



ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Monthly Bulletin

MARCH 2013

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THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE THEOTOKOS



**Due Date for
April Bulletin
March 15, 2013**

Church Services

Saturdays	Great Vespers	6:00pm
Sundays	Orthros	8:45am
	Divine Liturgy	10:00am
Weekdays	Orthros	9:00am
	Divine Liturgy	10:00am
Σαββατα	Μεγας Εσπερινος	6:00μμ
Κυριακες	Ορθρος	8:45πμ
	Θεια Λειτουργια	10:00πμ
Καθημερινες	Ορθρος	9:00πμ
	Θεια Λειτουργια	10:00πμ

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church

Reverend Presbyter Anthony Evangelatos

George Stavropoulos, Chanter - Heidi Mason, Choir Director - Ona Calogrias, Organist

PARISH COUNCIL

Executive Board

John Karolemeas, President

Stephen Passias, 1st Vice President Administration

John Papadopoulos, Vice President of House & Grounds

Ethel Savas, Treasurer

Nicholas Alexiou, Assistant Treasurer

Joanna Stellakis, Secretary

Members of the Board

Jon Buterbaugh, Jr.	George P. Costas	Charles Efremides
Tulla Giannaros	Steve Lainas	Thomas A. Sedell
Katerina Tsiantoulas	Philip Tsionis	Avraam Vardaxis

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Eleni Stamboulidis	Vasiliki Syrniotis	Sophia Terzakis
Tina Tsarhopoulos		

EMAILS

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Demetra Orfanos, office mgr	office@annunciationbrockton.org

OTHER MINISTRIES

Sunday School

Tina Boutas Dina Coon

Rhoda Economos

Greek School

Tina Boutas Sofia Trikalas

Konstantinia Goudanas

GOYA

Jon Buterbaugh

Jr. GOYA

Suzanne Barrus

JOY & HOPE

Irena Mroz

Paula Tsitsopoulos

Adult Greek Classes

Arthur Krikis

Koliva

Ladies Philoptochos

Coffee Hour

Bertha Weinberg

Shut-In Visitations

Soultana Kotsiopoulos

Basketball

Stephen Passias

Dance Group

Jon & Penny Buterbaugh

Junior Choir

Corinne & Heidi Mason

Oratorical Festival

Rhoda Economos

Bookstore

Joanna Stellakis, Stephen Savas,
Linda Sakelaris Poole

FROM FATHER ANTHONY



The following is taken from the March 2005 edition of "Christian Light," the monthly newsletter of the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in Pawtucket, RI

The Sacrament of Penance and Confession of Sins

Penance is a sacramental act through which we are reconciled with God when sin has severed our relationship with Him and the Church. The Sacrament of Penance takes us back to our Baptism when we were cleansed of our sins and we became members of the Body of Christ, the Church. In the Tradition of the Holy Orthodox Church, Penance is indeed considered a return to our baptism when we were initiated into the fullness of life in communion with God.

There are three conditions that make the Sacrament of Penance a living and life-giving experience for the person seeking to re-establish full communion with God through His Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who died on the cross for the expiation of our sins. The first condition is Repentance, or Contrition, that is, feeling sorrow for our sins. Repentance must come from the depths of our hearts. Without the true feeling of sorrow, Penance is no more than a mere ritual formality, and indeed hypocrisy. The second condition is Confession, an open and full acknowledgment of our sins. "First declare your iniquities and you will be justified" (Isaiah 43:26). To be worthy of God's forgiveness, we must confess our mistakes sincerely and from the heart with love and with faith. It is a grave (mortal) sin when we knowingly hide a sin and refuse to confess it.

The third condition of the Sacrament of Confession is the Absolution through which the penitent receives God's forgiveness through Christ

and His successors on earth, the priests. The absolution may involve what is often called an act of penance as reparation for sins committed. The act or acts of penance designated by the Church depends on the number and severity of the sins. The penitent must accept and fulfill the assigned acts of penance willingly and cheerfully, not as a punishment but as a way of rebuilding one's spiritual and moral life, which was weakened by sin. Acts of penance may include a longer period of daily prayer, fasting, clearly understood and focused sacrifices, defined works of charity, and in the case of very grave sins, suspension of Holy Communion for a period of time.

Looking at the Sacrament of Penance as a journey from a state of broken relationship with God caused by sin to a state of reconciliation of the penitent with God and his fellow human beings, the last and ultimate act of the penitent is the reception of Holy Communion, the Body and Blood of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, which He offered to all humanity for all times to cleanse us from our sins and to restore our broken relationship with our Heavenly Father.

Let us in the coming weeks reflect on our relationship with Almighty God and our brothers and sisters in Christ, and come forward and confess our sins humbly and with repentance so that we may be reconciled with God and each other. Then we can worthily receive Him in the Blessed Sacrament of Holy Communion during Holy Week and Pascha.

"If you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift."

(Matt. 5:23-24)

SPIRITUAL WISDOM

The following is taken from *The Lenten Spring* by Fr. Thomas Hopko, SVS Press 1983.

