Jesus said, “I am the light of the world.”

John 9:5

SUMMER CAMPS

“Let the children come to me, for to such belong the Kingdom of Heaven.” (Mt 19:14)

I am writing this message to you as 16 of our Church youth have recently come back from our Metropolis of Boston Camp in New Hampshire, as we just finished our 11th Vacation Church Camp with more than 50 children and youth coming to our Church each evening for a week, and as I prepare to go to Ionian Village, a summer camp run by our Archdiocese in Greece.

Every summer literally thousands of youth attend these wonderful camp programs which offer great fun, Christ-centered fellowship, and special opportunities to truly grow in our faith.

Presbytera Faith and I both have been blessed throughout our lives by such camps. We grew up going to Camp Nazareth, a dynamic Greek Orthodox camp in Pittsburgh that has literally blessed thousands of children over the past 40 years. When we served as missionaries in Albania for more than a decade, Archbishop Anastasios asked us to help direct the Good Shepherd Camp for six weeks every summer. From that camp we saw the lives of countless youth touched in a special way by the grace of God.

Through such camps like Camp Nazareth in Pittsburgh, the Good Shepherd Camp in Albania, our Metropolis of Boston Camp, Ionian Village, and even our Vacation Church Camp, the Church is trying to reach out to our youth, and cultivate a strong Orthodox Christian Foundation in each of them from a young age.
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)
email: frlukeyveronis@gmail.com
INSPIRATION FROM SUMMER CAMPS

Continued from Front Cover

At MBC, it is inspiring to watch 120 young kids come to Church every morning and evening for prayers, keep a quiet time of meditation and Bible reading for 15 minutes each day, go to sessions where they learn about our Orthodox Faith, and even to see many of these children go to the Sacrament of Confession. In fact, Church Camp is the place where many of these children go to Confession for the first time in their lives.

The beauty of these camp experiences is that the children have many hours of Christian education and formation, intermixed with many other fun sports, activities and time in the Lake. These times of fellowship and fun are combined with important elements of faith. Thus, these children enjoy themselves, while also realizing that they are not alone in their identity as Orthodox Christians. There are literally thousands of other kids like them, who have the same faith they do, and who struggle to live out their faith.

Too often in their schools, our Orthodox children feel isolated with their faith. They usually don’t have too many, if any, other Orthodox Christians in their school, and therefore they may be embarrassed when they fast on Wednesdays or Fridays, make their cross before eating meals, say their prayers, or talk about their faith.

Here at camp, these kids get to meet many other children and youth their age who love the Lord Jesus Christ and His Church, who feel comfortable talking about saints, feastdays, fasting, and the Christians virtues, and who aren’t ashamed to be Greek Orthodox. And oftentimes, these youth make lifelong friendships which they carry over into college and beyond!

Thank God for these camps, and thank God for our hierarchs and other youth leaders who had a vision to establish such havens for our youth! I also want to thank our Philoptochos for offering a $200 camp scholarship to all of our youth who went to camp, and for those who supported our other fundraisers which halved the cost of the camp!

On another note, in this month of August, we celebrate two of the major feastdays in our Church calendar - the Transfiguration on August 6, and the Falling Asleep of the Virgin Mary on August 15. These two feasts are connected as well to the 14 day fasting period we observe from August 1-14. I pray that we all enter into the spirit of this summer Fast, reminding ourselves to not take a vacation from our spiritual disciplines and struggles.

During this month of August, please also note that our Church Festival is fast approaching. We need many volunteers to help in the preparations, as well as to participate in the actual event on September 12-13. Please help to sell any tickets that were sent to your homes, and offer your services for the glory of God.

May the remainder of the summer be filled with an abundance of God’s grace.

With love and gratitude in our Lord Jesus,

+ Fr. Luke
"If it were possible for me to climb up into the sky, to be able to shout with a great voice, to preach to the entire world that only our Christ is the Son and Word of God, true God and life of all, I would have done it. But because I can't do such a thing, I do this small thing; I walk from place to place and teach my brothers and sisters as I can, not as a teacher but as a brother."

