other missionaries traveled 7300 miles by foot and boat. This was the longest journey in Orthodox missionary history. They thanked God for keeping them safe and went out to share the message of Jesus. The missionaries built schools, churches, and baptized thousands of the native people, known as Aleuts. The Aleuts welcomed Saint Herman and the missionaries. Over the years, the missionaries endured hunger, cold, and mockery in their efforts to share the teachings of Jesus Christ with the people of Alaska. The lives of some of the missionaries were lost, some lost faith, and others passed away, but the Lord permitted Father Herman to labor the longest.

Father Herman loved the native people the Aleuts, and defended them before governors and fur traders who abused and forced them into slave work. He nursed and visited the sick, prayed for those who were dying, and comforted those who lost loved ones. He shared the teachings and messages of Christ. His teachings respected and found fulfillment of their native customs and traditions. Above all, Father Herman especially loved the Aleut children and would often bake cookies and biscuits for them. They started calling him "Apa" which means grandfather. He took care of the orphaned and set up a school for them.

Those who knew Saint Herman would describe him as a simple monk who was meek, kind, gentle, always with a pleasant smile, humble, and quiet. He wore a deerskin shirt, a faded cassock and boots. Around his body, he carried a sixteen-pound cross every day, like the desert fathers, to show his humility before God. He worked, leading services, helping the native people, and struggling to be like Christ. Saint Herman would say, "From this day. From this hour. From this minute. Let us love God above all and fulfill his Holy Will."

Later in life, Saint Herman made his new home on Spruce Island, a small island covered with forest. Spruce Island reminded him of the beloved Valaam Monastery, so he named it "New Valaam." For his first whole summer, he dug a cave in the ground with his hands and started a garden. By winter a cell was built nearby to keep him warm. He lived there alone for forty years where he prayed and carried out his missionary work. People would often ask him, "How do you manage to live alone in the forest? Don't you ever get lonesome?" He would reply, "No, I am not here alone! God is here, as God is everywhere. The Holy Angels are here. With whom is it better to talk to, with people or the Angels? Most certainly with Angels."

Many people knew Saint Herman as a wonderworker and told miraculous stories of his life. His disciple Gerasim witnessed him carry a log so heavy that it normally would have taken four men to carry. Another time there was a flood on the island and it was threatened by a great wave. Saint Herman took an icon of the Theotokos, placed it on the beach and prayed to the Mother of God. The wave never passed the holy icon.

On December 13, 1837, at the age of 81, Saint Herman fell asleep in Lord. His face was filled with a radiant light and nearby inhabitants saw a pillar of light rising about his home on Spruce Island where he was buried. On August 9, 1970, he was officially canonized as an American Saint. He was a true and living example of our faith. Let us follow in his footsteps and give our whole life to Jesus Christ. O, Holy Saint Herman of Alaska, pray unto God for us!

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:10)

OCMC is the official international missions agency of the Assembly of Bishops. http://www.ocmc.org
August—Mid-September 2020
Divine Services (year round) Orthros (morning prayer) 8:15 am / Liturgy 9:30 am

Sat—Aug 1- DORMITION LENT BEGINS—DEXAPENTAUGOUSTOS
- Paraklesis Service (Supplications) - 6PM

Sun Aug 2 - Sun of 8th Matthew / Removal of Relics 1st Martyr & Archdeacon Stephen
Mon Aug 3- VCS (Vacation Church School)- “On Line” - all week (9:30am—10:45am)
- Paraklesis Service (Supplications) - 6PM

Wed Aug 5- Great Vespers (grape blessing) - Eve of Transfiguration—6PM
Thu Aug 6- TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST—a.m. services as usual—
- with blessing of grapes / VCS participants to attend in-person

Fri Aug 7 - Paraklesis Service (Supplications) - 6PM

Sun Aug 9- Sun of 9th Matthew / Apostle Matthias / Psoes of Egypt
Mon Aug 10 — VJ Day—OFFICE IS CLOSED
- Paraklesis Service (Supplications) - 6PM
Wed Aug 12- Paraklesis Service (Supplications) - 6PM

Fri Aug 14- Pre- Feast Orthros & Liturgy for the Dormition of Mary
Fri Aug 14- Great Vespers-Eve of Dormition (in Pawtucket) - 7PM
Sat Aug 15- Dormition of the Theotokos (KOIMISIS)- at usual morning hours

Sun Aug 16- Sun of 10th Matthew / Holy Mandilion of Christ— Icon not made by hands
MEMORIAL: Andrew Mitrelis—6 months

Tue Aug 18- Parish Council— 7:30PM
Fri-Sat / Aug 21-22: Virtual National Philoptochos Convention

Sun Aug 23- Sun of 11th Matthew / Apodosis Dormition / Martyr Loupos
MEMORIAL: Lefkothea (Theodosiou) Kidd- 1 yr
Sat Aug 29- Beheading of John the Baptist-usual morning hours— Strict Fast Day

Sun Aug 30- Sun of 12th Matthew / Alexander, John & Paul, Patriarchs CP
- Golf Tournament at Valley Country Club—1:30pm Tee-Time
Mon Aug 31- All Schools open on site—First Day back inside the Schools for 2020-2021

September
Sun Sept 6- Sun of 13th Matthew / Miracle of Archangel Michael at Colassai
Mon Sept 7- Labor Day—PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Tue Sept 8- NATIVITY OF MARY—services per usual morning hours
Wed-Thurs / Sept 9-10: Virtual Archdiocese Clergy/Laity Congress

Sun Sept 13- Sunday Before the Holy Cross /
Mon Sept 14- ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS— services per usual morning hours
WE RENOUNCE, CENSURE AND CONDEMN RACISM, THAT IS RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, ETHNIC FEUDS, HATRED AND DISSENSIONS WITHIN THE CHURCH OF CHRIST, AS CONTRARY TO THE TEACHING OF THE GOSPEL AND THE HOLY CANONS OF OUR BLESSED FATHERS.

1872 Synod of Constantinople