O Lord and Master of My Life

The lenten prayer par excellence in the Orthodox Church is the prayer of St. Ephraim of Syria. It is chanted at every lenten service, sometimes more than once. For many people, the spirit of Lent, the very breath of the lenten spring, is contained in this brief prayer.

O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power and idle talk; But grant rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience and love to Thy servant. Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own transgression and not judge my brother, for blessed art Thou, unto ages of ages. Amen.

The prayer of St. Ephraim is translated into English in many different ways. Almost all mistranslate the first sentence, as we have quoted above. The prayer does not say “take from me” the spirit of sloth. It says rather “do not give to me.” This small point is an important one. It reminds us that everything is from God, good things and bad. It underscores the critical fact that even the evil spirits, and not only the good, are in God’s hands. It emphasizes the truth that God is the God of everything: light and darkness, good and evil, angels and devils, life and death. All things are in God’s hands, and He is the Lord over all

My Soul, My Soul – Arise!

The lenten season is a time for labor and effort. It is a season when we strive to energize ourselves, to wake ourselves up, to motivate ourselves to spiritual feats. It is a time when we declare a conscious struggle against sloth, and beg the Lord not to give us this evil spirit, but to take it from us when we are caught in its snares.

My soul, my soul – arise! Why are you sleeping? The end is at hand; destruction hangs over you. Come again to your senses that you may be spared by Christ our God, who is everywhere, filling all things.

- Kontakion of the Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

...A person who loves the Lord and lives with Him will never be idle. He will always be working. He will never be spiritually weary in well-doing, for he does not labor by his own efforts and powers but by the grace and strength of his Master. Thus, a person who is spiritually exhausted is the gravest of sinners...

During Great Lent we work to wake up and to overcome our weariness. We labor to come alive and to conquer our laziness. We strive to come to our senses and to displace the spirit of sloth with the uncreated energies of God which are given through His Spirit to those who love Him...



PREPARING FOR PRESANCTIFIED LITURGIES

Because of the heightened spiritual focus during Great Lent, many of the faithful choose to receive Holy Communion at the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts.

For those who plan on receiving at the Wednesday evening liturgies, it is permissible to have breakfast and a light noontime meal, and then fast from all food and drink until the liturgy. For growing children, it may be necessary to offer a lenten snack after school to hold them (nuts, peanut butter, fruit, etc.). The Church allows this through compassion for those who work or study during the week. Needless to say, whether one is fasting strictly or not during Lent, any meals taken on the day one will commune at a Presanctified Liturgy *should be strictly Lenten*. For more detailed information on the Lenten fast, please see the specific bulletin entry in this edition.

***“The sun knows the time of its setting.
You establish darkness and it is night.
How great are your works,
O Lord! In wisdom you have wrought them all.”***

SPIRITUAL WISDOM

GREAT LENT BEGINS 3/18

Since many of our brethren seek to follow the fast of Great Lent to the best of their ability, we offer the following traditional and widely accepted guidelines (also illustrated on your Archdiocesan calendars). Not everyone can follow such a fast, especially people with certain health concerns, growing children, expectant and nursing mothers, etc. In all cases, our fasting should include *intensified prayer, increased church attendance, and almsgiving and other charitable works*. In order to celebrate Holy Pascha with a pure and cleansed heart and soul, our Lenten ascetic struggle should also lead us to *repentance and Holy Confession*.

Fasting Guidelines of Great Lent

- **Cheesefare Week:** The last day for meat consumption until Holy Pascha is *Meatfare (Judgment) Sunday, 3/10*. Dairy products and eggs may be consumed through *Cheesefare (Forgiveness) Sunday, 3/17*. Some sources state that fish is also allowed during this week since there is no restriction on dairy and eggs.
- **Weekdays of Lent:** Strict fast from all animal products (including fish), all alcoholic beverages, and olive oil (vegetable oil may be substituted if desired).
- **Weekends of Lent:** Wine and olive oil are permitted.
- **Note:** Throughout the Fast, shellfish is permitted daily.

In Appreciation

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to George Giomakis for a labor of love, along with his loving assistant, his wife Popi. For the consecration of our church, two families had donated various colored fabrics and trim for our icon stands. George and Popi have donated their precious free time to create beautiful coverings for the icon stands, to be used accordingly for the various liturgical seasons of the year. May this be a blessing to them and their family.

We also wish to express our gratitude to Irena Mroz and Paula Tsitsopoulos, our JOY/HOPE advisors, for a job well done on this year's *Have a Heart* luncheon. Besides the two co-chairs, we would also like to thank the many volunteers, *especially* our parish youth who were involved with many aspects of the luncheon, including our dance group which performed so beautifully. May God bless all of you for this annual philanthropic endeavor to benefit the *Hellenic Cardiac Fund*.