These words were said by one of the greatest saints of our Church three centuries ago. St. Kosmas of Aitolos, whose feastday we celebrate on August 24, was one of the greatest missionaries of modern Greece. For the last 20 years of his life, he traveled throughout villages in the Ottoman Empire (of modern-day Greece, southern Serbia, and Albania) preaching the Gospel of Christ and trying to help people discover the great riches of the Kingdom of God.

St. Kosma came from a poor family, where education was unavailable. He himself remained illiterate for the first 20 years of his life. However, he had a strong desire to learn to read, because he felt it was very important for him to be able to read the Bible and writings of the Church Fathers, and to better discover the riches of our Orthodox faith.

Thus, Kosma traveled throughout many villages looking for ways to learn. Eventually, he went to the Holy Mountain and to the Philotheou Monastery. At age 20, he became a monk and thought he would spend the remainder of his life living in a monastery.

His life changed however, as he struggled to live an authentic spiritual life and began reading and understanding Holy Scripture. St. Kosma said, "By studying the holy Gospel, I found many teachings which are pearls, diamonds, treasures, riches, joy - eternal life. Among these teachings I found Christ saying that no Christian can be concerned only with himself, but must be concerned with those who don't know Christ and who have never heard the Gospel."

This revelation from the Bible transformed his life; it made him see beyond himself and his own cares, and look into the needs of the world. He would later say, "I looked out my window and saw the world wounded, bleeding, and crying for help. I saw the world submerged by waves of egoism, ignorance, and hatred. And I decided
"to waste no more time."

Compelled by the call of God to "go forth" to all peoples, he left the monastery, and with the blessing of the Ecumenical Patriarch, he began traveling from village to village preaching a very simple yet powerful message to believe in God and commit your whole life to Him, to love one another, forgive each other, and strive to live a holy life of peace, joy, and humility. His teachings were basic but also difficult.

He would teach that true Christian love means, "If I have a loaf of bread to eat, and someone else does not have, I must not eat alone but share what I have. If I have clothes and another lacks them, I must give away part of what I have. If I open my mouth to gossip, at once I remember love and it stops my mouth from speaking. . . And above all, love teaches me to forgive. A man may insult me, kill my father, my mother, my brother, and then gouge out my eyes. As a Christian, it is still my duty to forgive him."

In many villages, the people loved him and wanted him to stay with them. However, his desire to share the gospel with all people compelled him onward. He could tell these people, "What can I do since there are thousands of villages where the people have never heard the word of God." Before leaving each village, he did try to help them organize a school, so that they could teach their children to read and then they could begin reading the Bible. During his life he started over 200 elementary schools and 10 high schools.

Although Kosmas was loved by many people, his preaching obviously upset certain groups in the Ottoman Empire and on August 24, 1779 he was seized in the city of Berat and hanged.

From this brief account of his life, we see four main principles which he lived by: First, the importance he placed in reading the Holy Scripture and Church Fathers. Second, his understanding of the need for Christians to go to other places and preach the gospel and share the good news of Jesus Christ with all people. Third, his strong desire for all people to be educated, especially so that they could then read the Bible and Holy Fathers. Fourth, his belief that we must live the Christian life in practical ways. Such living must be seen in our actions - through love, forgiveness, caring for others, following the basic teachings of Christ in our daily lives.

St. Kosma played an important role in the history of Christianity in the Balkans. When many of the Christians in these regions were forgetting about their Orthodox faith, and even converting to Islam, St. Kosma brought people back to Jesus Christ, and helped them come closer to God and His Church.

The way we Orthodox Christians today can best honor his memory is by continuing his work. We must follow his example by make the Bible a central part of our lives, by sharing our faith with other people, and most importantly, by striving to live a holy, pure and Christ-like life in our daily lives! May God have mercy upon all of us through the prayers of St. Kosma.
OUR TRANSFIGURATION
The Feast of our Lord’s Transfiguration Aug 6th

Why do we come to Church each week? What are we seeking from our Christian faith? What is our ultimate goal for this brief life here on planet earth? The Feast of Our Lord’s Transfiguration (Aug 6) clearly teaches us that our goal in life should be nothing less than TRANSFIGURATION! To be transfigured, to be transformed, to be lifted up out of the superficialities of the world and to become “a new creation” in Jesus Christ, one truly united with our Lord and filled with His Divine light and energies!

