“Death is swallowed up in victory. O Death, where is your victory? O Death, where is your sting?”
(1 Corinthians 15:55)

We live in a world and society that tries to avoid suffering at all costs. Yet, suffering isn’t the ultimate fear of humanity - death is. This is why so many people try to avoid any contact with or even any thought of death. Think about it, when was the last time that you meditated on your own impending death?

Death, however, is the only certainty we have in life. Isn’t it strange to avoid thinking about something so certain, instead of accepting the reality, and then struggling to deal with it.

Of course, God understood this dilemma and paradox of humanity. Death, in the end, came as a result of sin, and sin represented a break in the union and relationship of humanity and God.

For centuries, humanity did not know how to deal with this evil of death. God saw humanity’s dilemma, and acted! He came to wrestle this ancient enemy, and defeat it, once and for all!

That is what these days of our Lenten journey reveal to
Sts. Constantine and Helen
Greek Orthodox Church
37 Lake Parkway, PO Box 713
Webster, MA 01570
Church Telephone: (508) 943-8361 website: www.schwebster.org
Facebook: St Constantine Helens (Church)
Church Office Hours: Monday, Fridays 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

The mission of Sts. Constantine and Helen Church is to proclaim the Good News of Salvation through the Orthodox Christian Faith for the glory of our Triune God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We are a community of believers who journey towards our Lord Jesus Christ and one another through our WORSHIP, FELLOWSHIP, SPIRITUAL GROWTH, WITNESS, and SERVICE. We invite all people to join us on this journey in the Kingdom of Heaven.

We are under the jurisdiction of
His Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew
His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios of America
His Eminence, Metropolitan Methodios of Boston

Father Luke A. Veronis
Telephone: (508) 949-7623 (h) (774) 230-6985 (cell)
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2014 PARISH COUNCIL
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us in such a dynamic manner. Throughout our 40 Day Lenten journey, we have been preparing ourselves through extra prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, to experience this miraculous event in a new and personal way.

God became a human being, and then endured the worst that the Evil One could throw at Him - rejection, persecution, denial, ridicule, spitting, beatings, a crown of thorns, scourging, and finally, the most cruel and painful death, Crucifixion.

This is why St. Paul can say, “We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has similarly been tested in every way, yet without sin.” (Heb 4:15)

Our God is a God who understands evil, because He endured the worst of it, all for our sakes. He endured everything, however, with a plan and purpose. Again, as St. Paul writes, “He likewise shared in them, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who through fear of death had been subject to slavery all their life.” (Heb 2:14-15)

The hymnology of our Church on Holy Saturday describes this reality so beautifully, “Today, Hades lets out a groan: ‘My power is swallowed up! The Shepherd was crucified but raised up Adam. All I ruled over is lost; all I was able to consume in my power,

I have spewed out. The Crucified One has emptied the graves. The sway of death is no more!’”

As Orthodox Christians who travel through this Lenten journey each year, we must learn to understand what the Church proclaims in her faith, and live our lives accordingly. We should not follow or imitate the fear and ignorance our society has in connection to death, but we should live our faith to its fullest. St. Paul is even willing to taunt death, when he says, “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting.”

Through Christ, death has simply become a doorway into heaven, into a life of complete union with God. This is why we shout with uncontrollable joy on Pascha night, “Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!” How many times do we repeat this proclamation? We do so, because it is the foundation of our Christian Faith, and central to a life of ultimate peace and security.

May each of us reflect deeply on the magnificent hymns we will hear throughout Holy Week, and contemplate on death - the death of our Savior Jesus Christ, our own impending death, and the hope that Christ has given to each one of us.

Christ is Risen! Christos Anesti!

Luke
**THE GREAT COSMIC JOKE**

In some parts of Greece, there is a tradition that the day after Pascha is a day devoted to telling jokes. This tradition came about because they said that during Holy Week God pulled the greatest joke on Satan himself, when Christ willingly accepted to die on the Cross. Satan thought he won - that he had defeated Jesus, that darkness had conquered light, evil had conquered good, and death had conquered life – Satan thought he had won only to find out that when Christ entered the devil’s domain, Hades, he could not contain Him.

The hymns from Holy Saturday summarize the situation beautifully, “Today Hell laments and cries out: Better that I had not welcomed Him who is born of Mary. He has put an end to my power. He has broken my doors of bronze… My sovereignty is destroyed. I received Jesus as a mortal one among the dead, but this One I am powerless to contain. Instead, through Him I lose all I had governed. I had held the dead for ages, but behold, He resurrects them all… The Crucified One empties all the tombs, and the power of death is overcome. Glory to Your Cross and Resurrection, O Lord.”