Your Archdiocesan Calendar

Each year our friends at Russell & Pica Funeral Home donate the cost of our beautiful Archdiocesan calendars, for which we are very grateful. If you never have, please take a few minutes to peruse your calendar to see all the valuable information provided daily. Not only are the major saints of the day listed, but you also are provided with that day's Scripture readings, as well as fasting guidelines. Many parishioners constantly ask when we are or are not fasting. All your answers are right in the calendar, so let's all refer to this most useful tool on a daily basis! For your convenience, you can find the daily readings and a short write-up on the saint of the day on the Archdiocese's website: goarch.org.

Restrictions on Meetings & Events During Lent

Please remember that the first week of Great Lent is handled the same way as Holy Week. Due to the daily services and intensified spiritual focus of the week, ***there cannot be any meetings or events scheduled, not even during the morning hours***. Our focus as a parish during the first week should only be *spiritual*. From the ***second*** week on, this restriction will only apply to ***Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings, as well as Friday mornings***.

Lenten Suppers

*As we did last year – which was well-received – we will continue with the Lenten Suppers following each Wednesday evening liturgy, sponsored by various parish organizations/ministries. We will begin with the Youth Ministry Team on the first Wednesday of Great Lent, 3/20, followed by the Philoptochos on 3/27, and the Parish Council on 4/3. **The three remaining Wednesdays of April are available for the Choir, Sunday & Greek Schools, or other organizations to participate.***

All that is required for the sponsoring group is to coordinate an adequate amount of Lenten food and beverages. Please refer to the Lenten fasting guidelines in this edition for guidance in meal coordination.

A METROPOLIS CLERGY BROTHERHOOD MESSAGE FROM FATHER CLEOPAS STRONGYLIS, ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL, BOSTON

Having already entered Great Lent, the Church once again asks us to rededicate ourselves to meet the challenges of this life, striving for the heavenly and incorruptible crown of virtue, which our Lord will grant us. Christ Himself cleared the path towards our deification by taking on human nature through His ineffable mercy, although He Himself was God! This **good news** serves as the basis of the Gospel, and finds completion in our Lord's triumphant Resurrection.

Amidst this month's many holy services, there shines a truly special holiday that marks our faith and the history of the Greek people. On March 25th, the Christian world celebrates the Annunciation of the Theotokos, and the Greek nation celebrates its independence from four centuries under the Ottoman yoke. This double holiday affords us the opportunity to consider the meaning and concept of Freedom.

The words of the hymnographer, "*Wherever God wills, the order of nature is defeated...*" attempt to illustrate the important role of freedom in our faith. The search for this very freedom has heavily colored Greek history and culture from its inception.

The message of the Archangel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary may have appeared *irrational* to human ears, but it became and remains **good tidings** for all mankind. These news were crucial and decisive – especially for the ever uneasy Greek people. God Himself accepts to take on the nature of his creation, for the sole sake of His manic love for the human race. This ecstatic love will lead Him to accept the most disgraceful of deaths, in order to ensure freedom (which through Christ was bestowed upon human nature) from the laws of nature and biological order of life, through His life-giving Resurrection!

With this in mind, let us complete the fast of Great Lent all together, so we can reach the joy of the Resurrection. In our common struggle, let us all place the changing of our mode of existence from the **individual** to the **personal** as our chief goal!

Fr. Cleopas Strongylis

Food for Thought

Often, when children play in competitive games, one will call out "that's a *do over!*" Haven't we all wished for that chance to undo the past and start over? Repentance offers us this new beginning.

When we fall away from God, we have removed ourselves from His communion – with Him and with other Christians. We have *excommunicated* ourselves. To re-enter communion with God is the on-going activity of all Christians. We fall away daily in some way or another. No one is exempt.

We are telling God that we have *changed our mind* about our past direction and want to be back in communion with him. The Greek work for repentance, *metanoia*, implies a very deep change in the way we see ourselves, our world, and our relationship to God. To change our mind in repentance is the starting point in our Lenten journey. We leave behind regret as we move toward hope.

Repentance is not a single action but an attitude, a frame of mind. Think back over your life of things which you regret having said or done – hurtful, inconsiderate, selfish, deceitful. Think also of those things which you have done which may not have directly affected others, but which you know to be wrong according to the teachings of the Church. Bring them to mind as if they were occurring right now. Think of how it would have been if you had acted differently.

Take this regret and turn it into repentance. Acknowledge that you have offended another person or the Church, and in doing so you have offended God. If we are to be forgiven by God, He requires of us that we also forgive one another. For many of us, this is the most difficult aspect of repentance and confession. Yet we say it each time we pray the Lord's Prayer, "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."

Just as God's love for us is personal, so must ours be for Him. As the Christian grows from child to adult, his or her personal response to God becomes crucial. This personal response is the act of confession.

