

THE VINE

ST. DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH, 57 BROWN STREET, WESTON, MA 02493

Jesus said,
“I am the vine;
you are the
branches.
If a man remains
in me and I in him,
he will bear
much fruit.”
(John 15:5)

CONTENTS

Liturgical Schedule.....	2
Building on Our Faith.....	3
Youth.....	4-5
Photos.....	6-7
Calendar.....	8
Philoptochos & Stewardship.....	9
News & Events.....	10
Holy Week.....	11
Announcements.....	12

FR. NICK'S MESSAGE

A GLORIOUS RESURRECTION

Dear Parishioners,

“We waited, and at last our expectations were fulfilled,” writes Serbian Bishop Nikolai of Ochrid, describing the Easter service in Jerusalem. “When the Patriarch sang ‘Christ is Risen, a heavy burden fell from our souls. We felt as if we also had been raised from the dead. All at once, from all around, the same cry resounded like the noise of many waters. ‘Christ is Risen’ sang the Greeks, the Russians, the Arabs, the Serbs, the Copts, the Armenians, the Ethiopians one after another, each in his own tongue, in his own melody...Coming out from the service at dawn, we began to regard everything in the light of the glory of Christ’s Resurrection, and all appeared different from what it was yesterday; everything seemed better, more expansive, more glorious. Only in the light of the Resurrection does life receive meaning.”

Soon we will find ourselves before the glorious Resurrection of our Lord. To fully experience and bathe in all its glory, so vividly described by Bishop Nikolai, we first must pass through what remains of Lent. Without preparation, repentance, introspection and self examination, the deeper meaning of Pascha may be lost. So may be lost the purpose of all worship that forms the foundation of life and hope which is Christ. Beloved faithful, there is still time for the prescription that Christ Himself gave to us that of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. There is still time for forgiveness, a change of heart and return that will make everything new as we “receive the unwaning light” that comes from an empty grave. There is still time to live the glory that promises not only meaning in this life but eternal life through His Resurrection. Join us during these Holy days of Christ’s Passion, Sacrifice and glorious Resurrection so that we may together proclaim “Christ is Risen”

With love in our Risen Lord,

Fr. Nick



LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

SCHEDULE OF CHURCH SERVICES

SUNDAY SERVICES

ORTHOS, 8:30; DIVINE LITURGY, 9:30

April 6, Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt

April 13, Palm Sunday

April 20, Great and Holy Pascha, Agape Vespers, 11 am

April 27, Sunday of Thomas

May 4, Sunday of the Myrrh Bearers

May 11, Sunday of the Paralytic & Mother's Day

May 18, Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

MIDWEEK SERVICES (OUTSIDE OF HOLY WEEK SERVICES)

Pre-Sanctified Liturgy

Wednesday, April 2 & 9, 6 pm (at St. Demetrios)

Akathist Hymn

Friday, April 4, 7 pm

Saturday of Lazarus

April 12, Orthros 8:30 am; Divine Liturgy, 9 am

St. George the Martyr

April 23, Orthros 9 am; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 am

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE APRIL 14-19

Palm Sunday Evening, April 13

Bridegroom Service, 7 pm

Holy Monday, April 14

Bridegroom Service, 7 pm

Holy Tuesday, April 15

Bridegroom Service & Hymn of Kassiani, 7 pm

(Metropolitan Methodios will officiate.)

Holy Wednesday, April 16

Presanctified Liturgy, 9 am

Holy Unction (Afternoon), 3:30 pm

Holy Unction (Evening), 7 pm

Holy Thursday, April 17

Vesperal Liturgy (The Mystical Supper), 8 am

The Passion of our Lord (Reading of 12 Gospels), 7pm

Holy Friday, April 18

The Royal Hours, 9 am

Apokathelosis (Taking down of Christ from the Cross), 3 pm

Epitaphios (The Lamentations), 7:30 pm

Holy Saturday, April 19

Divine Liturgy, 8 am

The Resurrection of our Lord (Pascha) Vigil begins, 11pm

LENTEN VISITS

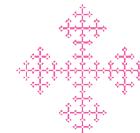
If you have a homebound family member who would welcome a visit this Lenten season, please contact Fr. Nick as soon as possible to make arrangements.