By Jesus resurrecting from the dead, Satan did not have the final word in the battle between good and evil. As the angel said to the myrrhbearing women, “He is not here; He has risen! Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that He has risen from the dead!”

Christ’s victory over Satan, sin and death itself is what we celebrate on Pascha!

Another hymn from Holy Saturday puts it this way, “We celebrate the death of death, the destruction of hell and the beginning of the new eternal life… Christ shattered the everlasting bars which kept the dead captive. He descended into the grace to overthrow the power of hell and rise as the immortal conqueror.”

Now all life is filled with light, hope and the power of unconquerable love. If we choose to live in this light of the Resurrection, our lives will never be the same. Christ changes the entire perspective of our existence, because we realize that goodness can prevail over evil, that love is stronger than hatred, that faith has no place for fear, and that death is but a doorway into eternal paradise.

Of course, during our earthly life, we will still face the struggles, challenges, and sufferings of our fallen nature. Yet never forget that the Passion of Christ concludes with His Resurrection – what appears to be the victory of evil and death is only a façade, a joke played on Satan.

Christ is Risen and death is defeated;
Christ is Risen and hatred is eliminated;
Christ is Risen and evil is healed;
Christ is Risen and a new way of life is opened up for all!
Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

**Invite Your Friends to Easter Services!**

(And to a Holy Week Service !)

This year, think about inviting a friend, co-worker, or neighbor to attend our Resurrection Service Saturday evening (10:00pm), or even one of our other beautiful Holy Week services! We all know plenty of friends and acquaintances who are not connected to any Church, and who may not be planning to go to any Christian service during this holiest time of the year. Go ahead and invite them to experience the warmth of our Church Family and our beautiful worship services! Statistics show that “unchurched people” (those who are not really connected to any Church) will be more open to coming to a service IF they are invited by someone they trust. Invite your friend, offer to pick them up, and bring them to Church. You don’t have to say much, just tell them to “Come and See!”
WAS THE RESURRECTION TRUE?
Fr. Theodore Stylianopoulos

How could a few fishermen perpetrate such a colossal hoax duping both friends and enemies of Jesus? Did they wholly deceive St. Paul, too, the fanatical persecutor of Christianity who later became the greatest preacher of the resurrection? Further, what did such Christian leaders as Peter, James the Brother of the Lord, and Paul have to gain except expulsion from their own religious community, extreme hardships, persecution, and eventual martyrdom? Where did they get the courage to preach a risen Christ at the risk of their very lives? The answer can only be that Christ truly rose from the dead. The apostles beheld the risen Lord, they knew of the empty tomb, and their lives were transformed by the saving power the resurrection of Jesus signified in the religious context of first-century Judaism.

The significance of Jesus’ resurrection goes far beyond the stupendous bare fact. Every reasonable contemporary of Jesus would have regarded a rising from the dead a virtual impossibility, a unique and unprecedented event that, if true, could only have marked a radical new beginning in history. Most Jews long awaited God's great time of deliverance from the forces of evil and their instruments in the world, an act of God that for many included the resurrection of the dead. That exactly was the view of the early Christians who experienced Jesus' resurrection as a unique and decisive act of God in history, the "first fruits" of a radically new age of salvation.

However, for the early Christians, God's deliverance was not from the hands of the Romans as many expected, but from the corruptive bondage to the evil powers—sin, Satan, and death. In other words, Jesus' resurrection marked the decisive start of what St. Paul called the "new creation," a new and transforming wave of grace rushing forward and destined in God’s good time to set free the whole creation “from the bondage of decay” (Romans 8:21). The meaning of Jesus' resurrection is missed apart from this explosive power of the new order of life launched in human history by the ministry of Jesus crowned with His resurrection.

As we come to celebrate Holy Pascha, we ought to know that as Christians we too participate in this mighty wave of the luminous renewal movement begun by Christ the fire-starter. In the first century Jesus' rising from the dead shook the cosmos and put it on a new track in history. It also demonstrated God's seal of vindication of the truth of the saving work of Jesus: where His enemies said "No" and rejected Him, God thundered a "Yes" and established the new era of salvation. The resurrection transformed and empowered the disciples to accomplish against all odds a spiritual triumph unknown in history. However, for those who commit their hearts and lives to Christ, the power of the resurrection is still at work today waiting to be tapped to its fullest. The risen Christ lives and rules forever (Hebrews 13:8). The final evidence is in our own transformed lives, and a vibrant life of the Church in the world, as we share the paschal greetings “Christ is risen!” and “Truly He is risen!”
The services of Holy Week transform us into eyewitnesses and direct participants in the awesome events of the Passion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Here is a summary of the week.

