This past month of July, we had two very special events in the life of our Church occur. First, we had our 13th annual Vacation Church Camp. This is always a highlight of the year for the children of our Church Family. For one week, we get together every night for three hours, and several days have special events which keep us together for six or seven hours. It’s a time of wonderful fellowship and fun combined with Christian education. Our children learn about Jesus Christ and our Orthodox faith, but in a setting where they get to know one another better and really enjoy one another’s company.

Our theme this year was “Missions Around the World” and each day our kids “traveled” around the world visiting 10 different countries, learning about missionaries who serve in some of those countries today, as well as learning about various missionary saints. Yet it was all done in a creative way that made the learning fun. We traveled on a plane, watched videos from the different countries, and combined our learning with music, arts and crafts, recreation and some other special activities!

Our VCC is also a very special time when so many parents offer their time and talents in creative and beautiful ways by putting together a great program, while having a week together of really getting to know one another better.

From the first year we started VCC in the summer of 2005, we have seen how this time of fellowship was something that created and solidified friendships between parents, children, and families. Thank God, this continued once again with a new generation of younger children and parents!

I want to thank Sara Darlagiannis for overseeing the VCC this year, for Pres. Faith for putting together the educational program and for all the other parents and teens who helped to teach, who ran the Arts and Crafts, kept the kids having fun with recreation, taught the music, and who offered great meals each night. A special thanks to Eleni and John Sgouritsas for donating and preparing much of the food throughout the week.

Five key characteristics of being a healthy, vibrant church are WORSHIP, FELLOWSHIP, EDUCATION, SERVICE, and MISSION/OUTREACH. It is beautiful how we could see our children take part and learn in each of these significant characteristics throughout VCC!

The other very special event which highlights all these Christ-centered characteristics in such a beautiful way is our mission trip
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
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2018 PARISH COUNCIL
President: Neal Neslusuan
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Cantor: Demetrios Milios, Joseph Gliniecki, Anestis Jordanoglou
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Sunday School Teachers:
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Ecclesiarchs: Rayne Seraphim Purcell Charlie Chito
Bookstore: Lorna McWilliams
Sexton: Mike Kokoszka
Grounds: Nick Popiak
BLESSSED SUMMER EVENTS

to PROJECT MEXICO!

This is the eighth time that our Church has sent a team to Mexico to build a home for a family in need. The first time, in 2006, I think we sent six volunteers. Each year we went our teams grew. Last year we had our largest group ever of 27 go, and this year we sent another 26. Over the years our Church has sent out more than 100 volunteers, many from our Church family, but we’ve also made it possible for people from other local Orthodox churches to join us, as well as a few non-Orthodox to come along.

Everyone who has ever gone to Project Mexico has been inspired by the experience. Living in a developing country for one week, sleeping in a tent, surrounded by dirt, eating beans every day, and participating in sometimes hard labor in building a home, all the while getting the great feeling of doing something life-changing for another family. What an experience!

I remember the first year we went, we actually had some of our parish council members who were dead set against our Church sending a group to Mexico. They didn’t understand why we should send people to Mexico, and felt strongly that we shouldn’t go. I remember how I literally spent five months in our parish council meetings explaining why, as followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to go to different countries to share His love and Good News in concrete ways. I explained it theologically, biblically, historically, and practically. I tried to give a very concrete explanation to why we go. And yet, some still couldn’t accept us going. But we went anyway, and it has proven to be one of the most beautiful ministries of our Church!

And for those who would say, “Well, why don’t you do some good deed locally? Why do you need to travel to other countries when there are so many needs here?” To these comments we respond by reminding people that our Christian faith is never limited by any boundaries, but that we are to share God’s love in concrete ways locally, nationally, and globally. All simultaneous outreach, never one or the other.

Thus, many of those who have gone to Project Mexico have often been the very ones who are ready to help out locally - at the homeless shelter we used to support in Southbridge, or with Habitat for Humanity in Worcester, which we have done several times, or with the Red Cross Blood Drive, which we do annually at our church, as well as with volunteering for our monthly Living Bread Luncheon, which serves the needy and the elderly in our community.

When one discovers the joyful beauty and deep meaning of loving others through humble service, there are never any boundaries or limits. We just see people who go learn to give more and more, serving others wherever they may be!

One example of the great fruits of Project Mexico is to see how this experience has inspired two young members of our Church family to do something even greater. Olivia Neslusan and Theodora Veronis each experienced Project Mexico first when they were 14 years old. They traveled three times to Mexico and were so touched by the experience that they decided to not go to college immediately after high school, but instead to do a GAP Year of Service. It was from participating in Project Mexico that they got the idea to do other cross-cultural service projects. Thus, they are presently spending three months in Mexico, and then will travel and serve others in diverse ways in Uganda, Kenya, Costa Rica, Albania and Greece over the next year! This is a direct fruit of Project Mexico!