From: "Our Lenten Journey: Preparing for the Passion & Resurrection of our Lord," Department of Stewardship, Outreach & Evangelism, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

March 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Please see your illustrated Archdiocesan Calendar for daily Scripture readings and fasting guidelines.</p> <p>Also, please refer to the bulletin entries regarding Great Lent for further guidance on the Fast.</p>					1	2 Great Vespers 6 pm
3 Sunday of the Prodigal Son Του Ασωτου	4 Fr. Anthony on vacation through 3/11	5	6 No Vespers or Class	7	8	9 Sat. of Souls Orthros & Lit. Ψυχοσαββατον (visiting priest) No Vespers
10 Sunday of the Last Judgment (Meatfare-last day of meat) Της Αποκρεω (visiting priest)	11	12 Parish Council 6 pm	13 <u>1st OPA</u> gathering 2 - 4 pm Small Vespers 7 pm followed by adult relig. ed.	14	15	16 Memory of the Ascetic Saints Orthros & Lit. Των ψυχων των εν ασκησει λαμψαντων Gr. Vespers 6 pm
17 Sunday of Forgiveness (Cheesefare-last day eggs & dairy) Της Τυρινης Oratorical Fest. Vespers of Forgiveness- 5 pm	18 PURE MON (LENT BEGINS) Orthros 10 am Gr. Compline w/1st part of Gr. Canon 7 pm ΚΑΘΑΡΑ ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ	19 Gr. Compline w/2nd part of Gr. Canon 7 pm	20 9th Hour- 5:15 pm, Presanctified Lit. 5:30 pm, followed by Lenten supper 3rd part of Gr. Canon after supper	21 Gr. Compline w/4th part of Gr. Canon 7 pm	22 9th Hr. 9:45 am Presanctified Liturgy 10 am Salutations to the Theotokos 7 pm	23 St. Theodore of Tyre (remembrance of miracle of kollyva) Orthros & Lit. Gr. Vespers 6 pm
24 Sunday of Orthodoxy Της Ορθοδοξιας Gr. Vespers of the Annunciation - 7 pm	25 Annunciation of Theotokos Orthros & Lit. PARISH FEAST	26	27 9th Hour- 5:15 pm, Presanctified Lit. 5:30 pm, followed by Lenten supper	28	29 9th Hr. 9:45 am Presanctified Liturgy 10 am Salutations to the Theotokos 7 pm	30 Gr. Vespers 6 pm
31 Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas Του Αγ. Γρηγοριου του Παλαμα Lenten Luncheon						

SACRAMENTS, DONATIONS

BAPTISMS

2/24 Dimitrios, son of E. Russell and Isabel Eonas;
godparents, Nicole and Ana Inguanti.

FUNERALS

2/12 Chris Tsaganis
2/19 Ourania Sarantos

DONATIONS

- \$500 toward cleaning and repair of chandeliers, anonymous
- Decoration of the Icon of Panayia, First Salutations, Stephen Savas
- Alexander Stratoudakis, \$60

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

- Thomas, Theodora, & Fotini Psilekaris, \$200, in memory of Demetrios & Ourania Psilekaris
- Christy P. Mihos, \$200, in memory of Marie Mihos
- Christos & Elizabeth Tsianakas & Family, \$500, in memory of Efthalia Mylonas
- Frank & Madeline Mylonas, \$500, in memory of Efthalia Mylonas
- Mr. & Mrs. John Giannenas, \$100, in memory of Efthalia Mylonas
- Steve & Katerina Angelis & Family, \$100, in memory of Efthalia Mylonas
- Eleni & Arthur Karaliolios, \$50, in memory of Efthalia Mylonas
- In memory of Christos Tsaganis, \$1,970
- Annunciation Ladies Philoptochos, \$1,000, in memory of Christos Tsaganis
- The Epstein & Rubenstein Families of Horizon Beverage Company, \$1,000, in memory of Christos Tsaganis
- Nikoletta & Maria Kallis, \$20, in memory of Madeline Richwein, mother of Mrs. Adrienne Spyropoulos
- In memory of Ourania Sarantos, \$130

ROOF REPAIR DONATIONS

- Mr. & Mrs. Philip Tsionis, \$1,000
- Fotine Boutas, \$1,000
- Anastacia G. Ellard, \$1,000
- Nick & Samira Giannaros, \$1,000

Open to me the gates of repentance, O Giver of Life, for my soul rises early to pray toward your holy temple, bearing the temple of my body all defiled. But in Your compassion, purify me by the loving kindness of Your mercy. - from Sunday matins of the Triodion period

GREEK MESSAGE

Η Ιερά Αρχιεπισκοπή Αμερικής Εκταμίευσε \$200.000 δολάρια προς τον Οργανισμό IOCC για την Θέρμανση Κοινωνικών Ιδρυμάτων στην Ελλάδα