**PALM SUNDAY EVENING** - *This evening's service calls to mind the beginning of Jesus' suffering.* Tonight’s hymns commemorate the prophetic figure of Joseph, who, while virtuous, nonetheless suffered unjustly before being greatly rewarded, and the parable of the fig tree, which in failing to bear fruit, became a symbol of fallen creation, and of our own lives.

**HOLY MONDAY** - *This evening’s theme is the need for watchfulness and preparation, lest we be called unprepared before the awesome judgment seat of Christ to render an account of ourselves.* The hymns remind us of the parable of the Ten Virgins, in which the faithful Christian is exhorted to vigilance.

**HOLY TUESDAY** - *The need for true repentance is the concern of today.* This transformation from the life of sin to a life of faith and obedience is exemplified in the person of the sinful woman who received the gift of forgiveness when she anointed Jesus with myrrh and washed His feet.

**HOLY WEDNESDAY** - *Today’s theme is our human need for the healing and forgiveness that comes into our lives when we establish a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.* We are reminded that the way to this relationship is to be found, above all else, through a life of prayer. In the Sacrament of Holy Unction, we are anointed and healed both physically and spiritually.

**HOLY THURSDAY** - In the morning we join the Twelve in the upper room and witness the Last Supper, when Christ established the Sacrament of the Eucharist. In the evening service, we re-live the suffering of Christ, endured for our sake, so that we might be reconciled anew to God our Father. The 12 Gospel readings witness for us the betrayal and arrest of Jesus, his trial and conviction, and finally his torture, crucifixion and death at the hands of a sinful humanity.

**HOLY FRIDAY** - We again witness the undeserved suffering and death of Christ, to his terrible passion and death. In the evening, **we see Christ's descent into Hades.** The service includes lamentations sung as we stand before the tomb of Christ. **Death is being confronted and conquered.**

**HOLY SATURDAY** - The crucifixion is over, Christ is buried, the twelve apostles and other disciples are scattered and defeated. And yet, three myrrh-bearing women come in faithfulness to perform the last act of love - to anoint Jesus according to the Jewish burial custom. Their unwavering devotion is rewarded - they are the first to share in Christ's triumph over evil and death. They are the first witnesses to the Resurrection. This joy is commemorated through the scattering of bay leaves and rose petals in the morning service. In the Midnight Service, lamentations of the previous night are repeated and **the church is plunged into darkness to symbolize the despair and defeat experienced before the dawn of Christ's victory over death.** Precisely at midnight, a single light emerges from the altar representing the victory of Christ over death. As the light is passed from person to person, it pushes back the darkness of the church and defeats it completely, as the Resurrection is proclaimed.

**EASTER SUNDAY** - Christ is Risen! Christ's Resurrection and victory is affirmed. The Gospel is read in numerous languages to illustrate the universality of the Good News of the Resurrection and its proclamation to the very ends of the earth.
HOLY WEEK SERVICES

LAZARUS SATURDAY - APRIL 12
   Divine Liturgy 9:30, followed by a Children’s Pancake Breakfast,
   Palm Making & Stuffing of Easter Eggs

PALM SUNDAY - APRIL 13
   Divine Liturgy 9:30
   Community Fish Luncheon 11:30
   Bridegroom Service 6:30 pm

HOLY MONDAY - APRIL 14
   Bridegroom Service 6:30 pm

HOLY TUESDAY - APRIL 15
   Bridegroom Service 6:30 pm

HOLY WEDNESDAY - APRIL 16
   Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 9:30 am
   Holy Unction Service 6:30 pm

HOLY THURSDAY - APRIL 17
   Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
   SERVICE OF THE 12 GOSPELS 6:30pm

HOLY AND GOOD FRIDAY - APRIL 18
   Philoptochos Decorating the Epitaphio 9:00 am
   Service of the Royal Hours 9:00am
   Children’s and Youth Service Project 12:00-1:45
   Vespers - Taking Christ Down from Cross 2:00 pm *Note Time
   LAMENTATIONS SERVICE 6:30pm

HOLY SATURDAY - APRIL 19
   1st Resurrection Divine Liturgy 9:30am
   RESURRECTION SERVICE 10:00 pm (*Note START TIME)

PASCHA SUNDAY - APRIL 20
   Children’s Easter Egg Hunt 11:00am
   “Service of Love” Easter Vespers 12:00
   Paschal Lamb Luncheon 1:00

BRIGHT MONDAY - APRIL 21
   Resurrectional Matins 9:00 Divine Liturgy 9:30
FINDING FAITH, LOVE AND FAMILY
IN GUATEMALA

By Amber Kelley

What surprised me most about my trip to Guatemala was not the poverty of the people nor the simplicity with which they lived, but the immeasurable faith that they possessed. I had been thinking a lot before the trip about how hard it is for people in our society to simply trust one another. There is no spirit of purely giving and trusting that God will undoubtedly give back to you a hundred times over. But the people of Guatemala had that.