I thank God for these two very special and blessed events that took place in July - VCC and Project Mexico. In a small way, they reflect who we are as the Church. We are the people of God who worship our Lord, who share in loving fellowship with one another, who constantly learn and grow in our faith, while we serve one another, and share God’s love and light to all people everywhere—here in Webster, in Central Massachusetts, as well as to places outside our country like Mexico and beyond!

With love and gratitude in Christ Jesus,

+Luke
SHARING LOVE & BUILDING HOPE IN MEXICO

“My heart and soul have been replenished by the unbelievable scenes of jubilation from David and Celena Cortez, the Mexican family for whom we built a modest, yet sturdy home this past week,” shared Denise Gritzner, who participated for the first time on a homebuilding trip. “It was such a delight to hand over the keys to a structure that was built for them through the hands of many loving volunteers.”

Kevin Kalmin, another first timer, who came on the team with his 14 year old son Ethan, expressed his gratitude for the trip in this way, “The concept of experiencing the Kingdom of God while you were there was so evident. We could see an amazing amount of love – among the volunteers, in their interactions with the Mexicans, and in the entire seven-day experience. It was a great break from our normal routine and I hope this spirit of love lasts. I can only describe the entire trip as so peaceful.”

Fr. Luke highlighted, “This mission trip is such a blessing in numerous ways. First, we put our faith into action by traveling to another country and helping a family in need. By this we help our volunteers better understand that there are no boundaries to God’s love. Of course, we go to share God’s love with others in need, but as is always the case, the more we offer God’s love to others, the more we experience this love ourselves in new and vibrant ways. Every single member of our team will say that this experience renewed and rejuvenated their faith. We now better understand Jesus’ words “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” And this international experience only motivates our Church community to offer more concrete acts of love on a lo-
We built the home with David and Celene Cortez and their three children, who worked with us.

adults, and parents to break away from their typical American life, including disconnecting from all social media, and to experience not only extreme poverty, but especially the extreme beauty and love of the Mexican people is life changing. Transformational change occurs not only in the lives of those in need, but in the volunteers as well.

“This trip made me appreciate all that I have. What made it special was being a part of something bigger than myself,” expressed 11th grader Katerina Babanakis. “What a wonderful feeling we receive whenever we do something beautiful for others.”

Nicholas Veronis, who has gone on four of these trips, noted in his Instagram post, “I’m so glad to have helped change the life for one family.”

“I love experiencing different cultures and seeing how people live in different parts of the world,” shared Matvey Zhuk, a sophomore at Shepherd Hill. “Whenever I travel, I realize how we may do things differently around the world, and yet we are still a part of the same global family. We are all brothers and sisters with one another.”

“My favorite part each year is how we connect in a special way with new Mexican families,” highlighted Panayiota Veronis, another sophomore from Shepherd Hill. “I loved playing everyday with Celene, Daneley, Pavlina, and Samantha, who are just like any other children around the world. Building a home for their family was special, and bringing joy into their lives, at least for the days that we were there, was an added bonus.”

Charlotte Neslusan, whose
three children have all gone to Project Mexico, and whose husband Neal has been a leader on seven trips, commented, “I was so happy to have finally participated in this phenomenal experience. Each year I hear my children and husband talk about how wonderful it is, and now I got to see for myself. What really impressed me was the solid leadership of all the young interns who did an incredible job directing the entire program.”

Two of these interns included Charlotte’s daughter, Olivia Neslusan and Theodora Veronis. These two high school graduates decided to be a part of 15 interns who are spending the three months of their summer overseeing the approximately 700 volunteers who are building 30 homes. They are both the fruit of the ministry of Saints Constantine and Helen Church, and after participating on three trips over the past four years, decided to become summer interns. In fact, this internship at Project Mexico is only the beginning of a GAP Year of Service these two young women decided to do before going to college, serving others in projects around the world. Along with Mexico, they will be traveling to Africa Costa Rica, Albania and Greece to serve others in similar projects. Smaranda Cojocaru is now expressing an interest to inter next summer.

Pres. Faith, concluded, “As an educator and parent, I realize life’s greatest lessons are ones that are hands-on, rigorous, and meaningful. This cross-cultural experience of building a home for an impoverished family in Mexico builds bridges of friendships, develops the idea of community service, opens the eyes, minds and hearts of our youth in powerful ways, and broadens their understanding of what brings true happiness in life. Life is not only about entertaining ourselves or making ourselves happy, but true and lasting happiness and joy come when we learn to give back to others and participate in making the lives of others better.”

