So far this summer, I have been blessed with some very special and inspiring experiences. At the beginning of July, my family and I went to the biennial Archdiocesan Clergy-Laity congress in Nashville. The theme of the conference was “You Are the Voice of Christ in a Changing World.” I was inspired to be with more than 1000 clergy and lay leaders who focused on our Church and how we all can better become the voice of Christ to the world around us!

Archbishop Demetrios gave a moving presentation on how the world is so rapidly changing around us, and the times can be scary and challenging, yet we have to remember that our Lord Jesus Christ has given His followers the task of never being afraid, of never giving up, but of acting as instruments in His hands in bringing His Good News and His love and compassion to the world around us. No matter how much the world changes, God is the same always. And He promised to be with us, even to the end of the world. And if God is with us, we have nothing to fear. In fact, we must always remember that we have the great privilege and task to continue His work of offering love and salvation to all people. The inspiring talks, workshops, meetings, and fellowship with all these Orthodox Christians was an experience I wish everyone in our parish would have!

Immediately following the Clergy-Laity, we began our Vacation Church Camp “Son Sparks Lab” for children ages 4-12. This week long event was another inspiring experience. (You can see pictures of our VCC on
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: frlukeveronis@gmail.com

2016 PARISH COUNCIL

President: Lisa Healy
Vice President: Cynthia Johnson
Secretary: Mary Papageorge
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PHILOPTOCHOS

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Festival Chair: Lisa Healy, Cynthia Johnson, Marie McNally

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Choir Directors: Tony and Nike Beaudry
Greek Dance Group: Nike Beaudry
Seminarians: Jen Cowles, Matthew Judhas, Alex Limberatos, Anthony Linderman, Jennifer Rice, Elizabeth Thomas
Ecclesiarch:
Bookstore: Lorna McWilliams
Sexton: Mike Kokoszka
INSPIRING SUMMER EXPERIENCES

pages 12-13). We gathered 35 young people together with 15 other helpers to learn about Jesus Christ and our Faith. It was beautiful to see all the fun that our kids had, and to witness the enthusiasm they had in bringing their friends to our Camp. This is the 12th year we have been running VCC, and it’s a reminder to us each year of the grave responsibility we have in passing on our faith to the next generation of believers. It’s amazing to see how the kids who began with VCC back in 2005 are now in their final years of high school and even off to college. As we see some of the older generation of our Church Family going to be with the Lord in His heavenly kingdom, we must always remember that the Church will continue to thrive with this younger generation dedicating their lives to our Lord and committing themselves to following His Church.

The day after VCC finished, we left with our team of 22 to go to Project Mexico. This year we had a great diverse group - 13 teenagers, five young adults (in their 20s), and four older adults; 14 were from our Church Family, another six were from neighboring churches and two were my nephews. We joined another 125 Orthodox Christians from around the United States who came to Mexico for this week. (Project Mexico welcomes 550 volunteers each summer to build 22 homes!) Read what the participants had to say about our trip on page 2 and see pictures on pages 12-13!

This is the fifth time our Church has sent a group to Project Mexico, and it continues to open up the eyes of all its participants, inspire them to better understand the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to follow His ways. I love to see the reaction of people who experience the “third world” for the first time. It is shocking to see the poverty in which the majority of the world lives. It really helps all the participants reflect on the blessings we so often take for granted. And then it’s beautiful to meet these simple Mexican orphans at the St. Innocent orphanage, who are young teenage boys just like any boy in the United States. Our team loved playing basketball and soccer with these boys, and having them help us out at the work site. It was also wonderful to get to know the family for whom we built the home. Victor and Veronica and their two little boys Alexis and Eduardo were the most hospitable hosts to us. They worked with us every day. They cooked a feast of a chicken meal for us one day. They expressed such gratitude for the blessing of receiving a home. None of our team members will ever forget Victor and Victoria! And for many, the image of “Mexicans’ has changed forever.

We also met so many inspiring young interns who committed two or three months of their summer to serve at Project Mexico (one of the interns included Maggie Cremeens, who used to be a part of our Church for a year and a half). Also, one of my old seminarian classmates, and two of my former students live all year round in Tijuana serving the ministry there.