While visiting the villages I was overwhelmed by their generosity. A few villages had recently suffered crop failures due to early rainstorms and so they had no profits to make that year. Yet they brought out all their food for us, serenaded us, and embraced us saying, “Ven Diga!” which means God bless you. At times my team members and I discussed how unworthy we felt to be called missionaries. We felt as though we weren’t doing much except just visiting and seeing what we could do to help. Nothing much really. I felt ashamed because my faith paled in comparison to these people’s faith.

So many times in my life I’ve turned my back on God and walked away, only to be received back with more love than I’d ever given to anyone in my life. It was clear that these people had never doubted God’s will. Even when the Roman Catholic Church turned their back on them, they never lost hope and instead sought out another path, Orthodoxy. This was largely due to Fr. Andres Giron, who acted as a shepherd for the entire country of Guatemala, and helped bring entire villages into Orthodoxy. Not only that, but Fr. Andres was involved in politics and fought for the rights of the poor in the face of great social injustice.

One thing that really touched me was his ability to connect with people at every level. He would take in young boys who had no father and give them his name so that they would have a father. He would care for small babies. Somehow he was able to achieve great things at a national level, while not letting go of all the little things that matter. And he passed his compassionate spirit on to his flocks.

Before my trip to Guatemala, I found God in a renewed way. Or rather, He found me. I attended an Orthodox College Conference at the Antiochian Village over Christmas break. As a young Orthodox Christian, I’ve always found dating to be particularly challenging, especially at a community college in which I was the only Orthodox Christian for miles around. And so I thought maybe I would meet someone there. What I found instead was someone even better.

I listened to many speakers that weekend and saw a miraculous weeping icon of the Theotokos which was called the Kardiotissa (“Tender Heart”). And I felt that. My heart was changed. Deep within my soul and within the faces of my peers who surrounded me, I felt a great wellspring of love. And as I let go of all my expectations and future plans and allowed myself to fall into the arms of God. I finally experienced the relationship that I’d longed
for my whole life. And I could see this same love in the faces of the Guatemalan people. We each felt that love from one another. By being there with them, we were showing them that even in their remote mountain villages, they were not alone.

Coming home from Guatemala was hard. I got a bacterial infection. I lost my phone. And I was missing my friends. During this time, I felt very alone. It was as though darkness was trying to steal away the golden joy that I’d held so close to my heart before. This time, however, something was different. From the depths of my despair I could feel, like a tiny fragile thread, the sacrifice of Jesus Christ holding me to the light. It reminds me over and over again that although my human life is hard, God played the ultimate card, sacrificing his Godliness and becoming a human being for us. Death and separation from God became a choice, not an ultimatum. And I find hope in that.

I am speaking as a 21 year old college student. I’m still on my journey and I know I will continue to take wrong turns and mess up over and over again. My experience in Guatemala was probably radically different from those of my team members. I was expecting to travel on an easy road, and instead every turn was a struggle. But then again, missions aren’t supposed to be easy. What I found was a special fellowship with the people of Guatemala and an opportunity to be their voice here in America.

If I’ve learned anything from my experience, it is that I know even less than I thought about the world. I am no expert on faith, my Spanish is mediocre, and even as a soon-to-be nursing student, I decided to brush my teeth using the tap water, which wasn’t the smartest thing I could have done. But I do know this. That there are people all over the world who share the same God as we do, and although they are poor in a material sense, they are so rich in a spiritual sense. I traveled to Guatemala to help the people grow in their faith, and instead they helped me grow in mine. If you ever think that you have nothing to offer to people in other countries, or even here at home, then you are wrong. Because just as Christ showed us, the greatest gift you can give is love.

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**ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM’S SERMON ON PASCHA**

Let no one fear death, for the Savior's death has set us free. He that was held prisoner of it, has annihiliated it. By descending into Hell, He made Hell captive. He angered it when it tasted of his flesh.

And Isaiah, foretelling this, did cry: Hell was angered, when it encountered you in the lower regions. It was angered, for it was abolished. It was angered, for it was mocked. It was angered, for it was slain. It was angered, for it was overthrown. It was angered, for it was fettered in chains.

O Death, where is your sting? O hell, where is your victory? Christ is risen, and you are overthrown. Christ is risen, and the demons have fallen. Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice. Christ is risen, and life is liberated. Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in the grave.