HOLY CONFESSION

Like the Prodigal Son, we have all been away from God on some level, and it is time to “come home” to our Father who is loving, compassionate and forgiving. Holy Confession is a powerful way to examine our lives and reflect on our spiritual progress, especially during this Lenten season. Please make arrangements before Holy Week is upon us. Contact Fr. Nick.

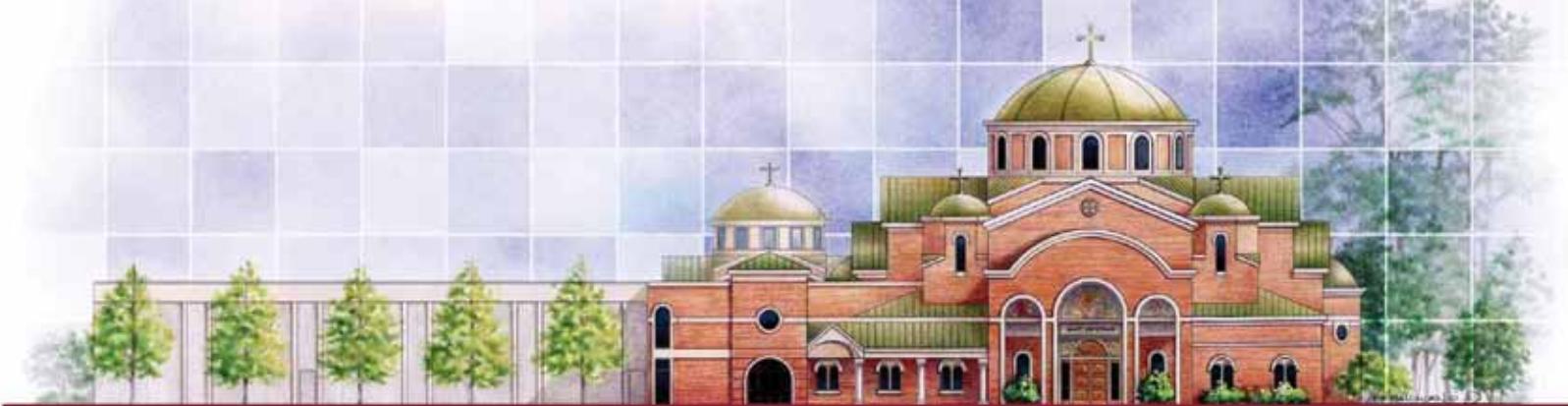
HOLY FRIDAY NAMES

Each Holy Friday, the names of loved ones who have fallen asleep in the Lord are commemorated before the Kouvouklion (Sepulcher). Names may be brought to Church on Holy Friday or submitted beforehand to the Church office.



“If any have wearied himself with fasting, let him now enjoy his reward. If any have labored from the first hour, let him receive today his rightful reward. If any have come after the third, let him celebrate the feast with thankfulness. If any have come after the sixth, let him not be in doubt, for he will suffer no loss. If any have delayed until the ninth, let him not hesitate but draw near. If any have arrived only at the eleventh, let him not be afraid because he comes so late. For the Master is generous and accepts the last even as the first. He gives rest to him who comes at the eleventh hour in the same was as him who has labored from the first. He accepts the deed, and commends the intention” — From St. John Chrysostom’s Paschal Homily.

The Resurrection is for all of humankind, spread the word!



BUILDING ON OUR FAITH

THE CHAPEL OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

It is fitting that just one week after the Sunday of the Cross during the Lenten season we observed for the first time what the complete installation of the restored icons from the old St. Demetrios dome look like in our new St.

John Chrysostom Chapel. I am certain you will agree they are a perfect fit!

As this new milestone in the development of our new Church has been achieved, please take a moment next Sunday, or any day during Lent,

and visit our new Church and Chapel. You will not regret it. Take a moment, light a candle and say a prayer as you walk around the sacramental spaces and common areas. Look at the floors, wall details, ceiling lines, light fixtures, and seating. Begin to feel how much this new building is your home; yours and your entire extended family. Our Church belongs to you and you belong to it!