Let’s begin with the story itself. The twelve disciples traveled with Christ for three years, hearing His inspiring teachings, witnessing His amazing healings and miracles, and constantly wrestling with the question, “Who is this man?” Is He a great prophet, like the prophets of old? Is He a King, like king David who conquered the nations all around Israel? Is He the Messiah, the long-awaited Savior of Israel?

The crowds all agreed that no one ever taught with such authority. He even claimed to forgive sins! Yet, the disciples remained caution. They hoped Jesus was the Christ, but He confused them. Just six days prior to the Transfiguration Jesus bewildered his followers by saying, “I must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things, and be killed.” Not only did Jesus tell his disciples that he was to suffer and die, but then he bluntly challenged each one of them by saying, “If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.” Such talk of suffering, self-denial, losing one’s life, and death itself made little sense to the disciples.

Well, to encourage and enlighten his followers, Jesus revealed His true nature to his innermost disciples – Peter, James, and John. Together, they climbed Mount Tabor to pray, and while praying, the disciples caught a glimpse of Christ’s divinity! His face shined like the sun. His clothes became as white as light. And they heard a voice from a bright cloud overshadowed saying, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased…”

The disciples received confirmation that YES, this human Jesus was not only the Messiah, the Christ, but even ONE with the Divine, uncreated Light of Almighty God. The uncreated, divine light coming from Jesus revealed His oneness with God Himself!

Simultaneously, though, Jesus also revealed to His followers something about their own humanity. Contrary to our fallen human nature, the Transfiguration of Jesus raises our eyes up to our original destiny, which St. Peter affirmed: “[Our Lord’s] divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness… and through his great and precious promises, [we] may be partakers of the divine nature, escaping the corruption that is in the world.” (2 Pet 1:3,4)

We may become partakers of the divine nature! Jesus confirmed this teaching throughout his ministry when He invited everyone to fulfill their divine potential. He wants you and me to become one with Him. Thus, the feast of the Transfiguration not only reaffirms the divine identity of our Lord, but also reveals to each one of us our true nature; we see our destiny in divine transfiguration! Human life is not about petty, mundane, superficial pursuits of pleasure, comfort, power, and worldly success, but instead is about a greater call, a return to our original and divine destiny! Life is about transfiguration into the life of Christ!
FALLING ASLEEP OF THE VIRGIN MARY
Fast from August 1-14; Feastday August 15th

One of the four major fasting periods for the Orthodox Church occurs from August 1 - 14, in preparation for the Great Feast of the Falling Asleep of the Virgin Mary on August 15.

During this time Orthodox Christians are asked to increase their spiritual struggle by praying more often, attending the Supplication Services (Paraclesis) to the Virgin Mary, generously offering alms to those in need, and fasting from meat and dairy products as a spiritual discipline to draw closer to God.

May we all use this period for our spiritual edification and growth!

Please email Fr. Luke at frlukeveronis@gmail.com with the names of anyone you want us to pray for during this holy season.

Theotokos Spirituality
By Archbishop Anastasios of Albania

“Think of Christ's mother. She became the first and best disciple and sets the perfect example for anyone who is trying to follow her Divine Son.

There are three main elements in the witness of the Theotokos. First, she told the archangel, 'Be it done to me according to your word.' She gives us the example of obeying God's will, and thus, allowing Christ to enter our lives.

Second, she says, "My soul magnifies the Lord." She models how we make the center of our lives Christ, not ourselves.

Third, she says, 'Do whatever he tells you.' We learn from her another type of freedom - the freedom to be free of your own plans. We realize Christ becomes present in our lives, as He became present in hers, through obedience. It is the obedience of love, a gift of the Holy Spirit.

In her silence, in her capacity to quietly consider events in her heart, we also learn much about prayer -- face-to-face conversations with God in silence.

Contemplating on the Mother of God is a great help and is itself a form of prayer."
OPA! Grecian Festival 2015

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

September 12th & 13th

Come to our Festival Meetings and see how you can help.

Help Us Make this Festival One of Our Best Ever!!!