7 Φεβρουαρίου 2013

ΝΕΑ ΥΟΡΚΗ – Η Ελληνική Ορθόδοξη Αρχιεπισκοπή Αμερικής εκταμίευσε από το ειδικό **Ταμείο Αρωγής για τον Ελληνικό Λαό** το ποσό των 200 χιλιάδων δολαρίων προς τον **Διεθνή Οργανισμό Χριστιανικής Φιλανθρωπίας (IOCC)** για την επείγουσα διανομή πετρελαίου θέρμανσης σε 30 κοινωνικά ιδρύματα στην Αθήνα, στην Βοιωτία και σε 14 νομούς της Βορείου Ελλάδος. Το πρόγραμμα αυτό, το οποίο βρίσκεται σε εφαρμογή από τον περασμένο Δεκέμβριο, θα εξασφαλίσει την προμήθεια αρωγών καυσίμων μέχρι το τέλος του χειμώνα για την θέρμανση των ως άνω ιδρυμάτων τα οποία περιθάλπουν 1.500 περίπου ανθρώπους, παιδιά, ενήλικες και ηλικιωμένους και πραγματοποιείται διά μέσου του οργανισμού IOCC σε συνεργασία με το μη κυβερνητικό, μη κερδοσκοπικό οργανισμό Κοινωνικών Υπηρεσιών «**Αποστολή**» της Ι. Αρχιεπισκοπής Αθηνών.

«Είναι μια προσφορά και έκφραση αληθινής αγάπης και ενδιαφέροντος των πιστών της Ελληνορθόδοξης Αρχιεπισκοπής Αμερικής προς τους αδελφούς μας εν Κυρίω που υποφέρουν από την οικονομική κρίση που μαστιάζει την Ελλάδα και την Ευρώπη», είπε ο **Σεβασμιώτατος Αρχιεπίσκοπος Αμερικής κ. Δημήτριος**. «Προσφέροντας τα απαραίτητα καύσιμα για τη θέρμανση φιλικών ιδρυμάτων διά μέσου έμπιστων ανθρωπιστικών και φιλικών οργανισμών μεγιστοποιούμε τη βοήθεια για αυτούς που έχουν άμεση ανάγκη».

Η Ελληνική Ορθόδοξη Αρχιεπισκοπή Αμερικής μαζί με την Φιλόπτωχο Αδελφότητα της Αρχιεπισκοπής έχει προσφέρει συνολικά βοήθεια που φτάνει το 1.2 εκατομμύρια δολάρια για την ανακούφιση των ανθρώπων που υποφέρουν από την δυσχερή οικονομική κατάσταση στην Ελλάδα.



Δήλωση της Αυτού Θειότητας Παναγιώτητος του Οικουμενικού Πατριάρχου κ.κ. Βαρθολομαίου 'Επί τη ανακοίνωση της παραίτησης του Πάπα Ρώμης Βενεδικτού ΙΣΤ'

11 Φεβρουαρίου 2013

Με λύπηνη πληροφορηθήμεν τήν απόφασιν τῆς Αυτοῦ Ἀγιότητος τοῦ Πάπα Βενεδικτοῦ νά παραιτηθῆ τοῦ Θρόνου του, διότι μέ τήν σοφίαν καί τήν πείραν του θά ἤμποροῦσε νά προσφέρῃ ἀκόμη πολλά εἰς τήν Ἐκκλησίαν καί εἰς τόν κόσμον.

Ὁ Πάπας Βενέδικτος ἔβαλεν ἀνεξίτηλον τήν σφραγίδα του εἰς τήν ζωήν καί τήν ἱστορίαν τῆς Ρωμαιοκαθολικῆς Ἐκκλησίας ὄχι μόνον μέ τήν σύντομον παπασύνην του ἀλλά καί μέ τήν ὄλην μακράν προσφοράν του ὡς θεολόγου καί Ἱεράρχου τῆς Ἐκκλησίας του, καί μέ τό πανθομολογούμενον κῆρος του.

Τά συγγράμματά του θά ὀμιλοῦν ἐπί μακρόν διὰ τήν βαθεῖαν θεολογικήν του κατάρτισιν, διὰ τήν γνώσιν τῶν Πατέρων τῆς ἀδιαίρετου Ἐκκλησίας, διὰ τήν ἐπαφήν του μέ τήν σύγχρονον πραγματικότητα, διὰ τό ζωηρόν ἐνδιαφέρον του διὰ τά προβλήματα τοῦ ἀνθρώπου.

Ἡμεῖς οἱ Ὀρθόδοξοι θά τόν τιμῶμεν πάντοτε ὡς φίλον τῆς Ἐκκλησίας μας καί πιστόν ὑπηρέτην τῆς ἱεραῆς ὑποθέσεως τῆς τῶν πάντων ἐνώσεως καί θά χαίρωμεν πληροφορούμενοι διὰ τήν καλήν του ὑγείαν καί τήν παραγωγικήν θεολογικήν του ἐργασίαν. Προσωπικῶς θά ἐνθυμούμεθα μέ συγκίνησιν τήν ἐπίσειψίν του εἰς τήν ἔδραν τοῦ Οἰκουμενικοῦ Πατριαρχείου πρὸ ἐξαιτίας καί πλέον, καθὼς καί τὰς πολλὰς συναντήσεις καί τήν καλήν συνεργασίαν πού εἶχομεν κατὰ τήν διάρκειαν τῆς πρωθιεραρχικῆς του διακονίας.