We together constitute the larger family of St. Demetrios and our Greek Orthodox Faith. This new sanctuary was built for us and the many generations to come. It is ours to share the memories of our life; comfort our suffering and mark the most significant celebrations; memories that will become even more vivid as the years go by! These are just some of the reasons so many of our fellow parishioners dedicated much of their time and hard-earned treasure, time and talent, to build this wonderful place of worship.

Yet our work continues. The Greek Orthodox Church in America, which we are an integral part, is unique because it is built on the strength of our faith. No government funds or institutional money made this dream possible. Our Church is a true testament to you the faithful. We have recently mailed a beautiful brochure offering named gift opportunities to fund the interior appointments and Holy articles required to finish our beautiful church. The booklet contains gifts both large, like the Baptismal Font and Pulpit, and small such as a candle stand and Bible holder. Won't you please consider helping us complete our commitment to finish this remarkable building? Thank you.

For more information please contact Fr. Nick or Peter Condakes at St. Demetrios.

Peter Bassett



ST. DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

57 Brown St.
Weston, MA 02493
(781) 237-5561
(781) 237-8612 (fax)

www.stdemetriosweston.org

Fr. Nicholas Krommydas
Proistamenos
frnick@stdemetriosweston.org

CHURCH SECRETARY
Cathy Smith
csmith@stdemetriosweston.org

ST. DEMETRIOS CONNECTIONS 781-237-5561 | www.stdemetriosweston.org

Fr. Nicholas Krommydas, Pastor
Cathy Smith, Secretary
Peter Gramenelles, Sexton
Tom Gatzunis, Parish Council President
Athena Kalyvas, Philoptochos President
Bookstore, Carol Loridas
Choir, Genie Leussis, Chris Tzellas, Athena Kalyvas
Faith and Works Ministries
A Suitable Image, Nancy Savage
Brown Bag Sunday, Lydia Santangelo
St. Nicholas Angel Tree, Nancy Savage
Hospitality/Fellowship Hour, Mary Ellen Paravalos
Library, Cindi Dabrowski
Orthodox Life Series, James Skedros
Outreach and Evangelism, Stacey Kalivas
Philoptochos Care Ministries
Hellenic Nursing Home, Pam Brody
Prayer Shawl, Tilda Mitsakos
Quiltathon, Debbie Morakis
Visitations, Valerie Wiegel
Prosfora Ministry, Christina Booth
Senior Guild, Artemis Martakis
Stewardship, Dean Cochin
YOUTH
Altar Service, Chris Kourlos
Basketball, Jack Markis
Church School, Stavroula Gurguliatos
Church School Music Director, Jane Kourtis
GOYA, Yianno Pantzelos
JR. GOYA, Yianno Pantzelos
Greek Folk Dancing, Margaret Talmers
Greek Language School, Avra Parpos
HOPE, Donna Markis
JOY, Jill Kovatsis
OCF, Yianno Pantzelos



YOUTH

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young..."



CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

April	Second Grade Bulletin Board Display
April 6	Church School Classes
April 13	Palm Sunday – Family Worship
April 16	Holy Wednesday, Afternoon Epistle Readers
April 18	Holy Friday – Retreat; Flower girls (2nd grade in afternoon, 5th grade in evening)
April 20	Pascha – Agape Service Readers Family Worship
April 27	Church School Classes
May	Sixth Grade Bulletin Board Display
May 4	Church School Classes; Church School Staff Mtg. 11:45-12:30
May 11	Church School Classes; Mother's Day
May 18	Church School Classes
May 25	Family Worship

HOLY WEEK CHURCH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Saturday, April 12, SATURDAY OF LAZARUS

9:00 am, Liturgy, Communion breakfast palm making follows. All Church School students and families are invited to prepare palms for Palm Sunday service.

Sunday, April 13, PALM SUNDAY

Family Worship/No Classes. Middle and high school girls are invited to participate in the evening Mirofora procession. Please encourage your daughters to participate.

Wednesday, April 16, HOLY WEDNESDAY

We need students to read the Epistle (4th grade and up) for the afternoon service. If you are interested, please contact Stavroula Gurguliatos at stdemetrioschurchschool@verizon.net.

Friday, April 18, HOLY FRIDAY

- There will be a Church School student retreat 11:30-3:00 pm. Sign up by the Church entrance
- Second grade girls will participate in the afternoon procession.
- Fifth grade girls will participate in the evening procession.