One of the team members told me this was the greatest experience of his life. Another member told me that this is the first time they have really ever done any type of volunteer work, and they are now inspired to not only go back to Project Mexico, but to also start doing volunteer and charity work around here! This is part of what this Project Mexico experience is all about!

And now for one more great summer experience - our Metropolis of Boston summer camp. We have 14 youth who have or will be going to MBC during the first week of August. This camp always inspired our kids to embrace their Greek Orthodox Christian identity and faith in a fun and beautiful way!

I thank God for all these special experiences for our Church family, and I thank each of you for supporting these ministries of our Church!

With much love and gratitude in Christ,

+Fr. Luke
Our Church Family’s 5th Project Mexico team of 22 people returned on July 21 from another wonderful and blessed experience. For 13 of the team members, it was the first experience ever to go to Tijuana and participate in Project Mexico!

We built a simple home for Victor and Veronica and their two boys, Alexis (age 5) and Eduardo (age 3). The simple, sturdy home we built in four days replaced the shack in which they lived. Their house was a 10x6 home which was put together with random plywood of all shapes. When we looked inside the house, they could literally fit inside it only a queen size mattress and a TV. There was no room for anything else. Their “kitchen” was a space right outside their house, which included a sink without any plumbing – in other words, just a sink by itself. And then they had a portable propane gas to light a fire for cooking something on a pan.

It is unimaginable to think of how this family, like so many other families in this area, lived during Mexico’s rainy season. It is impossible that they stayed dry and warm inside this home. In fact, during the rainy season many children die because of the dampness and cold. After we build them a home with a concrete floor, sturdy walls, and a roof that won’t leak, they now have a home which will provide proper shelter. They even have a door that locks and two windows – two basic things they didn’t have in their other home! In their old home, they simply had some blankets that covered the doorway into their home.

Our group joined 125 other Orthodox Christians and built a total of five homes last week! Everyone loved the families for whom we built homes, the orphan boys at St. Innocent Orphanage where we stayed, the interns who dedicated their summer to working down there, and all the new people they met.

We also had the opportunity to visit the family and see the home which we build in 2014. The home was still strong and sturdy, and the children of the family had grown up two years older. What a blessing to see Leslie, Axel and their parents!

This type of experience really takes us out of our comfort zones, and exposes us to the reality of how much of the world lives. We saw extreme poverty, and very difficult living conditions, but we learned that this is how the majority of people in the world live. We in the USA live the life of the minority. We got a small taste of how much of the world lives! And in some small way, some very small way, we had an opportunity to be instruments in God’s hands, and to do some small act of love.

Here are some of the comments from our team members:

This was one of the greatest experiences in my life. When I saw the face of Victor crying when he received the keys to his new house, I felt so good. I don’t think I will be more happy when I get my own house on e day. I will never forget this experience!

I loved seeing the joy of the children, even
though they lived in great poverty. They found joy in the simplest of things, and I realized they are like any other children of the world.

I loved growing in my faith. We were surrounded by so many beautiful people, and we all were inspired by the faith and commitment of one another.

I came on this trip knowing no one. It was great to feel welcomed and to create bonds of friendship with one another through this experience.

I realized that this house will have a huge impact on their lives. Their lives are changed from the small act of love we did for them. That left me feeling so good!

I was so touched when Victor and Veronica made the chicken lunch for us. They must have spent so much money on us, money they don’t have! Yet that was their way of showing hospitality. What a lesson we all can learn from!

I loved how Victor was working with us every day, building his own house. He made us feel so welcome, and appreciated all we did for him. He learned our names, and I felt such a bond of friendship with him. Whenever I hear someone say something bad about Mexicans, I will think of Victor.

I was so touched to see how happy the family was, and how they were crying after we built the home. This was a life-changing experience in my life.

I loved getting to know new people, including people from our own Church.!

This exceeded anything I could have imagined. I couldn’t believe the conditions the Mexicans live under. At the same time, our living conditions at the St. Innocent ranch, sleeping in tents, was kind of cool. The fellowship we shared with the other 150 volunteers, as well as with the boys at the orphanage, and the kids at the home we were building was amazing. I loved everything about this experience!

It was hard to see the conditions under which the family lived, to see dust and trash everywhere, and to step out of my comfort zone. Yet I loved every minute of it!

I can’t believe that I didn’t miss my phone at all for one week!