Εὐχόμεθα ἀπὸ τοῦ Φαναρίου ὁ Κύριος νά ἀναδείξῃ ἄξιον διάδοχόν του ἐπί κεφαλῆς τῆς ἀδελφῆς Ἐκκλησίας τῆς Ρώμης καί νά συνεχισθῆ καί μετ' αὐτοῦ ἡ κοινή πορεία μας πρὸς τήν τῶν πάντων ἔνωσιν εἰς δόξαν Θεοῦ.

ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΙΕΡΩΝ ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΩΝ ΜΕΓΑΛΗΣ ΤΕΣΣΑΡΑΚΟΣΤΗΣ

<u>Δευτέρα:</u>	Μεγα Αποδειπνον – 7:00 μμ
<u>Τετάρτη:</u>	9η Ωρα – 5:15 μμ, Προηγιασμενη Λειτουργια – 5:30 μμ (ακολουθει δειπνο)
<u>Παρασκευή:</u>	9η Ωρα – 9:45 πμ, Προηγιασμενη Λειτουργια – 10:00 πμ Χαιρετισμοι της Θεοτοκου – 7:00 μμ (μεχρι 19/4)
<u>Σάββατο:</u>	Μεγας Εσπερινος – 6:00 μμ

ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΕΞΟΜΟΛΟΓΗΣΕΩΣ

- Καθε Δευτερα μετα το Αποδειπνο
- Καθε Παρασκευη μετα τους Χαιρετισμους
- Καθε Σαββατο μετα τον Εσπερινον (ισχυει ολο το χρονο)
- Ωρες γραφειου με ραντεβου (ισχυει ολο το χρονο)

GREEK SCHOOL



ANNUNCIATION GREEK SCHOOL



Ελληνικό Σχολείο Ευαγγελισμού

Dear families and friends of Annunciation's Greek School,

As we are in the middle of the month of February, it can be challenging to get through the cold, wintry days. Whenever we find ourselves feeling the winter blues, we should remind ourselves of the Greek expression <<Ο Φλεβάρης κι αν φλεβίσει, καλοκαίρι θα μυρίσει.>> Even if February is cold, spring is around the corner.

At this time in Greece, almond trees are in bloom and spring is literally around the corner, but for us living in Massachusetts we will have to wait a little while longer! :) Yet, despite the snow and the cold, it is with much joy to see that the students of the Greek School are educationally "blooming" as this is the time of year when the children are really showing their grasp on the material and everything is coming together.

Second Graders

- All students are working in pairs and practicing reading skills every Saturday.
- Using the Papaloizos text material, second-graders learn how to use the Greek oral and written language.
- Children enjoy childhood activities while being exposed to the Greek Language and Culture.
- Moreover, supplemental activities such as graphic organizers of Greek Traditional Foods, watching educational movies in Greek, are a great source in order to enrich the lessons.
- Second Grade reached Lesson 12 and children are working in

Third Graders

- Third grade students are reading stories from the Papaloizos books. To reinforce comprehension skills, the stories lend to teaching realism, drawing conclusions and story structure. We have reached lesson 14.
- Every Saturday students have a spelling test, so that we can see the development of their written language.
- This month, in Grammar students are taught the use and form of Present Continuous and Past Simple.

Ancient Greek History

- In the middle of this month, third graders started to learn about Ancient Greek History. From now on, the last thirty minutes of our Greek lesson will be devoted to Greek Mythology.
- It is very significant for the students at this grade to know about the beliefs of one of the oldest civilizations in the world.
- Through videos and discussions, we hope third grade students will acquire a glimpse of an older world, from which our ancestors came.

Sixth Graders

- These two months after the Christmas break have been busy months.
- We continued to work on the grammatical structure of a sentence and form the plural of all three genders in all cases.
- We also continued to enrich vocabulary in real-life situations, watching educational videos.
- We spent the past month working on our vocabulary and grammar through worksheets.
- In Grammar we conjugated verbs in all tenses and in our next chapter we will learn about the conjunctions.
- In Reading Book, we are discussing the attractions of Greece and mostly of Athens.

Reading Tips for Parents

Take turns reading a paragraph or a page then discuss the story in Greek with your child.

Every Saturday, children are assigned homework. Whether it is worksheets or reading in the textbook, homework is very important to your child's learning.

PARISH NEWS

Sunday School

Sunday school classes are held following Holy Communion.

March:

- March 3, classes
- March 10, classes
- March 17, classes
- March 24, Sunday of Orthodoxy, **classes start at 10:15 a.m.**

April:

- April 7, Sunday of the Holy Cross, **classes start at 10:15 a.m.**
- April 14, family worship
- April 21, classes
- April 28, **Palm Sunday**/family worship

2013 Calendar of Events

Annunciation Vespers and Philoptochos Reception	Sun, March 24
Lenten Luncheon	Sun, March 31
Greek Independence Day Parade	April 7
Spring General Assembly	Sun, April 14
169 Hungry Friends Dinner	Thurs, May 9
Philoptochos Food Festival	Sat-Sun, May 18-19
Sunday School Graduation	Sun, May 19
Greek School Graduation	Sun, June 2
Golf Tournament	Mon, July 8
Summer Picnic	Sun, Aug 18
Annual Food Festival	Thurs-Sun, Sep 19-22
Fall General Assembly	Sun, Nov 17
Parish Council Elections	Sun, Dec 8
Parish Council Oath of Office, Election of Officers	Sun, Dec 22

Remember Your Pledge for 2013!