Sunday, April 20, PASCHA – AGAPE SERVICE

Family Worship/No Classes. We need foreign language readers (students and adults) to help read the Agape Service Gospel. Last year we were fortunate to have the Gospel read in Latin, Spanish, French, Romanian, German, and Chinese. If you are interested in reading a portion of the Gospel in a foreign language, please contact the Church School director, via email at stdemetrioschurchschool@verizon.net.



GREEK LANGUAGE & CULTURAL SCHOOL



Please mark your calendars for some important changes to the school calendar for April and May.

- Class will be held on Holy Tuesday, April 15
- The last day of class will be Tuesday, May 6
- The Greek School Graduation Ceremony has been changed from Friday, May 16, to Friday, May 9, at 7:00 pm in the Church Hall.

The Greek School teachers and staff invite families to attend the annual Graduation Ceremony and Reception. Congratulations to the Class of 2014.

A special thank you to our children for making this a wonderful and memorable school year and to parents for your continued support. Warm wishes to all for an enjoyable summer.

YOUTH BASKETBALL



The St. Demetrios Basketball League concluded the 2013-14 season in dramatic fashion. In a repeat of last year's Championship game, our JOY (middle school) kids faced off against a strong combined team from the Parishes of Braintree & Brockton. Our Parish prevailed and won the JOY division title for the 2nd year in a row.

At the GOYA (high school) level, both our Boys and Girls teams submitted strong performances, including a 2nd place finish by our High School Girls GOYA Team. Roslindale captured the Boys GOYA title and Watertown took the Girls GOYA title.

The Metropolis also hosted a skills competition in three categories; free throw shooting, 3-point shooting, and dribbling/passing.

A special thanks to the coaches and families who helped make the season possible, including

Mark Luzaitis and Steve Damaskos (Boys GOYA), David Newkirk and Nick Katinas (Girls GOYA), James Tsiantoulas and Tom Rontiris (JOY) and Marc Broome and William Luzaitis (Jr. JOY).



...but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity"
(1 Timothy 4:12)

YOUTH



GOYA

Hey everyone! It's Victoria Argyrople, GOYA secretary. The weekend of March 15, our GOYA took a trip into New York City! We visited the Cathedral of Agia Markella in Astoria, followed by a delicious lunch at Agnantis Greek restaurant. We finished off the day with some sightseeing at the Empire State Building and shopping. Overall, it was a lot of fun!

We also had our IONIAN VILLAGE On-the-Go retreat. We were visited by several IV staff as well as Director Fr. Evagoras himself. We also had several GOYAns from neighboring parishes that were in attendance.

During the month of April, we will be having a retreat on Good Friday that will lead up to Easter as well as our annual GOYA semi-formal which will be held on Saturday, April 26 from 7:30 pm-10:30 pm in our church hall. If you are interested in getting involved with GOYA please email westongoya@gmail.com.



Junior GOYA

Many of our Jr. GOYAns were in attendance for our IONIAN VILLAGE On-the-Go retreat held at our parish. We were accompanied by many of our GOYAns as well as other GOYAns from neighboring parishes.

This month we will have our annual palm cross making followed by a Lenten Retreat held on Good Friday. Please be in attendance for the events as we prepare for our build up for Easter. We will also hold a Jr. GOYA general assembly to discuss potential upcoming events and future fundraisers. For more ways on how to get involved with Jr. GOYA please email Yianno@stdemetriosweston.org.

Hope and JOY

The JOY and Hope will be hosting a communion breakfast on the Saturday of Lazarus April 12 after Liturgy for all those making palm crosses. Come help serve and prepare for Palm Sunday! We will also have a Lenten Retreat on Good Friday, April 11.

HOPE (K – 2nd)

Donna Markis: dmarkis@boston.k12.ma.us
Stacy Katsikaris: stacy.katsikaris@comcast.net

JOY (3rd – 6th)

Jill Kovatsis: ja.k@verizon.net

SUMMER 2014 PROGRAMS



Summer Camp : IONIAN VILLAGE

Session 1: June 23 - July 12, 2014: SOLD OUT
(Please call our office to be put on the waiting list)

Session 2: July 20 - August 8, 2014

Both Sessions include the same program and are open to campers who have completed grades 8 through 12.