FESTIVAL BANNERS

One special way to support our Festival is to buy a banner advertising your business, or offering a greeting to all the people who will be present. These banners will be displayed inside of the main tent.

You can purchase a banner for a $100 donation.

You can send a check into the Church Office, noting what wording you would like on the banner, or contact the Church Office or Fr Luke.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

Please consider offering as many hours as you can on the weekend of the Festival. Contact Mary Papageorge at 508-272-8763 at m.e.papageorge@gmail.com.

RAFFLE TICKETS

Raffle tickets will be sent to your

CENTER TABLE

Please bring in items for the Center Table. A basket will be placed in the Church Hall. Contact Dhimitra Adamopoulos or Celia Milios with any questions.

THEMATIC BASKETS

Contact Evelyn Pappas (508-259-5453) or Sandi Kunkel (508-943-7227) about making a thematic basket, or donating anything towards a basket.
**NEEDED FESTIVAL DONATIONS**

In the efforts to keep our costs down as much as possible this year, anyone who would like to donate any of the following ingredients or make a monetary donation to purchase any of the items for the food line, please see Lisa Healy (or call 508-981-8109), Marie McNally, or Cynthia Johnson. Thank you !!!!

- 30 BOXES BARILLA BRAND RIGATONI
- 3 LARGE (16 OUNCES) GRATED PARMESAN CHEESE
- 10 POUNDS FETA CHEESE
- 12 MED ONIONS (FOR PASTITSIO)
- 20 LARGE ONIONS (FOR GRYROS)
- 4 PACKAGES CELERY STALKS
- 8 POUNDS OF BUTTER
- 24 - 29OZ CANS OF TOMATO SAUCE
- 4 BOXES CORNSTARCH
- 5 GALLONS OF WHOLE MILK
- 2 LARGE BOTTLES CABERNET WINE
- 25 CASES OF WATER
- 40 CASES OF SODA
- 11 COKE
- 7 DIET COKE
- 8 GINGER ALE
- 8 ROOT BEER
- 6 ORANGE
- 3 LARGE BOTTLES OF KETCHUP
- 1 LARGE BOTTLE RELISH
- 3 LARGE BOTTLES MUSTARD
- 3000 NAPKINS
- 600 SMALL PAPER PLATES 6 OR 7 INCH
- 100 SLICES OF AMERICAN CHEESE (INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED)
- 140 HOT DOGS AND HOT BUNS
- 140 HAMBURGERS AND BUNS
- 130 HAMBURGER BUNS FOR LAMB BURGERS

**KID’S BOOTH DONATIONS NEEDED:**

**40 1 Qt Bottles of Soda for the Kid’s Bottle Toss**

**Donation of $200 to Rent a Snow Cone Machine and Supplies for the Kids Booth**

Any donations for games and prizes for Kid’s booth
PARISH COUNCIL

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I hope we can all be the "light" to someone who needs us. The smallest gesture will shine the brightest.

May God Bless Us All

Lisa Healy
Parish Council President

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Hope everyone is enjoying a wonderful summer! Before you know it summer will be over. Enjoy the nice weather while you can.

Festival time is approaching and we have to plan for baking and cooking. On August 17th we will have a meeting to set up dates and times for baking the petas, breads, and baklava. The rest of the pastry we ask you to bake your specialty at home and bring in.

We are also looking for any donations to help defray the cost of the ingredients. We thank you in advance for all your time and help. It is a busy and hectic time but it is also fun being all together and working for our church. Enjoy the rest of your summer and see you on the 17th.

Love,

Evelyn Pappas

Prayer of St. Patrick

I arise today through God’s strength to pilot me;
God's might to uphold me,
God's wisdom to guide me,
God's eye to look before me,
God's ear to hear me,
God's word to speak for me,
God's hand to guard me,
God's way to lie before me,
God's shield to protect me,

God's hosts to save me
From snares of the devil,
From temptations of vices,
From every one who desires me ill,
Afar and anear,
Alone or in a multitude.
Christ with me, Christ before me,
Christ behind me, Christ in me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ when I lie down and when I’m awake. Amen.
Scenes from our Metropolis of Boston Camp.