Thank God, this 5th trip which our Church Family took to Project Mexico and St. Innocent Orphanage was another truly blessed and beautiful experience! We thank God and we thank each of YOU also for all your support, prayers and love! Together we made a big difference in the life of one family in Mexico! Together we acted as God’s ambassadors in bringing His love to the far ends of the world!

May our Sts Constantine and Helen Church Family always be a place where we can do small acts with great love here in Webster, in Massachusetts, as well as in Mexico and around the world!

This was one of the greatest experiences of my life. When I saw the face of Victor crying when he received the keys to his new house, I felt so good. I don’t think I will be more happy when I get my own house one day. I will never forget this experience!

- Bill Thompson
EXCERPTS FROM THE ENCYCLICAL OF THE
HOLY AND GREAT COUNCIL IN CRETE

...The Holy and Great Council of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church constitutes an authentic witness to faith in Christ, the God-man, the Only-begotten Son and Word of God who, through His Incarnation, through all His work on earth, through His Sacrifice on the Cross and through His Resurrection, revealed the Triune God as infinite love. Therefore, with one voice and one heart we address this message of “the hope that is in us” (1 Pet 3.15) not only to the sons and daughters of our most holy Church, but also to every human being, “whether near or far off.” Our hope, the Savior of the world, was revealed as “God with us” (Mt 1.23) and as God “for our sake” (Rom 8.32), who “desires that all people may be saved and come to the knowledge of truth” (1 Tim 2.4). Proclaiming His mercy and not concealing His great blessings, in remembrance of the Lord’s words that “heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away” (Mt 24.35) and filled with joy, we announce the Gospel of faith, hope and love, looking forward to that “day without evening, without succession and without end.” The fact that we have “our citizenship in heaven” (Phil 3.20) in no way negates, but rather strengthens our witness in the world...

II. THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH
The apostolic work and the proclamation of the Gospel, also known as mission, belong at the core of the Church’s identity, as the keeping and observation of Christ’s commandment: “Go and make disciples of all nations” (Matt 28.19). This is the “breath of life” that the Church breathes into human society and makes the world into Church through the newly-established local Churches everywhere. In this spirit, the Orthodox faithful are and ought to be Christ’s apostles in the world. This mission must be fulfilled, not aggressively, but freely, with love and respect towards the cultural identity of individuals and peoples.

Participation in the holy Eucharist is a source of missionary zeal for the evangelization of the world. By participating in the holy Eucharist and praying in the Sacred Synaxis for the whole world (oikoumene), we are called to continue the “liturgy after the Liturgy” and to offer witness concerning the truth of our faith before God and mankind, sharing God’s gifts with all mankind, in obedience to the explicit commandment of our Lord before His Ascension: “And you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1.8). The words of the Divine Liturgy prior to Communion, “Dismembered and distributed is the Lamb of God, who is dismembered and not divided, ever eaten, yet never consumed,” indicate that Christ as the “Lamb of God” (John 1.29) and the “Bread of Life” (John 6.48) is offered to us as eternal Love, uniting us to God and to one another. It teaches us to distribute God’s gifts and to offer ourselves to everyone in a Christ-like way.

The life of Christians is a truthful witness to the renewal in Christ of all things – “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, all things have become new” (2 Cor 5.17) – and an invitation addressed to all people for personal and free participation in eternal life, in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and in the love of God the Father, in order to experience the communion of the Holy Spirit in the Church. “For the mystery of salvation is for those who desire it, not for those who are being coerced” (Maximus Confessor PG 90.880). The re-evangelization of God’s people in contemporary secularized societies, as well as the evangelization of those who have not
The Holy and Great Council took place in Crete when 220 Orthodox hierarchs from 10 of the 14 autocephalous (self-governing) Orthodox Churches from around the world gathered from Pentecost Sunday through June 27. This was the largest and most comprehensive gathering of Orthodox leaders in the past 1300 years!