Summer Camp : MBC

Family Summer Camp

(All ages, under 18 accompanied by an adult)

Session 1: July 2-6, 2014

Youth Sessions - Ages 8 - 18

Session 2: July 7-13, 2014

Session 3: July 14-20, 2014

Session 4: July 21-27, 2014

Session 5: July 28-August 3, 2014

Session 6: August 4-August 10, 2014

ALTAR SERVERS

Following church services on Saturday, April 12, we invite our servers to join us for a brief meeting to prepare for Holy Week. Our servers are encouraged to attend their assigned Holy Week services and to arrive on time in order to vest appropriately. Please note assignments and details below. Contact Chris Kourlos with questions or if your son cannot make it for his scheduled service: kourkat@comcast.net.

Sundays in April & May

April- 6, 13, 20, 27

May- 4, 11, 18

Holy Week

Palm Sunday, Holy Monday, Holy Tuesday

Holy Wednesday Evening

Holy Thursday Evening

Holy Friday Afternoon

Holy Saturday Morning and Evening





PHOTOS

Youth Basketball



Goya New York Trip



Greek Dancing



PHOTOS

Chapel Iconography



Philoptochos Retreat



Sunday of Orthodoxy



Veneration of the Holy Cross





CALENDAR

APRIL~MAY 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		April 1 Greek School, 4-6 pm	2 Presanctified Liturgy, 6 pm	3 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm	4 Akathist Hymn, 7 pm	5
6 Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt	7	8 Greek School, 4-6 pm	9 Presanctified Liturgy, 6 pm	10 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm	11	12 Lazarus Saturday Orthros and Di- vine Liturgy, 9 am Breakfast and Palm Cross Making
13 Palm Sunday Philoptochos Bake Sale Bridegroom Service, 7 pm	14 Holy Monday Bridegroom Service, 7 pm	15 Holy Tuesday Greek School, 4-6 pm Bridegroom Service, 7 pm	16 Holy Wednesday Presanctified Liturgy, 9 am Holy Unction, 3:30 and 7 pm	17 Holy Thursday Vesperal Liturgy, 8 am The Passion, 7 pm	18 Holy Friday Royal Hours, 9 am Youth Retreat Descent from the Cross, 3:30 pm Lamentations, 7:30 pm	19 Holy Saturday First Resurrection Service, 8 am Resurrection Service, 11 pm
20 PASCHA Agape Service, 11:00 am	21	22	23 St. George the Martyr Orthros and Di- vine Liturgy, 9 am Senior Guild Luncheon	24 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm	25	26 GOYA Semi- Formal, 7:30
27 Thomas Sunday	28	29 Greek School, 4-6 pm	30	MAY 1 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm	2	3
4 Sunday of the Myrrh Bearers	5	6 Greek School, 4-6 pm	7	8 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm	9 Greek School Graduation, 7 pm	10
11 Sunday of the Paralytic Mother's Day	12	13	14 Parish Council Meeting, 7 pm Philoptochos Meeting, 7 pm	15 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm	16	17 5K Run for Philanthropy Greek Fest

STEWARSHIP & PHILOPTOCHOS

PHILOPTOCHOS

With the start of the Lenten season, the St. Demetrios Philoptochos was involved in two very spiritual events during the month of March - the Women's Lenten Retreat and the General Assembly meeting that highlighted the mission work of our young Parishioners.

A special thank you to Nikki Stournaras and Presbytera Elaine Krommydas for organizing a very inspiring Women's Lenten Retreat at the St. Methodios Retreat Center. Thank you also to the Retreat Leader, Dr. James Skedros for addressing the group and offering his perspective on the topic "Be still and know that I am God." We are in the process of scheduling another retreat weekend in 2015.

Congratulations to Andrew Calivas, Stacey Kourtis and Jonathan Resmini for presenting their individual mission work experiences at the General Assembly Meeting. We are so proud of you!

Upcoming Events

Pre-Sanctified Liturgy – Wednesday, April 9

St. Demetrios is hosting the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy Service on Wednesday, April 9. We will have parishioners from other churches attending that evening. If you are able to prepare a Lenten dish, please contact Nikki Stournaras at nstournaras@hchc.edu or (508) 667-8252.