We had 16 kids from our Church Attending Camp This Summer!
A VISION FOR THE FUTURE
OFFERING A VIBRANT HOUSE OF FAITH AND
WORSHIP FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

39 out of 175 Members of our Church Family have given thus far towards our Capital Campaign. Will you please prayerfully consider participating in this project to beautify our Church!

ARCHANGELS ($100,000)
- Charlie and Helen Pappas

ANGELS ($50,000)
- In Honor of their parents Despina and Bill from the Condos Children (George, Lisa, Maria, Ann)
- Emmanuel James Pappas
- Olga Pappas
- Sam and Evelyn Pappas

PRINCIPALITIES ($45,000)
- Sandi and Gerry Kunkel
- Stavros and Evangelia Pappas
- Mary Fatsi, Eleanor Teguis, Dina Teguis

GOOD SHEPHERDS: ($20,000-30,000)
- Michael and Titi Chito
- Van Thomas
- The Foisy Family

TORCH BEARERS: ($10,000-$15,000)
- Kiku Andersen
- Fr Luke and Pres. Faith Veronis
- Evangeline Wilson

BENEFACCTORS: ($6000-$9,000)
- Leah Didonato
- In Honor of Demetrios and Harilkia Milios from Celia Milios
- Ted and Betty Tonna
- Harry/Tina Jordanoglou and Ron/Sandy Sanderson

PATRONS: ($3000-$5000)
- Dhimitra & Angelo Adamopoulos

SUPPORTERS: ($1000-$2900)
- Pauline Angelo
- Ted Avlas
- Bill and Despina Condos
- Nicholas/Bertha Constantine
- Said/Bozena Khozmani
- Georgia Metaxa
- Georgette Nicholopoulos
- Helen & Lou Nicozisis
- Olga Petluck
- Jared and Stephanie Quill
- Paulette Steffa
- Antigone Steffa

FRIENDS: (Up to $999)
- John & Samantha Gatsogiannis
- Susan Emerson Hill
- Kaiden and Hanna Kunkel
- Zinos and Angeliki Mavodanes
- Chris & John Mayo
- Bob & Lea Mirandola
- George Nonis
- Elaine Patrinos
- Garry & Jaime Ross

A Special Thanks to Anton Cojocaru who is donating countless hours in doing the electrical work for the renovation and new building.

Thanks also to Eric Beland, Tony Beaudry and Garry Ross for putting in more than 60 hours of labor in setting up the new sound system for the Church Sanctuary and the Hall

FUNDRAISING GOAL: $700,000  CASH AND PLEDGED: $587,868
The Light - August 2015

**Capital Campaign Giving**

Only 39 out of 175 Church Members Have Contributed to our Capital Campaign Thus Far!!!

**GOAL:**
- We want 100% Parishioner Participation
- Presently: 22% of Parishioners Have Given

**REMAINING NAMING OPPORTUNITIES**
(A Donation over THREE years):

- Naming opportunity for Classroom Building at $45,000
- Stain Glass Windows in Interior of Church:
  - Large Interior South Wall: $36,000
  - Back Wall Window: $20,000
  - North Wall Window: $18,000
  - Altar Window: $18,000

**GOAL:**
- $700,000
- $588,000 Pledged or Donated Thus Far!
  (84% of our Goal!!!)

**NEW CLASSROOM BUILDING IN PROGRESS**

**ANCIENT WISDOM**

An ancient saying advises, “A person should carry two stones in his pocket. On one should be inscribed “I am but dust and ashes.” On the other should be engraved, “For my sake the world was created. God loves me so much that for me He gave His only Son.” Then, when tempted with pride, we should focus on the first stone. And when tempted with despair or a lack of joy, we should focus on the second stone.

**A TIME CAPSULE**

for our

New Classroom Building

We will be putting a Time Capsule in the walls of our new classroom building as an offering to the future generations. We want to include in this project artifacts, letters, and whatever else we can offer to remind our children and future generations of who we were and the living Faith Community we had.