yet come to know Christ, is the unceasing duty of the Church.…

VII. A WITNESS IN DIALOGUE
The Church manifests sensitivity towards those who have severed themselves from communion with her and is concerned for those who do not understand her voice. Conscious that she constitutes the living presence of Christ in the world, the Church translates the divine economy into concrete actions using all means at her disposal to give a trustworthy witness to the truth, in the precision of the apostolic faith. In this spirit of recognition of the need for witness and offering, the Orthodox Church has always attached great importance to dialogue, and especially to that with non-Orthodox Christians. Through this dialogue, the rest of the Christian world is now more familiar with Orthodoxy and the authenticity of its tradition. It also knows that the Orthodox Church has never accepted theological minimalism or permitted its dogmatic tradition and evangelical ethos to be called into question. Inter-Christian dialogues have provided Orthodoxy with the opportunity to display her respect for the teaching of the Fathers and to bear a trustworthy witness to the genuine tradition of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. The multilateral dialogues undertaken by the Orthodox Church have never signified, and do not signify, nor will they ever signify, any compromise in matters of faith. These dialogues are a witness to Orthodoxy, grounded on the Gospel message “come and see” (John 1.46), see, namely, that "God is love" (1 John 4.8).

In this spirit, the Orthodox Church throughout the world, being the revelation of the Kingdom of God in Christ, experiences the entire mystery of the divine Economy in her sacramental life, with the holy Eucharist at its center, in which she offers to us not nourishment that is perishable and corruptible, but the very life-streaming Body of the Lord, the “heavenly Bread” which “is a medicine of immortality, an antidote for not dying but living in God through Jesus Christ, and a purgative expelling evil” (St Ignatius). The holy Eucharist constitutes the innermost core also of the conciliar functioning of the ecclesial body, as well as the authentic confirmation of the Orthodoxy of the faith of the Church, as Saint Irenaeus of Lyon proclaims: “Our teaching is in accord with the Eucharist and the Eucharist confirms our teaching” (St Ignatius).

Proclaiming the Gospel to all the world in accord with the Lord’s command and “preaching in His name repentance and remission of sins to all the nations” (Luke 22.47), we have the obligation to commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God and to love one another, confessing with one mind: “Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Trinity consubstantial and undivided.” Addressing these things in Council to the children throughout the world of our most holy Orthodox Church, as well as to the entire world, following the holy Fathers and the Conciliar decrees so as to preserve the faith received from our fathers and to “uphold good ways” in our daily life in the hope of the common resurrection.
OUR PARISH COUNCIL CORNER

Dear Church Family,

I pray you are all enjoying your summer. I’d like to share with you my thoughts as well as this beautiful college essay written by a young teenager who is a friend of mine. The world has become a very scary place, but especially in the eyes of this teenager watching her father go to work every day. I believe we all need to stop and think about what is going on around us and how we can, not only help, but change our own thinking.

Many people, including myself, have been judgmental about people of different race, color, and being from a different country other than the United States. How many of us say "Oh that person is from a different country so they must be ...." We use words to describe these people such as terrorist, only after money, stupid, and the list goes on. We need to look right in front of our own eyes and realize we are not any better than any of these other people we judge, unless we change. For those that are terrorists, bigots, etc, then we need to pray for them. We need to strengthen our beliefs and pass them on to as many people as we can. Otherwise, this world we live in will be at a constant war.

This is the essay of a high school senior:

"Cops in the U.S especially in Texas are savage animals that will shoot you whenever they please. Now in Dallas is payback time, pigs.” This tweet is what I woke up to the morning after the Dallas shooting, shared by a peer in my school. I read it over and over again, and started to cry. I couldn’t believe that someone would want my father dead. I called my father and asked him what I should do, how I should feel. He simply told me to ignore those kinds of comments, because not many people view the police force the way my family does. If it doesn’t bother him, it shouldn’t bother me. But it did, and it still does.

My father is a Lieutenant on the Massachusetts State Police, and is also the Commander of the S.T.O.P. team (Massachusetts’ version of a swat team). Every day for 17 years, my dad has walked out the door of my house to go and protect the men, women, and children living in Massachusetts. Every day for 17 years, I have lived with the reality that one day my dad might not come home. As years have passed, there has been a societal assumption that a white cop may automatically assume that a black or Hispanic man has the intention to commit a crime or commit an act of violence. White police officers have been degraded and called pigs, and yet they are not allowed to stand up for themselves for a fear of the media turning it against them. People have gone out of their way to shoot police officers because they assume they are racist. For the past couple of years, I have had to watch my dad walk out the door to go and protect those who hate him, who want him dead. I have had to listen to my peers call police officers evil and corrupt and celebrate those who have killed officers. I have tried to defend my dad and what he does, but I have never been able to find the right words, until this past summer.