Palm Sunday Bake Sale – Sunday, April 13

Buy your Easter breads and pastries for your family and friends at the Annual Bake Sale. Pre-order baked goods by contacting Francesca Callas at francescacallas@gmail.com or (978) 562-5117. If you are available to make koulourakia for the Bake Sale on Monday, April 7 and/or Tuesday, April 8 at 9:00 am, please contact Georgia Cosmopoulos at (508) 872-6827.

Lamb Raffle

The drawing of seven legs of lamb will be held on Palm Sunday, April 13 after the Liturgy. See Pam Brody during the coffee hour to purchase your chances to win.

Epitaphio Flowers

In keeping with tradition, the Ladies of the Philoptochos adorn the Epitaphio on Friday morning of Good Friday. The decoration of the Epitaphio is a labor of love in which we all can share and participate by making a donation toward the purchase of flowers. Your generosity is most appreciated.

Save the Date: Saturday, May 17, 2014

Run for Philanthropy (5K Road Race) sponsored by the Philoptochos and the St. Demetrios Greek Fest, Noon - 11:00 pm.

Philoxenia House

The Philoxenia House is seeking volunteers to assist the visitors staying at the residence. Contact Eleni Pantelis at (617) 413-4218 for more information.

Philoptochos Supports the Mission Projects

Please remember that the Philoptochos is here to help the St. Demetrios Community members participating in any mission or service trip! Contact Jenn Brody at Brody.Jenn@gmail.com or 781-864-5032 with any questions or inquiries.

Hellenic Nursing Home Visits

Pam Brody visits the Hellenic Nursing Home the third Saturday of every month. Contact Pam for more information. (781) 864-5327 or brodster52@yahoo.com.

Annual Membership Drive

Renew your 2014 membership or join the largest Christian women's organization - the Philoptochos. For more information on joining the Saint Christine Chapter, please contact Gina Spencer at gspencer@stdemetriosweston.org or Athena Kalyvas at adkalyvas@gmail.com.

Thank you for your continued support of the Philoptochos charities. We wish you and your families a blessed Lenten season and a joyous Pascha.

Athena Kalyvas
President

STEWARSHIP CORNER

By now, everyone should have received their end of year statements for tax purposes. If you haven't seen it in your mailbox, please contact the church office so we can get you another copy.

Our Stewardship program continues to expand with several new stewards joining our parish in the last few months. As of March 18, we have received 310 pledges totaling \$328,304 and an additional \$11,153 from 77 non-pledged members. This is significantly higher than where we were last year at this time. All this is good news for our budget as we work to maintain the programs and services that we currently offer.

The easy to use online payment system also seems to be attracting new participants. This feature allows parishioners to automatically deduct contributions for either Stewardship or the Building Fund directly from their bank accounts or credit cards. It's secure and easy to sign up at www.stdemetriosweston.org/stewardship.

If you ever have a question or comment about contributions, stewardship or anything related, please drop me a note here: deanco-clin@msn.com. I'll be more than happy to respond.

Dean Coclin
Stewardship Chairman
deancoclin@msn.com

NEWS & EVENTS

SAINTLY LIVES

ST. GEORGE THE MARTYR,
COMMEMORATED APRIL 23



St. George, this truly great and glorious Martyr of Christ, was born of a father from Cappadocia and a mother from Palestine. Being a military tribune, or chilarch (that is, a commander of a thousand troops), he was illustrious in battle and highly honoured for his courage. When he learned that the Emperor Diocletian was preparing a persecution of the Christians, Saint George presented himself publicly before the Emperor and denounced him. When threats and promises could not move him from his steadfast confession, he was put to unheard-of tortures, which he endured with great bravery, overcoming them by his faith and love towards Christ. By the wondrous signs that took place in his contest, he guided many to the knowledge of the truth, including Queen Alexandra, wife of Diocletian, and was finally beheaded in 296 in Nicomedia. His sacred remains were taken by his servant from Nicomedia to Palestine, to a town called Lydda, the homeland of his mother, and then were finally transferred to the church which was raised up in his name.

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Recommended Lenten Books

The Lenten Spring, by Thomas Hopko

Forty inspiring meditations on Great Lent based on scriptural and liturgical passages from the Lenten services as well as the spiritual wisdom of the ancient and modern saints.