A BIG THANKS to all who supported our Project Mexico Mission with your prayers and your finances!!!
Emmanuel Pappas, a lifelong member of Saints Constantine and Helen Church wanted to leave a legacy gift to his beloved Church. After talking with Fr. Luke, however, he decided that instead of leaving it in his will to give to the Church when he passed away, he wanted to see something done to help the church before he died. So in July, he gave the Church a gift of $100,000!

His generous gift will be used to repave our present parking lot, add additional 22 parking spaces which will increase our parking by 30%, landscape the outside and include new lighting, repair our Church roof, re-stain the front doors of the Church, as well as put $30,000 towards the major foundational repairs we will be doing to our parish house.

We are very grateful for Manny’s generosity and his love for the church! Of course, he is only continuing what his remarkable family has been doing for 100 years. He came from a family that loved their Greek Orthodox Faith and Church, and their heritage.

At almost 95 years old, Manny is the last surviving brother of the nine sons of James and Olympia Pappas. Manny’s parents loved the Church, and raised all their children to love the Church. Manny’s father was the first parish council president of our parish, and his oldest brother Arthur became the first president after the original church burned down and moved to its new location on Lake Parkway in 1965. Three brothers served as district governors for AHEPA. The Pappases established the first AHEPA scholarship fund in the area, and Emmanuel continued this tradition by giving $250,000 to establish several other AHEPA scholarships to support young Greek Orthodox students in college. He has been a generous benefactor to our church at other times, to his school of WPI to which he gave $350,000, as well as to others in need.

Emmanuel, along with six of his brothers, served in the military service. His brothers were entrepreneurs, business men, a teacher, a lawyer, a basketball coach, while Manny himself is a mechanical engineer.

Along with his faith, Manny had another special passion throughout his life - that of playing tennis. He has been playing, and winning, in tennis since 1947. And he keeps playing and winning, even today. He says he’s slowing down a little, but even at close to 95 he keeps going!

In 1952, Manny became the captain of the tennis team for WPI. From 1972-1982, Manny served as the National Tennis Director of AHEPA, conducting tennis tournaments throughout the country at every national AHEPA convention.

In 1977, Manny accomplished one of his proudest tennis achievements when he captained the US General Services Administration Tennis Team, being in charge of 25 players. That summer he played 16 matches and never lost a match! This was the best team in GSA’s 25 year history.

In 1998, Manny won a three hour tennis match and was ranked #1 for USTA/New England men’s 3.0 singles. In 2013, he didn’t stop when he turned 90 year old, but Emmanuel became the doubles finalist at the Longwood Cricket Club’s National Grass Tournament. And In 2015, Manny continued to win, as he won the Williamstown Tennis Club and New England Senior Tennis national doubles tournament for 85 and over. He ended up being nationally ranked #10 in the men’s 90 and over division.

Not only are these achievements amazing for Emmanuel, but he has accomplished it all while being legally blind in one eye since the age of five! He did not let adversity hinder him, but overcame all adversity to set an example for many to follow.

Emmanuel is a man of passion, faith and love, radiating kindness, generosity and goodness. He often attributes his life and accomplishments to the fact that his parents named him Emmanuel, which means “God with us.” God has truly been with Manny and blessed him throughout his life.

THANK YOU MANNY for sharing your life and your blessings with our Church Family and with many others in such a beautiful way!
only on their own was very open to reaching out to all who came to hear His word from the parish priest. The Father’s challenges in his parish were not unlike some of our own: financial difficulties, a desire to grow beyond the current flock, and a perceived competition with many of the other churches in the area practicing a more modern form of Christianity. It was good to hear from him that other parishes struggle like we do. We wished each other well in our endeavors at our respective churches.

As mentioned above, the main issue in this year’s clergy laity congress was the new budget. It passed during the plenary session on the final day with much fanfare, but the real fireworks centered around the financial issues over the past 6 years. I will describe them below briefly…

Prior to last year the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America had a financial organization that was led by two people, a Treasurer and a Controller. The Treasurer reported to the Archbishop, and His Eminence Demetrios rightly trusted the Treasurer’s work. The Treasurer hired an external auditor to confirm that all the transactions made were correct and the financial house was in order, but the external auditor reported ONLY to the Treasurer. The only people who signed checks were the Treasurer and the Controller. There was effectively no financial oversight.