I sat down with my father one night after the Dallas shooting and told him my feelings about all of the hateful comments I was reading on social media, and how I didn’t know what to do about it. I asked him if it hurt him as much as it hurt me, and he looked at me and said: “Sheep don’t like the sheep dog, but they are afraid of the wolf. And when the wolf comes out at night, they pray for the sheep dog to scare it away. They don’t fight the wolf themselves.”

He explained that he doesn’t expect people to like the police officers, but when a criminal is robbing their house or puts a gun to their head, they are going to pray that the police comes and saves them. I asked him how I was supposed to deal with
I hope everyone is having an enjoyable summer. The time has come, however, to start thinking about the festival. On August 8th at 6:00 we will have a Philoptochos meeting for all women of the parish. We will go over dates for baking the breads, petas, baklava, etc. We will have a list of ingredients that are needed. A schedule will be passed around for women to work the pastry booth on Saturday and Sunday. We are also asking anyone to bake miscellaneous pastries at home and bring in such pastries as finikia, kourambiades, koulourakia, kadaifé, galatobouriko (some were asking for that last year) etc. We will need everyone's help to make this festival another huge success! The pastry booth especially did very well last year making almost $5000 in profits!!! Also don't forget to support Celia Milios and the center table with beautiful gifts! Also please donate attractive baskets with different themes for the table run by Dhimitra Adamopoulos. I will also have a basket near the candles for any food items to put together food baskets!

Thank you for all your help and support. See you on the 8th!

May we all stop, think, and change this world we live in to be a better place for our children's children.

Lisa Healy,
Parish Council President

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

I hope everyone is having an enjoyable summer. The time has come, however, to start thinking about the festival. On August 8th at 6:00 we will have a Philoptochos meeting for all women of the parish. We will go over dates for baking the breads, petas, baklava, etc. We will have a list of ingredients that are needed. A schedule will be passed around for women to work the pastry booth on Saturday and Sunday. We are also asking anyone to bake miscellaneous pastries at home and bring in such pastries as finikia, kourambiades, koulourakia, kadaifé, galatobouriko (some were asking for that last year) etc. We will need everyone's help to make this festival another huge success! The pastry booth especially did very well last year making almost $5000 in profits!!! Also don't forget to support Celia Milios and the center table with beautiful gifts! Also please donate attractive baskets with different themes for the table run by Dhimitra Adamopoulos. I will also have a basket near the candles for any food items to put together food baskets!

Thank you for all your help and support. See you on the 8th!

With love and appreciation,

Evelyn Pappas
Philoptochos President
FESTIVAL DONATIONS NEEDED

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 call Lisa Healy (508-981-8109), Marie McNally (508) 943-9079, or Cynthia Johnson (774-239-6632) 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 GYROS)
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
50 CASES OF SODA - 15 COKE, 10 DIET COKE, 8 GINGER ALE, 9 ROOT BEER,
2 LARGE BOTTLES OF KETCHUP, 1 Large bottle of Relish, 2 Large Bottles of 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
500 DINNER ROLLS
2 CASES SERNO (6 HOUR), ICE

NEED SOMEONE TO DONATE BOUNCY HOUSE
We are looking for someone to donate a Bouncy House for the Festival Weekend. This will cost $350. Please let us know ASAP.

THE CHILDREN’S BOOTH

This year the Children’s Booth will be adding a Center Table along with the Ring Toss and Sand Art that have been popular items. We are looking for donations again this year. One liter bottles of soda are always appreciated. For the Center Table, we would like items for children ranging from newborn to 12 years old. Toys, games, clothing, gift certificates are suggestions. Monetary donations are always appreciated to purchase art supplies. Also, If you could help us that weekend for a couple hours, please call Donna Cooney (508-943-8113) or Sandi Kunkel (58-943-7227)
OPA! Grecian Festival 2016

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

September 10th & 11th

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 Marie McNally to work on the food line.

RAFFLE TICKETS

Raffle tickets will be sent to your homes. Please support this effort! See Chris Geotis, Del Monroe or Nick Seferi for info.

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.

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.
The Old House (above) and the New House (left) with our team.