Orthodox Lent, Holy Week and Easter-Liturgical Texts with Commentary, by Hugh Wybrew
Describes the observance of the Lenten season in the Orthodox Christian Tradition by presenting selected liturgical texts from the services of its most significant days. Each day's material is set in its liturgical context and accompanied by a brief theological and spiritual commentary.



We have set aside these books in the Recommendation shelf. If you need to keep them longer than two weeks, please contact Cindi Dabrowski at 508-881-6598. Other Lenten books are located in section J.

Please check for books that you may have forgotten to return. We have several cards which indicate that books were checked out but never returned.

The Library is open every Sunday after Divine Liturgy as well as Monday through Friday, 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM. As outlined in the Library Policies and Procedures, please fill out both cards and leave the orange card in the metal box (located in the Recommendation Shelf).

This will help us to keep track of these books. We invite you to come and visit the library.

Remember, this library is for you and your family.

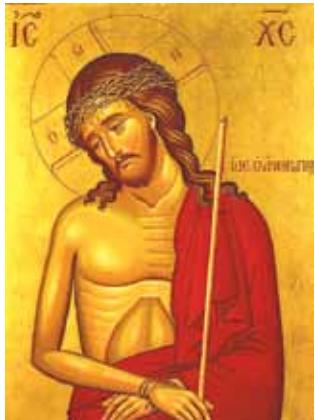
SENIOR GUILD

The next meetings of the Senior Guild will be April and May. We will discuss the June event. The April meeting will be on April 23, 2014 (St. George The Martyr). We will have guest speaker Georgia Gefteas along with her service dog, Rugby. The May meeting will be on May 29, 2014 (The Holy Ascension). The activity is to be announced. If you have any questions please contact Artemis Martakis at (508)785-0045. The Senior Guild hopes to see you there.



HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY, HOLY MONDAY & HOLY TUESDAY EVENING

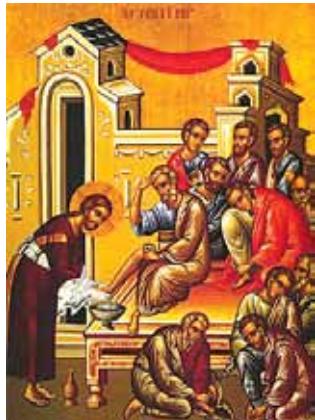


The first three days of Holy Week remind us of Christ's last instructions with his disciples. These teachings are remembered in the celebration of the Great Compline, Matins, Hours, and Liturgy during these days. The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts celebrated these days includes readings from Exodus, Job, and Matthew. The Matins services of the evenings of Palm Sunday, Holy Monday, and Holy Tuesday, anticipating the events of the next day, share a common theme. These Bridegroom Services are derived from the Parable of the Ten Virgins, which calls for preparedness at the Second Coming, for the "thief comes in the middle of the night." (Matt. 26:1-13)

HOLY SATURDAY

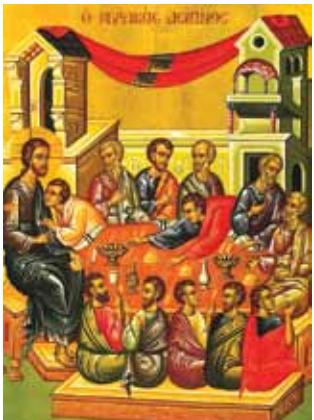
Great and Holy Saturday Vespers and a Divine Liturgy of St. Basil are served, marked with readings of Psalms and Resurrection hymns that tell of Christ's descent into Hades, celebrated as the "First Resurrection" of Adam and the conquering of Death. It is appointed by the typikon to be celebrated in the afternoon, though it is served in the morning in many places. This service comes from the ancient liturgical tradition of the Church of Constantinople and was its primary Paschal service. The hymn "Arise O God" from the Psalms was the original primary Paschal hymn before "Christ is risen" came to take its place. Its place as the ancient Constantinopolitan Paschal celebration is what gives the service such a bright and resurrectional character.