For Christ, having risen from the dead, becomes the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep. To him be glory and dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.
Hello to all my fellow Parishioners!

April is a time when we start to see flower buds, leaves blooming on trees, and the grass turning green. It’s a new beginning. We start to plant our gardens and talk about improving our yard. Houses are cleaned out. The clutter and old things are brought to the dump. Spring cleaning begins and we feel refreshed.

I find many similarities between spring and Lent. It’s a time when we should be cleaning out the old ways and beginning to improve our spiritual selves. An opportunity to plant new “seeds” within our self and to nurture those seeds by going to Church more often, listening or reading books to guide us spiritually, or taking time to just sit and be close with God.

Hopefully we can continue our new ways throughout the year and always look for ways to improve. If the time comes when the leaves or flowers start to wilt, remind yourself of the seeds you planted, look at the beauty around you, and give the flowers some water!

My prayers go out to those of you in need, to the families who have lost loved ones, and to those who have joined our Lord in Heaven.

To all those celebrating a special occasion in April, may God grant you good health for many years!

Pray for Peace!

With love,

Lisa Healy
Parish Council President

What is most terrible to man? Death? Yes, death! None of us can imagine without terror how he will breathe his last. But do not fear and do not sorrow beyond measure. By His death Jesus Christ has conquered death and by His resurrection He has laid the foundation of our resurrection.

St John Kronstadt

“With Christ’s Resurrection everything was made new again, everything was restored. From that point on, the questions posed for every human being has been whether or not to participate in this restoration. In the code language of Christianity, this call to participate is known by the term “repentance,” which calls on us to make the effort to change by becoming new, through the process initiated by the events of Easter.”

Archbishop Anastasios

Today, Hades lets out a groan:
“My power is swallowed up! The shepherd was crucified but raised up Adam. All I ruled over is lost; all I was able to consume in my power, I have spewed out. The Crucified One has emptied the graves. The sway of death is no more!”

Hymn from Holy Saturday

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION
The Sacrament of Confession has always been a central part of an Orthodox Christian’s preparation for Easter. Anyone interested in participating in this Sacrament of Confession and Reconciliation should contact Fr. Luke and make an appointment before Pascha.

PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT’S CORNER

The Light—April 2014
SPECIAL DONATIONS STILL NEEDED FOR LENT & HOLY WEEK

5th Sunday Altar Flowers -$40
Incense & Charcoal (for a year) - $200
Palm Sunday Altar Flower - $40
Palm Sunday Palms & Trees - $200
Circular Resurrection Icon Flowers - $75
14 More White Lilies for Easter - $40/each

THANK YOU to ALL who offered donations during the Lenten & Easter Season.

Sunday Altar Flowers During Lent
Anna and John Thomas
Jimmy and Hariklia Milios
In memory of Apostolos and Victoria Panagiotou from Kostas Panagiotou
In memory of our parents from Ann/Charlie Chito
Flowers for Cross Sunday
In memory of my wife Bessie - Gus Koulax
Flowers for the Salutation Services
Nike Beaudry and Maia
Sophia Foisy and Louisa
Pres. Faith and Panayiota Veronis
Kathy Bilis and Kara
Bridegroom Icon Flowers
For the Glory of God from Lorna McWilliam
Holy Uction Supplies
For the Glory of God from Lorna McWilliam

Holy Thursday Crown of Flowers
For the Glory of God from Lorna McWilliam
Holy Thursday Candles
Constandina Ziakas
Holy Friday Candles
Barbara and Norman Desrosier
Holy Friday Epitaphio Flowers
Charlie and Helen Pappas
Resurrectional Candle
For the Glory of God from Lorna McWilliam
Resurrectional Icon Flowers
In memory of my father John from Kostas Panagiotou
Paschal Altar Arrangement
Elisabeth Vriga
Rose Pedals for Holy Saturday
Grace and Vasilios Milios
Easter Flower Clusters for Pews
Sophie Apostol and Family
Easter Lilies
In memory of our parents from Ann and Charles Chito
For Glory of God from Jimmy & Hariklia Milios
Decorate Christ’s Tomb (The Epitaphio) & Wrap Easter Eggs
9:00 am, Good Friday in the Church Hall

Come and Join our Church Family in watching the musical LES MISERABLES
By Assumption College
At Hanover Theatre
2:00pm Sunday, April 6
Contact Church Office for Details.

During the Lenten Season, please visit our homebound parishioners, or send them a note of love.