Victor & Veronica, owners of a new house

Our Crew of 22!!
150 Orthodox Christians from Around US Building 5 Homes

THANK YOU for all the support!!!
Vacation Church Camp 2016
Come and Hear on Sunday, August 14th

From Uganda with Love

Peter & Sharon Georges - Founders of the St. Nicholas Uganda Children’s Fund

Come and meet Orthodox Christian missionaries Peter and Sharon Georges and hear the fascinating story of their ministry to AIDS orphans & vulnerable children in the slums of Kampala, the capital city of Uganda.

Peter & Sharon will be showing photos of their work as they tell the story of how they fell in love with the people of Uganda, what prompted them to begin the work of the Children’s Fund, and what keeps them going year after year.

For more information visit their website at:
www.ugandachildrensfund.org

Snapshot of the Children’s Fund

The St. Nicholas Uganda Children’s Fund seeks to overcome the cycle of poverty and sickness by providing education and health care to orphans and other vulnerable children.

IRS non-profit 501(c)(3) status in the U.S. and registered NGO in Uganda.

97% of donations go directly to meet the needs of needy Ugandan children.

More than 240 children are currently in the program.
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.

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 Christ, one united with our Lord & filled with His Divine light and energies!

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)

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!
AN UPDATE AND NOTE ABOUT
OUR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

I want to thank all those who have fulfilled their pledges and completed their donations to our Capital Campaign. We have collected $608,000 in cash thus far. For the forty donors who are still in the midst of their three year pledge, please start thinking about making your payments for the 2nd year. We would like to pay off the remaining bills we have and start paying down our line of credit to decrease the interest expense charged us!

And for those of you who have not given towards our Capital Campaign, you have seen how beautiful all the work has come out. Thank God our Church is truly like a new building! The renovations we just completed of our three offices, however, were NOT part of our original campaign and plan. We decided to go ahead and complete this final project inside the church, but we need you to help defray the cost. So please consider donating if you haven't already done so!

With much thanks,
Evelyn Pappas

OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE
Capital Campaign

99 families or individuals, including 80 Church Stewards (or 52% of our parishioners) have contributed to our Capital Campaign. We have collected $608,000 and are awaiting another $169,290 in pledges over the next two years.

If you have not participated yet, please consider doing so.
Several remaining projects:

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<td>Three Offices and Office Bathroom Renovation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Front Church Walkway Pavers</td>
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<td>Back Patio Pavers</td>
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<td>Repaving of Parking Lot</td>
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<td>Additional Parking Spaces</td>
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<td>Outside Landscaping</td>
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STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Please remember to keep up with your stewardship pledge and donations during the summer months.

These months are the time of year when our Church struggles to keep up with our operational expenses.

Don’t wait until the end of the year to offer your donations or fulfill your pledge. Think about making a donation TODAY towards your stewardship commitment.

Thank You!!!

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:

Aug 7 - Marie McNally, Christa Benoit, Sandi Kunkel, Mary Seferi

Aug 14 - Kathy Bilis, Marie Monroe, Charlotte Neslusan, Carolyn Niemeck, Stephanie Quill,

Aug 21 - Thomai Gatsogiannis, Trish Lareau, Betty Tonna, Deb Raymond, Evangeline Wilson

Aug 28 – Donna Cooney, Athena Cooney, Leah Didonato, Jaime Ross

USHERS & GREETERS SCHEDULE

Aug 7 Neal Neslusan, Mary Papageorge, Jimmy Karapanos, Cindy Johnson

Aug 14 - Nicoleta Cojocaru, Zach Gianaris, Garry Ross, Jared Quill

Aug 21 Arthur Bilis, Del Monroe, Chris Geotis, Thomai Gatsogianis, Trish Lareau

Aug 28 – Marie McNally, Eric Beland, Matt Benoit, Lisa Healy, Nick Seferi

YOUTH EPISTLE READERS

Aug 7 - Gabriella Ross

Aug 14 - Zach Beaudry

Aug 21 Maria Mironidis

Aug 28- Lily Mueller

Sept 4 - Maia Beaudry

Sept 11 Theodora Veronis

Sept 18 - Panayiota Veronis

Sept 25 - Olivia Neslusan

Look for our convenient Online Giving at bottom left of Church webpage at www.schwebster.org
Remembering Our Church Family