HOLY WEDNESDAY



Within the past two centuries, Byzantine practice has developed to include the mystery of Holy Unction, which is celebrated on Holy Wednesday, commemorating Christ's anointing with myrrh. The service ends with the priest anointing the faithful with holy oil. The services appointed by the Typikon for the evening of Holy Wednesday recall that on this day Judas betrayed Christ, which led to the tradition from Apostolic times of fasting on Wednesday throughout the year. It also focuses on the Mystical Supper, which is celebrated in the liturgy of the following day.

HOLY THURSDAY

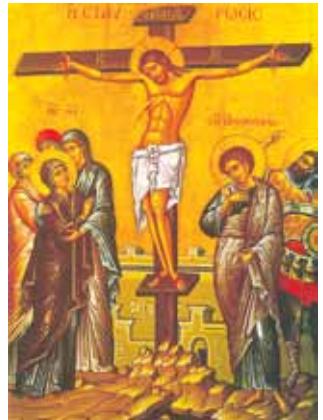


Holy Thursday begins with the celebration of vespers and the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil with a Reserved Eucharist in representation of the earthly presence of Christ realized at the Last Supper. In the evening, anticipating the Matins of Friday morning, the Holy Passion service of the reading of the Twelve Gospels is conducted. In these readings Christ's last instructions to his disciples are presented, as well as the prophecy of the drama of the Cross, Christ's prayer, and his new commandment.

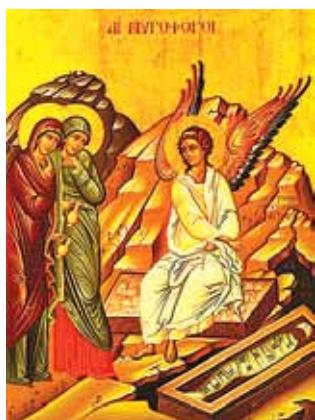
PASCHA

Pascha, the Feast of Feasts, as midnight approaches the priest taking a light from a vigil light within the altar passes the flame to the faithful for their candles while singing "Come ye and receive light from the unwaning life, and, glorify Christ, who arose from the dead." The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the center of the Orthodox Christian faith. To the Orthodox, the celebration of Pascha reveals the mystery of the eighth day. It is not merely an historical reenactment of the event of Christ's Resurrection. It is a way to experience the new creation of the world a taste of the new and unending day of the Kingdom of God. This new day is conveyed to the faithful in the length of the paschal services, in the repetition of the paschal order for all the services of Bright Week, and in the special paschal features retained in the services for the forty days until Ascension. Forty days are, as it were, treated as one day.

HOLY FRIDAY



Great and Holy Friday begins with reading of the Royal Hours leading up to Vespers of Friday afternoon, at which time the removal of the Body of Christ from the Cross is commemorated. The priest removes the Body of Christ, the Epitaphios, from the Cross, wraps it in a white cloth and carries it into the altar. In an evening service, called the Lamentations at the Tomb, the priest carries the Epitaphios, the painted or embroidered cloth representation of Christ, from the altar around the church before placing it in the Sepulcher, a bier symbolizing the Tomb of Christ. This procession, with the faithful carrying lighted candles, represents Christ's descent into Hades.





ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers were generously donated by the following parishioners:

March 2
Vasiliki Condakes,
in loving memory of
her son, Peter James.

March 16
Angelica Giovannes,
in loving memory of
her son, Alexios.

March 23
Christina Rontoni and Priscilla Hunter, in loving memory of their parents, Harry and Efthimia Sekas.



BAPTISMS

The daughter of Nicholas and Keri Connors was baptized on Saturday, March 1, and named Clara Nora. The sponsor was Lindsay Speros.

The daughter of Theofilos and Maria Matheos was baptized on Saturday, March 22, and named Alexia Thea. The sponsors were John and Kalliope Marks.

The daughter of Robert and Angela Rizzo was baptized on Sunday, March 23, and named Sophia Ava. The sponsors were Gianna and John Giannacopoulos.

*May God bless them
with His divine grace!*

FUNERALS

Nicholas Alexis of West Newton, March 8.
Tasia Meimaris of Wayland, March 23.

May their memory be eternal!

CONDOLENCES

*Condolences are extended to:
Candace Hetzner, on the falling asleep of
her father, Philip Hetzner.*

May his memory be eternal!