This was not a problem so long as the Archdiocese was running a budget in the black. In 2012 that all changed when the budget (the details of which were only known to the Treasurer and the Controller) crept into the red. Instead of sounding the alarm and perhaps either cutting the budget, or coming back to the parishes for the shortfall, or even asking some of the wealthy benefactors of the Archdiocese to make up the difference, the extra monies
needed to close the budget were taken from other accounts.

As many of you may know, the Archdiocese has various bank accounts under its control. The big one, of course, is the account used to run the operating budget of the Archdiocese. The other accounts are accounts bequeathed to the Archdiocese by wealthy and sometimes deceased individuals, and those accounts are often limited in what the monies can be used for. Many of the benefactors may earmark that money to be used, for instance, for missionary work only. In many cases the accounts exist for many years before their funds are depleted. In all cases the benefactors have stipulated that the funds in these accounts not be used for the operating budget of the Archdiocese. It was from these accounts that the Treasurer (who has since resigned) and the Controller (who was fired) misappropriated funds in order to run the Archdiocese. It is not clear at this point that any funds were stolen but rather that they were only misappropriated to pay for the operating budget of the Archdiocese. The Attorney General of the State of New York (the home of the Archdiocese) is investigating if any crimes were committed during this time.

The obvious question is how did this issue of misappropriation come to light. One of the accounts that money was being taken from in order to run the Archdiocese was the fund to rebuild the St. Nicholas Church and National Shrine at Ground Zero in New York City. Funds were taken out of that account and the rebuilding was halted as a result, and that is how this all came to light. The Archdiocese took swift action. As mentioned above, the previous financial team is now gone, a new GAAP compliant financial organizational structure has been put into the Archdiocese to guard against any such occurrences in the future, and significant layoffs of 30% of all the employees of the Archdiocese were enacted as we were living well beyond our means. In addition, bank loans have made whole the accounts from which funds were misappropriated.

We are back on the straight and narrow, a new balanced budget has been passed, and we can move forward with raising funds to finish St. Nicholas National Shrine at Ground Zero in New York, but as you can imagine the full communication of these issues to the attendees at the Church Laity Conference was filled with raw emotion. There was a lot of anger in the room and many of the attendees felt betrayed by the Archdiocese. There were many moments when it looked like all was lost, especially in the negotiations and discussion of the new budget. It was at this point that patience and wisdom came through in the form of His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios.

Father Luke told me that His Eminence is 90 years old. What an amazing man at such an age! His keynote speech on day one, and his multiple and very much needed interjections during the next few days brought the entire conference back to our goal. He had an amazing ability to read the emotions of the room, understand the frustrations of the attendees, and come to the microphone with exactly the right words to move us along to a conclusion. His tone was conciliatory and advisory. He did not demand (well, actually he did in one case) but rather cajoled us to come to our conclusions. Every time he spoke you could sense the tension in the room subsiding. Every time he spoke we moved quickly to a decision.

This was my first exposure to the Archbishop and he has clearly left a mark on me. While the new financial structure of the Archdiocese has given me confidence that our financial house is back in order, I think most importantly it was proven that we are led by a kind and very intelligent man in His Eminence. I left the conference with a strong confidence that His Eminence Demetrios is ready to lead us to growth.

With love in Jesus Christ,

Neal Neslusan
FALLING ASLEEP OF THE VIRGIN MARY  
Fast from August 1-14; Feast day 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!
PHILOPTOCCHOS NEWS

Hope everyone is having a fun and relaxing summer. Our next meeting will be on Monday August 13th at 6:00. We will be discussing all the details for baking for the festival.

We are looking for donations and ingredients prizes for the center table, food items and theme baskets for the basket table, and liquor and related items for the wheel barrel of cheer.

We appreciate everyone’s generosity and support! See you on the 13th.

With much love and affection, 
Evelyn Pappas

LIVING BREAD LUNCHEON DONORS

We are looking for Donors to sponsor a “Living Bread Luncheon” meal each month. You can honor some special person or event, or offer the meal in loving memory of a beloved one.

We serve approximately 80 guests each month, as well as deliver meals to the elderly of our parish.

A $400 donation will cover expenses for each month.

JULY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

- Neal Neslusan and Mike Chito offered reflections on their attendance of the Archdiocesan Clergy Laity Congress. They described the financial crisis that the archdiocese has faced because of poor financial management (Neal offers more detail in his monthly message on page 6). They also reflected on parts of the Congress that were educational and inspiring.

- Emmanuel Pappas’ donation of $100,000 was presented, with a discussion about what he was designating the money to be used for.

- Three estimates for the Parking Lot and new additional parking lot were discussed. The council decided to go with Dean Mason.

- Outside landscaping, lighting, and other updates (re-staining of church door and repair of one flat section of church roof) were discussed. The cost of this work will be covered from the Pappas donation.