**Important Dates in AUGUST:**

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

**BIRTHDAYS:**

- Aug 1  Dimitrios Milios
- Aug 1  Adam Sanderson
- Aug 2  Evelyn Belanger
- Aug 3  Mary Stefanides
- Aug 4  Nicholas Veronis
- Aug 4  Georgette Nikolopoulos
- Aug 6  Katerina Beland
- Aug 6  Sophia Quill
- Aug 7  Demetra O’Brian
- Aug 7  Vassey Tanko
- Aug 11 Ramona Geotis
- Aug 13 Helen Constantine
- Aug 13 Catherine Jordanoglou
- Aug 14 David Johnson
- Aug 16 Ari Totolos
- Aug 17 Alex Seferi
- Aug 18 Denise Gritzner
- Aug 19 Richard Seferi
- Aug 22 Katerina Queri
- Aug 23 Julie Milios
- Aug 26 Nikola Constantine
- Aug 27 Clara Enache
- Aug 28 Matthew Zhuk

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:**

- Aug 8  Chris/Alex Massie
- Aug 16 Victor & Triada Apostolou
- Aug 20 Aristotelis & Gloria Panagiotou

- Aug 20  Paul & Eleni Xanthopoulos
- Aug 24  Anton & Nicoleta Cojocaru
- Aug 28  Fr Luke/Pres Faith Veronis
- Aug 31  Cynthia & David Johnson

**NAMEDAYS:**

- Aug 6  Transfiguration
  - Sam Sotir Kiritsis
  - Sam Sotir Pappas

- Aug 15  Dormition of Virgin Mary
  - Mary Baxter
  - Despina Condos
  - Maria Economou
  - Mary Fatsi
  - Maria Jordanoglou
  - Despina Kiely
  - Trish Panayiota Lareau
  - Marie McNally
  - Maria Mironidis
  - Marie Monroe
  - Maria Papa
  - Mary Papageorge
  - Marion Thomas
  - Panayiota Veronis

- Aug 30  St. Alexander
  - Alexandra Koulax
  - Alexander Pappas
  - Sandi Kunkel
  - Alex Massie
  - Sandy Sanderson
  - Alex Seferi
  - Alexandra Thomas
  - Alexandra Xanthopoulos
THE LORD IS MY CONSTANT COMPANION

The Lord is my constant companion.
There is no need that He cannot fulfill.
Whether His course for me points to the mountaintops of glorious joy or to the valleys of human suffering,
He is by my side.
He is ever present with me. He is close beside me.

When I tread the dark streets of danger,
and even when I flirt with death itself,
He will not leave me.

When the pain is severe, He is near to comfort.
When the burden is heavy, He is there to lean upon.

When depression darkens my soul,
He touches me with eternal joy.
When I feel empty and alone,
He fills the aching vacuum with His power.

My security is in His promise to be near me always and in the knowledge that He will never let me go.

_Psalm 23 restated in the book “Psalms Now”_

_Psalms Now_ is a book available in our Holy Wisdom Church bookstore. It has sold more than 370,000 copies. It is a beautiful way of restating the words of the Psalms in today’s language. The Psalms are the greatest prayer book of the Church, filled with honest prayers of praise, love, compassion, sorrow, fatigue, frustration, confusion, anger and repentance.

Read a psalm from this book daily and you will see how your own prayer life will come alive!
Thank You to those who sponsor our monthly bulletin!

Shaw-Majersik
Funeral Home
48 School Street
Webster, MA 01570
tel: 508-943-6278

Because We Care
Richard D. Majersik, Director
www.shaw-majersik.com
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VICTORY

Reveled in our society as the supreme high
It makes people delirious and prone to cry
Although hiding the shallowness of our existence
Holding up winning and excellence as consistence

Failing to realize that earthly victory is a sham
It obscures spirituality and God’s gentle lamb
The weak see it as redemption for all that they lack
And seem to believe it will enhance their earthly pack

Inner victory is all that matters
To the holy man in humble tatters
For although the masses cheer with the mighty throng
Final peace belongs to the pure at heart, not the strong

Keep in perspective the victory on the field
It entertains you but does not provide the shield
Your life is not fulfilled with that win
For true happiness is found within

Nicholas A. Veronis