WEBSTER MANOR
Lorraine Vesho,
John Nicholopoulos
Helen Theodores

WESTVIEW
(Dayville, Connecticut)
Dina Teguis

HOMEBOUND
Bertha Constantine
Norman Desrosiers
Jennie Manthos
Stavro Pappas
Sophie Talbot

4th Annual “BIBLE BOWL”

All the Youth of our Church are asked to get ready for our 4th Annual “Bible Bowl”
Sunday May 4th

This year we will focus on stories from the ACTS of the Apostles. Our children will be receiving questions on Acts which they can study. Read these stories with your children, learn them yourselves, and get ready for our Youth vs. Parents Competition!

Pick Up Your Reading Packets in Sunday School!!!
All Parishioners and Friends are invited to our

_Palm Sunday_

*Family Fish Luncheon*

Palm Sunday, April 13 following the Divine Liturgy

Let our Church family come together in fellowship and love as we prepare for Holy Week and Pascha!

Celebrate our Lord’s Resurrection on EASTER DAY (April 20) with our Church Family

“PASCHA LAMB” & a POT-LUCK MEAL!

11:00 am - Easter Egg Hunt for Children
12:00 Agape Vespers Service
1:00 Potluck Easter Lunch

If you are interested in coming, please contact Jaime Ross or our Church Office so we know how many are coming and can arrange the pot-luck meals.

All Children Welcome

JOY EASTER EGG HUNT!!!

EASTER DAY
April 20, 11:00 am
followed by the
AGAPE VESPERS of Pascha 12:00 noon

GOOD FRIDAY RETREAT

_Youth Service Project_
12:00-1:30
Good Friday, APRIL 18

MYRRH-BEARING GIRLS
(for all girls from 3 to 18 years old - 6:00pm, Holy Friday Procession)

Contact Nike Beaudry to participate ((508) 864-4955)
Eight Christian Leaders from Pakistan, Armenia, South Korea, and Albania visited our Church on March 23rd. These leaders are visiting the United States through the Overseas Study Ministry Center in New Haven. Included in this group were Insar and Uzma from Pakistan, whose church was bombed by the Taliban in September 2013, and whose only two children were killed - their 11 year old son Ishan, and their 9 year old daughter, Naiher, along with their mother and cousin. They are in the States for a time of healing and trauma care. Please pray for their healing and recovery from this tragedy! They especially asked for prayers for God to bless them with another child.

Congratulations to baby Grace on her 40 Day Churching. Grace is the daughter of Arthur and Sara Darligiannis.

Our Sunday School girls were taking turns decorating the icon of the Virgin Mary for the Salutations Services during Lent.
For the fourth time since 2008, our Church is sending 16 people to Tijuana Mexico to build a home for a needy family through Project Mexico. We will go from July 15-21, 2014. We need to raise $15,000, which will pay for the supplies and materials needed to build the house, our food and lodging at the orphanage, our flights to San Diego and the van we must rent for Mexico. In order for this mission trip to succeed, we need many partners. Would you prayerfully consider either participating in this trip, and/or becoming a spiritual and financial partner with us on our mission?

Send a tax-deductible donation to “Sts. Constantine and Helen Church” and write Project Mexico in the memo line. If you are interested in learning more about Project Mexico, please look on their website www.projectmexico.org.

Please keep our group (Veronis Family, Anton, Smaranda and Elizabeth Cojocaru, Neal and Olivia Neslusan, Zoe and Maggie Cremeens, Sophia & Peter Michalopoulos) in your prayers. Thanks for helping our Church participate in our Lord’s global mission and outreach!!
PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

NEXT MEETING
6:00PM, APRIL 7

Please, if you haven’t paid your dues, please see Sandi Kunkel.

FOR THE MAY 10th CRAFT FAIR
If you know of anyone that would like to have a craft table, please contact Evelyn Pappas.

If you can help bake for the craft fair, please contact Betty Vriga.

To donate a gift for the Raffle Table, bring it Friday, May 9th.

Order your EASTER SWEET BREADS

Pre-Order before April 6
$6.00 each.

Pick up on Palm Sunday, April 13 following Divine Liturgy.

Order from Eleni Xanthopoulos.

If you need any HANDY MAN WORK
Around the House (Electrical or Other) Call ANTON COJOCARU (508-335-2191)
Cost: Offer a Donation to Project Mexico
Parents Please Plan to Attend

**PARENTING TEENS**
With Bishop John Abdalah
6:30pm Saturday April 5

At the home of

All Parents & Grandparents
Are Welcome!!!

**BOOK STUDY GROUP**

_The Scent of Holiness: Lessons from a Women’s Monastery_

6:30pm, Saturday April 12

At the home of Katie and Yanni Mironidis

Everyone Welcome!