If you have any ideas or suggestions of what to include in our Time Capsule, please talk with Nick Seferi.
COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:
August 2 - Kathy Bilis, Marie Monroe, Carolyn Niemeck, Deb Raymond
August 9 - Thomai Gatsogiannis, Trish Lareau, Stephanie Quill, Betty Tonna
August 16 - Marie McNally, Christa Benoit, Sandi Kunkel, Mary Seferi
August 23 – Donna Cooney, Athena Cooney, Bill Anthopoulos, Jaime Ross
August 30 - Kathy Bilis, Marie Monroe, Carolyn Niemeck, Deb Raymond

YOUTH EPISTLE READERS
July 5 - Olivia Neslusan
(Acts 11:19-30 - page 52)
July 12 - Smaranda Cojocaru
(Acts 16:16-34 - page 56)
July 19 - Maia Beaudry
(Acts 20:16-26 - page 60)
July 26 Maria Mironidis
(Acts 2:1-11)
August 2 - Lily Mueller
(Hebrews 11:33-12:2)
August 9 - Hanna Kunkel
Romans 2:10-16
August 16 - Theodora Veronis
Romans 5:1-10
August 23 - Panayiota Veronis
(Acts 9:32-42 - page 50)

EARLY RISERS BIBLE STUDY & WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY
Will Resume in September

Orthodox 201 Class
Will Resume in September
Remembering Our Church Family

Important Dates in AUGUST

Make a visit, call, or express your congratulations to members of our Church family who celebrate special days during this month.

**BIRTHDAYS:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 1</td>
<td>Dimitrios Milios</td>
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<td>Aug 1</td>
<td>Adam Sanderson</td>
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<td>Aug 2</td>
<td>Evelyn Belanger</td>
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<td>Aug 3</td>
<td>Mary Stefanides</td>
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<td>Aug 4</td>
<td>Nicholas Veronis</td>
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<td>Aug 4</td>
<td>Georgette Nikolopoulos</td>
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<td>Aug 6</td>
<td>Katerina Beland</td>
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<td>Aug 6</td>
<td>Sophia Quill</td>
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<td>Aug 7</td>
<td>Demetra O’Brien</td>
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<td>Aug 7</td>
<td>Vassey Tanko</td>
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<td>Aug 11</td>
<td>Ramona Geotis</td>
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<td>Aug 13</td>
<td>Helen Constantine</td>
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<td>Aug 13</td>
<td>Catherine Jordanoglou</td>
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<td>Aug 14</td>
<td>David Johnson</td>
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<td>Aug 16</td>
<td>Ari Totolos</td>
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<td>Aug 17</td>
<td>Alex Seferi</td>
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<td>Aug 18</td>
<td>Denise Gritzner</td>
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<td>Aug 19</td>
<td>Richard Seferi</td>
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<td>Aug 22</td>
<td>Katerina Quill</td>
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<td>Aug 23</td>
<td>Julie Milios</td>
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<td>Aug 26</td>
<td>Nikola Constantine</td>
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<td>Aug 27</td>
<td>Clara Enache</td>
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<td>Aug 28</td>
<td>Matthew Zhuk</td>
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**NAMEDAYS:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 6</td>
<td>Transfiguration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 15</td>
<td>Dormition of Virgin Mary</td>
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**WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 8</td>
<td>Chris/Alex Massie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 16</td>
<td>Victor &amp; Triada Apostolou</td>
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<td>Aug 20</td>
<td>Aristotelis &amp; Gloria Panagiotou</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 20</td>
<td>Paul &amp; Eleni Xanthopoulos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 24</td>
<td>Anton &amp; Nicoleta Cojocaru</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 28</td>
<td>Fr Luke &amp; Pres Faith Veronis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 31</td>
<td>Cynthia &amp; David Johnson</td>
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</tbody>
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**CONGRATULATIONS to SAM PAPPAS**

who was elected as the new Chairman of Hometown Bank. Sam was first elected to the Board in 1996, when it was still Webster Cooperative Bank and had one office. He was instrumental in rebranding the bank as Hometown Bank, and in the acquisition of the Oxford property. He has served as chairman of the Mortgage and Security Committee for 14 years and vice chairman of the Board of directors for the past year.
A LETTER FROM GOD

My Dear Precious Child,

I'm writing this in reply to your letter in which you complained about the Church asking too often for money and extra collections.