Please do not forget to submit your 2013 Stewardship obligation.

Stewardships are the greatest source of income for our Church. Contact the Office with any questions.

Υπενθύμιση !

Αγαπητοί Ενορίτες,

Σας παρακαλούμε μη ξεχάσετε να αποτείλετε την ετήσια προσφορά σας για το παρόν (τούτο) το έτος 2013.

Η ετήσια προσφορά σας αποτελεί τη βασικότερη πηγή εισοδήματος για τη συντήρηση και τις καθημερινές ανάγκες της Εκκλησίας μας.

Σας ευχαριστούμε θερμά.

Parish Council Meeting Schedule for 2013

March 12	August 13
April 9	September 10
May 14	October 8
June 11	November 12
July (no meeting)	December 10

Consecration Albums Still Available

Albums commemorating the Consecration of our Church in 2010 are still available at the Office, particularly for those who made a generous donation. You may pick up your album Mon-Fri, between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Orthodox Observer

Be sure and contact the Office if you are not receiving the Orthodox Observer due to an address change so the correct information can be submitted to the Archdiocese.

BOOKSTORE

BOOKSTORE

We have Lenten items

- Lenten Service books, others
 - Lenten cookbooks
- Reasonable prices.*

We take donations. **Donate extra copies of Lenten books** to our **Lending Library**, for someone else to use this season.

Our Lending collection includes *Lives of the Saints*, *Orthodox history* or other details as well. Just sign out.

Free Item Basket

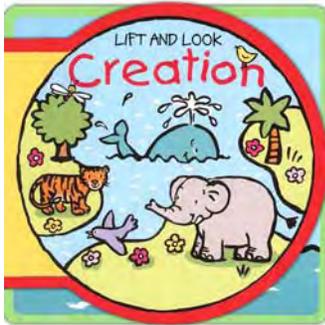
Basket of donated items, service books, prayer books other Orthodox items of interest.

Pocket prayer books, \$7, \$8

Booklets, \$2.50, *What Orthodox Christians Believe*, about prayer, fasting, confession.

God and You: A Personal Relationship with Christ, \$20

Icons, wood and plastic, variety of sizes and prices. Guardian Angels, The Trinity, Saints, Feast Days and more. Tiny folding icons offer privacy.



DVDs, hands-on books for children

Lift and Look, The Creation: Colorful, foam Bible stories, age 0-3, \$8.

My First Prayer Book for Toddlers, with simple words for young children.

For Young Adults—What is Life? Why are You Here? What is Your Reason for Living? \$20.

We raffle store items, sign up!

We also have gift certificates to the Bookstore, which can be a nice gift for a

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Koliva

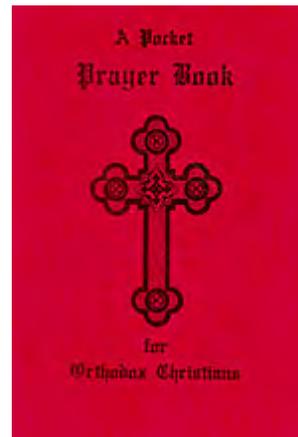
For Koliva, please call the church office at 508-559-0910. We would appreciate one week's notice in advance of the memorial service to prepare your koliva. The cost is \$85 and checks should be made payable to the Ladies Philoptochos Society.

Coffee Hour

If you are interested in sponsoring a coffee hour, please call Bertha Weinberg at 508-586-1030 or contact the Church office.

Shut In Visitations

Anyone who would like a visit from the ladies of Philoptochos, or knows of someone who would like some company, please contact our chair-lady Sultana Kotsiopoulos at 508-584-8338.



**Bookstore
Sale Item!**

Pocket Prayer Book
Only \$5

“The Father is my hope; the Son is my refuge; the Holy Spirit is my protector. O All-holy Trinity, glory to thee.”

Come and visit our store every Sunday after Church
Annunciationbrockton.bookstore@gmail.com

Metropolis of Boston Philoptochos

Third Annual

Lenten Retreat for Women

Fri-Sat, March 29-30, 2013

St. Methodios Retreat House

Contoocook, NH

Suggested Donation \$50

Includes one night lodging in the Retreat House,
three meals, and Retreat program.

For more information:

508-339-1455, barbaraorlando99@msn.com

617-571-8539, pjcondakes@comcast.net

2013 St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival Sunday, March 17

The 2013 St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival will be held on March 17 at our Church, in April for our District, in May at the Boston Metropolis, and in June at the Nationals, taking place in the Detroit Michigan Metropolis.

The Junior Division encompasses Grades 7-9 and the Senior Division includes Grades 10-12.