**JOY Overnight Retreat**

“A Journey Toward God”
April 4-5
at our Church

**LAZARUS SATURDAY**
April 12th

Sunday School
Pancake Breakfast
And Palm Making

9:30 Divine Liturgy
10:30 Palm Making and Easter Egg Stuffing

**EARLY RISERS BIBLE STUDY**

6:30 am - 7:30 am
Every Saturday

**WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY**

10:30-11:45
Wednesdays

All Are Welcome!
USHERS & GREETERS SCHEDULE

April 6
Chris Constantine, Barbara Gianaris, Deb Raymond, Dan Rivelli, Alex Seferi

PALM SUNDAY, April 13
Arthur Bilis & Del Monroe, Chris Geotis, Thomai Gatzogianis, Trish Laurea

Holy Wednesday, April 16, 6:30pm
Marie McNally, Eric Beland, Matt Benoit, Zach Gianaris, Lisa Healy

Holy Thursday, April 17, 6:30pm
Neal Neslusan, Betty Vriga, Leah Didonato, Gus Koulax, Cindy Johnson

Good Friday, April 18, 6:30pm
Chris Constantine, Barbara Gianaris, Deb Raymond, Dan Rivelli, Alex Seferi

Holy Saturday Night April 19, 10pm
Arthur Bilis & Del Monroe, Chris Geotis, Thomai Gatzogianis, Trish Laurea

PASCHA Sunday, April 20 12:00pm
Marie McNally, Eric Beland, Matt Benoit, Zach Gianaris, Lisa Healy,

April 27
Neal Neslusan, Betty Vriga, Leah Didonato, Gus Koulax, Cindy Johnson

YOUTH EPISTLE READERS

April 6 - Olivia Neslusan
(Hebrews 9:11-14 - page )

April 13 - Smaranda Cojocaru
(Philippians 4:4-9 - page)

Pascha, April 19 - Maia Beaudry
(Acts 1:1-8 – page)

April 27 - Paris McWilliam
(Acts 5:12-20—page)

May 4 - Katerirna McWilliam
(Acts 6:1-9 - page)

May 11 — Panayiota Veronis

May 18 - Lily Mueller
(Acts 11:19-30 - page)

May 25 - Hanna Kunkel
(2 Corinthians 4:6-15 - page)

June 1 - Theodora Veronis
(Acts 20:16-36 - page)

June 8 - Maria Mironidis
(Acts 2:1-11 - page)

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:

April 6 - Kathy Bilis, Marie Monroe, Carolyn Niemeck, Deb Raymond, Jared Quill

April 13 - Thomai Gatzogiannis, Jaime Ross, Betty Tonna, Eleni Xanthopoulos, Kiku Andersen

April 27 - Marie McNally, Christa Benoit, Sandi Kunkel, Mary Seferi

May 4 – Donna Cooney, Athena Cooney, Leah DiDonato, Bill Anthopoulos
Remembering Our Church Family

Important Dates in APRIL:

Express your congratulations to members of our Church family who celebrate special days during this month.

**BIRTHDAYS:**

- April 3  Lex Pappas
- April 4  Elisabeta Cojocaru
- April 7  Persephoni Sgouritsas
- April 7  Del Monroe
- April 12  Catalin Enache
- April 12  Helen Thomas
- April 13  Dhimitra Adamopoulos
- April 18  Kathy Bilis
- April 18  Pauline Mueller
- April 19  Kaiden Kunkel
- April 21  Muriel Angelo
- April 23  Leslie Manthos
- April 24  Donna Christo
- April 25  Harrison Jordanoglou
- April 25  Zachary Bethune
- April 30  Bertha Constantine

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:**

- April 28  Richard & Sophia Bethune

**NAMEDAYS:**

- **Easter**  Anestis Jordanoglou

Sunday after Easter—St. Thomas

- Thomas Baxter
- Thomai Gatsogiannis
- Thomas Klebart
- Tom Laurea
- Tom Naumski
- Gideon Thomas Ross
- Garry Thomas Ross

April 23  St George

- George Condos
- Evis Georgia Jordanoglou
- Georgette Nicholopoulos
- George Baraklilis
- George Beno
- George Carabina
- George Milios
- George Nonis
- George Papageorge
- Leslie Georgia Manthos
- Georgia Beland
- Yorgos Sgouritsas

MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE ETERNAL!

“For I am the Resurrection and the Life. Whoever Believes in me will not die but will see eternal life.”

SOTER SAM ANGELO

MARCH 8

PAVLINA CUNKOVSKI

MARCH 16
Generosity & Stewardship

Following are verses from the Bible about God’s perspective on giving:

“He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward him for what he has done.”