You wrote quite a strong letter. I showed it to My Son, Your Lord Jesus. He said that while He was on earth, He had made it quite clear to His followers how important the Stewardship of My gifts really is.

I want to remind you that your whole life is made up of My gifts to you. Time is My gift to you, each hour of your life. Your talents are My gift to you, your abilities and special skills. Your treasure is My gift to you, the money I enable you to earn.

How you use these gifts, selfishly or unselfishly, foolishly or responsibly, is what my holy writers have called your Stewardship to Me. When I call you to Myself. I will ask you to give an account of your Stewardship to My Body, My Church.

You say the Church asks you for money for this and money for that and you complain about extra collections. Obviously you are referring to the Christian Stewardship Program for the general support of your Parish, and the special collections for My poor and needy throughout the world. Aren't these funds simply to continue My work of salvation for you and your family through your church, and to give you the opportunity to share my blessings with your less fortunate brethren? I want you to remember that it is a blessing for you to be able to give to others!

You mention that you go to Church to worship, and the collection tray turns you off. But isn't your giving a part of your worship? Doesn't your gift of money represent actual hours of your life, hours of work that earned it? Isn't then your gift a gift of some of yourself? Doesn't this whole matter amount to one simple question for you: How much should I give to the Church? When you have determined that, you can be at peace.

Each person has a different income, and therefore a different ability to give. You give as you have received. What could be more fair? And isn't that what I Myself indicated: "Give to the Most High as he has given to you, according to your means." (Sirach 35:9)

Let Me ask you, how much of the income I enable you to earn do you actually use for yourself and your family, and how much do you give back to Me? Is it 99 percent for you, and 1 percent for God? 95 percent for you, and 5 percent for God? I have tried to guide you by asking you to give me 10 percent.

I hope My words will give you food for thought and prayer. Giving is always supposed to be an act of love. That is my way. That is the way of my Son. Will you make it also your way?

With infinite love,

Your Heavenly Father
VERSES FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God which passes all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4:6-7

Very truly I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

John 12:24-26

Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.

John 15:1-2

Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.

Luke 12:15

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

AUGUST

August 1 Hebrews 11:33-12:2 Matthew 10:16-22
August 2 Acts 6:8-60 Matthew 14:22-34
August 3 1 Corinthians 15:12-19 Matthew 21:18-22
August 4 1 Corinthians 15:29-38 Matthew 21:23-27
August 5 1 Peter 1:1-2:10 Matthew 21:28-32
**August 6 2 Peter 1:10-19 Matthew 17:1-9
August 7 2 Corinthians 1:12-20 Mark 9:2-9
August 8 Romans 15:30-33 Matthew 17:24-18:4

August 9 Acts 1:12-26 Matthew 17:14-23
August 10 2 Corinthians 2:3-15 Matthew 23:13-22
August 11 2 Corinthians 2:14-3:3 Matthew 23:23-28
August 12 2 Corinthians 3:4-11 Matthew 23:29:39

August 16 1 Timothy 3:13-4:5 Matthew 18:23-35
August 17 2 Corinthians 5:10-15 Mark 1:9-15
August 18 2 Corinthians 5:15-21 Mark 1:16-22
August 19 2 Corinthians 6:11-16 Mark 1:23-28
August 20 2 Corinthians 7:1-10 Mark 1:29-35
August 21 2 Corinthians 7:10-16 Mark 3:13-21
August 22 1 Corinthians 1:26-2:5 Matthew 20:29-34

August 23 Philippians 2:5-11 Matthew 19:16-26
August 24 2 Corinthians 8:7-15 Mark 3:6-12
August 26 Hebrews 6:9-12 mark 3:20-27
August 27 2 Corinthians 10:7-18 Mark 3:28-35
August 28 2 Corinthians 11:5-21 mark 4:1-9
**August 29 Acts 13:25-33 Mark 6:14-30

August 30 1 Corinthians 16:13-24 Matthew 21:33-42
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Serenity Prayer

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change;  
The courage to change the things I can;  
And the wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time;  
Enjoying one moment at a time;  
accepting hardship as the pathway to peace;  
Taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it;

Trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His Will;  
That I may be reasonably happy in this life, and supremely happy with Him forever in the next.

Reinold Neibuhr