We will meet each Sunday after Divine Liturgy in the lounge area of our Church, to record, practice, and improve our speeches for each festival.

The St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival is a series of public speaking programs whose purpose is to give young people an opportunity to learn and speak about their beliefs, their Church, and their heritage. This stimulates enthusiasm and strengthens their understanding and appreciation about their identities as Greek Orthodox Christians.

YOUTH NEWS

GOYA News

- **Our monthly meeting for March will be on March 8. This will be a combined meeting and Fun Night. A reminder will be sent out to all GOYANs.**
- **New members are always welcome. Members must be in grades 6-12.**
- **We had a great time at our dance. Our fellow GOYANs from St. Catherine's church helped make our church dance fun.**
- **In April we will be going to the Greater Boston Food Bank. It will be on April 17 from 1-3pm. We will need parents/drivers to bring us there and back. Parents please let Jon or Suzanne know of your availability to help out.**
- **We hope to have a Lenten Lock-in the weekend before Easter. Last year we had a great turnout! We are hoping for the same. this year.**

GOYANs in the News

During his February vacation, Andreas Evangelatos and a team of 12 peers who are members of Infinity Volunteers traveled to the small village of Chevuru located in southeast India. Here they teamed up with the Association of Relief Volunteers (ARV), to take part in a unique home-building project for some of India's poorest people – the Dalits, or 'untouchables' as they are commonly referred to. They worked for 12 days side by side with the local families to help with the construction of 40 homes. The project Andreas assisted with was featured by CNN at the link below:

<http://edition.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/asiapcf/10/21/shelter.india/index.html?iref=allsearch>

Details of his trip to India are documented in the blog at www.indiainfinityvolunteers.blogspot.com

YOUTH NEWS

Youth Dancing Group



Our Upcoming practices are scheduled on the following Sundays, following the Divine Liturgy:

March 10

March 17

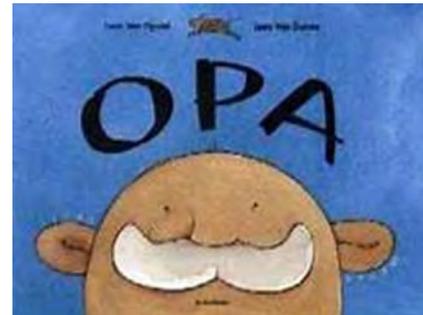
SAVE THE DATE – the Greek Independence Day parade is on Sunday, April 7, 2013!

As always, all children of our parish, ages 4-18, are welcome to join us!

JOY-HOPE



Thank you to all who participated in our Annual Have A Heart Luncheon. All the children did such a wonderful job! Details will follow in the next bulletin. We will also contact Joy and Hope members about our March meeting.



ΟΠΑ! Get Together

DATE:

WEDNESDAY,

MARCH 13, 2013

TIME: 2:00 - 4:00 PM

PLACE: CHURCH LOUNGE

Please join us

..... for the beginning of the OPA Group. This group will be open to the seniors and all members of our community. We will be organizing a time to get together and socialize on a monthly basis. We are looking for your suggestions to create an active agenda.

Παρακαλω ελατε

..... στη συναντηση μας για την εναρξη του ΟΠΑ Συμπλεγμα. Καλουμε τους συνταξιουχους και ολα τα μελη της κοινοτητας μας να απολαυσουμε μαζι ενα απογευμα.

Θα θελαμε τη βοηθεια σας για να δημιουργησετε αυτο το συλλογο με δραστηριοτητες που σας αρεσουν.



Brockton Mayor Linda M. Balzotti invites you
to a ceremony in honor of

Greek Independence Day

At City Hall Plaza

On Monday, March 25 at 3:30 p.m.

All Children Are Welcome!

Mayor's Office, 508-580-7123
45 School Street, Brockton, MA

...and Save the Date:

Annual Greek Independence Day Parade

Sunday, April 7 at 1 p.m. in Boston

Downsized? Changed jobs?

Help protect your income for retirement.

Call us at 508-230-9988



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We are now reserving space in our monthly bulletin for advertising purposes in order to defer from the high costs of publishing. You can now advertise your business for a small cost.

The following are the advertising costs

	<u>¼ Year</u>	<u>½ Year</u>	<u>1 Full Year</u>
<i>Full Page Inside Front Cover</i>	\$525.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00
<i>Full Page Inside Back Cover</i>	\$525.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00
<i>½ Page Outside Back Cover</i>	\$525.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00
<i>Full Page</i>	\$420.00	\$ 800.00	\$1,200.00
<i>½ Page</i>	\$210.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 600.00
<i>Business Card Size</i>	\$105.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 300.00

Space is limited and will be available "On a First Come, First Serve Basis."

The deadline for including your advertisement will be on the 10th of each month.

If you have any questions and are interested in an opportunity that will support our Church, please contact the Church Office.

Christo's



**782 CRESCENT STREET
BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02302
508/588-4200
508/583-6946 FAX**

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church
457 Oak Street
Brockton, MA 02301



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Fax

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