(Proverbs 19:17)

‘Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, “How do we rob you?” In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse—the whole nation of you—because you are robbing me. Bring the whole 10% into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,’ says the Lord, ‘and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.’

(Malachi 3:8-10)

“But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. ... Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.”

(1 Timothy 6:6-7, 17-19)

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be.”

(Matthew 6:19-21)
VERSES FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

If Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all people the most pitiable. But now Christ is risen from the dead and has become the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

1 Corinthians 15:17-20

Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. Go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead indeed, and He is going before you into Galilee.

Matthew 28:5-7

“Thus it is written and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and “that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations.”

Luke 24:46-47

“Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.

John 20:29

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

April

April 1 Isaiah 40:18-31 Genesis 15:1-15 Prov 14:7-19
April 2 Isaiah 41:4-14 Gen 17:1-9 Prov 15:20-16:9
April 3 Isaiah 42:5-16 Gen 18:20-33 Prov 16:17-17:17
April 6 Hebrews 9:11-14 Mark 10:32-45
April 8 Isaiah 49:6-10 Gen 31:3-16 Prov 21:3-21
April 13 (Palm Sunday) Philippians 4:4-9 John 12:1-18
April 14 Matthew 21:18-43 Matthew 24:3-35
April 15 Matthew 22—26
April 16 John 12:17-50 Matthew 26:6-16
April 17 1 Corinthians 11:23-32 Matthew 26:1-75
April 18 1 Corinthians 5:6-8 Matthew 27:62-66
April 19 Romans 6:3-11 Matthew 28:1-20
April 20 (PASCHA) Acts 1:1-8 John 1:1-17
April 21 Acts 1:12-26 John 1:18-28
April 23 Acts 12:1-11 John 1:35-52
April 26 Acts 3:11-16 John 3:22-33
April 27 Acts 5:12-20 John 20:19-31
April 29 Acts 4:1-10 John 3:16-21
Thank You to those who sponsor our monthly bulletin!

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Roland P. Malboeuf, Funeral Director
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<td>6</td>
<td>8:30 Matins 9:30 Divine Liturgy</td>
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<td>6:00 Philoptochos Meeting</td>
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<td>10:30 Bible Study</td>
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|      | 2:00 Les Misérable |      | 6:30 Parish Council Meeting |      | 6:00 Pre-Sanctified Liturgy with Pot-Luck Dinner |      | 6:30 Bible Study  
|      |      |      |      |      |      | JOY Lock In Retreat  
|      |      |      |      |      |      | 6:30pm Parenting Talk |
| 13   | PALM SUNDAY  
| 8:30 Matins 9:30 Liturgy  
| 11:00 Community Fish Luncheon  
| 6:30 Bridegroom Service  
| 14   | HOLY MONDAY  
| 6:30 Bridegroom service  
| 15   | HOLY TUESDAY  
| 6:30 Bridegroom Service  
| 16   | HOLY WEDNESDAY  
| 9:30 Pre-Sanctified Liturgy  
| 17   | HOLY THURSDAY  
| 9:30 Divine Liturgy  
| 18   | GOOD FRIDAY  
| 9:00 Holy Hours  
| 9:00 Decoration of Epitaphio  
| 12:30 JOY & GOYA Retreat 2:00 Vespers  
| 6:30 Lamentations  
| 19   | HOLY SATURDAY  
| **10:00pm Resurrection Service**  |
| 20   | PASCHA  
| 11:00 Easter Egg Hunt  
| 12:00 Vespers of Love  
| 1:00 Pascha Lamb Lunch  
| 21   | BRIGHT MONDAY  
| 9:00 Matins 9:30 Liturgy  
| 22   | BRIGHT TUESDAY  
| 23   | BRIGHT WEDNESDAY  
| (St George)  
| 8:45 Matins 9:30 Liturgy  
| 10:30 Bible Study  |
| 24   | BRIGHT THURSDAY  
| 25   | BRIGHT FRIDAY  
| (Life Giving Font)  
| 8:45 Matins 9:30 Liturgy  
| 26   | BRIGHT SATURDAY  
| 6:30am Bible Study  
| 11:00 Baptism  
| 5:30pm Vesper  |
| 27   | 8:30 Matins 9:30 Divine Liturgy  
| 40 Day Memorial for Soter Angelo & 1 Year for John Panagiotou  
| 28   |          | 30   |          | May 1 | May 2 | May 3 |
|      |          |      |      |      |      | CLEAN UP DAY at the CHURCH |
Christ is Risen!

Truly He is Risen!