- Discussion on the major foundational work on the parish house was discussed. This topic will be presented at a special general assembly meeting July 29th, to get the parish approval to spend between $60,000-$70,000 for this work. Part of this will be covered by the Pappas donation. Money will be needed to find for the remaining balance.

- The Gyro Fest was a success! A detailed report will be given at the August meeting, but it is estimated that we profited approximately $7000, surpassing our $5000 goal. Mike Chito and Joey Gliniecki, the co-chairs were thanked, along with Evelyn Pappas and the Philoptochos women for their work with the bake sale and center table.
Vacation Church Camp
Missions Around the World
Thank you to Sara Darlagiannis and all our Staff and Parents for making this another great VCC!
GREEK FESTIVAL PREPARATION

In the efforts to keep our annual Greek Festival costs down as much as possible this year, we would greatly be appreciative of anyone who would like to donate any of the following ingredients or offer a monetary donation to help us purchase any of the items for the Food Line. Please see or call either of the Festival chairpeople, Lisa Healy (508-981-8109) or Marie McNally 508-612-2946. Thank you !!!!

140 HOT DOGS AND HOT BUNS  140 HAMBURGERS AND BUNS
500 DINNER ROLLS  3000 NAPKINS
600 SMALL PAPER PLATES 6 OR 7 INCH
100 SLICES OF AMERICAN CHEESE (INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED)
ICE

THE CHILDREN’S BOOTH

The Children’s Booth is looking for donations of New toys, games, clothing, school supplies, backpacks, gift certificates.
Monetary donations are always appreciated.
Also, if you could volunteer for a couple hours during the two days, please call Sara Darlagiannis (508-207-3177) or email her at saragardens@yahoo.com.

NEED SOMEONE TO DONATE A 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.
GREEK FESTIVAL 2018

September 8th & 9th

Come to our Festival Meetings every Monday in August at 6:00pm and see how to help.

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

RAFFLE TICKETS

Send back the raffle tickets sent to your home!

FESTIVAL BANNERS

Buy a $100 banner advertising your business, or offering a greeting to all the people who will be present. We want to surpass our total of 120 banners last year!

PHILOPTOCHOS FESTIVAL NEEDS

105 Pitas (75 Spinach and 30 Cheese)
   We need:
   - 105 Hood Cottage Cheese
   - 105 8oz Cream Cheese
   - 110 Frozen Spinach Pkgs

Breads
   We need:
   - 10 lbs King Arthur Flour
   - 30 lbs All Purpose Flour

Baklava: 18 pans. We Need: 8 large bags walnuts

We want to thank all those who have already donated. Please help us with our baking goods for the Festival. Call Evelyn Pappas (508-259-5453) or Sandi Kunkel (508-341-8673) or mail a monetary donation to cover our expenses to the Church Office and Mark “Philoptochos Festival Donation.”

We need all donations by August 26th.

Thank you!
HOLY LANDS PILGRIMAGE
February 15-24, 2019

A SAMPLE SCHEDULE OF OUR PILGRIMAGE

Day 1: Depart for TEL AVIV
This afternoon, we will depart for an unforgettable and fulfilling spiritual odyssey!

Day 2: TEL AVIV / TIBERIAS
Welcome to the Holy Land! We will travel to Tiberias, a drive of approximately two hours. En route to Tiberias, visit the Church and Tomb of St. George in Lydda, the birthplace of St. George. Venerate the tomb and chain of St George. Some believe that the church was built on the very spot where St. George was chained and tortured in an attempt to convince him to renounce his faith. Others believe that the church was built in the place where he was buried after he was martyred in Nicomedia.

Day 3: TIBERIAS / RIVER JORDAN / CAPERNAUM / TABGHA / TIBERIAS
Enjoy a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee. Jesus met Simon, Peter, James and John, his first disciples, and performed many miracles here. He stilled the raging storm on the Sea of Galilee that was about to flood their boat and walked on the stormy sea to His Apostles. In Capernaum, walk in the same village Jesus did. It is here that our Lord and Savior chose and called forth His Apostles, and where He preached and performed miracles such as the healing of the paralytic, the mother-in-law of Apostle Peter, the servant of the centurion and many others. See the remains of the House of Saint Peter, one of the very few exact sites we know Jesus visited. See the ruins of the Synagogue where Our Lord preached. Continue to the Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Apostles, the very place Jesus called His first disciples. Enjoy the peaceful setting of this beautiful church with its red domes. We will go to the Mountain of Beatitudes, where Jesus Christ preached the Sermon on the Mount and where the Lord’s Prayer was said for the first time. Then, on to Tabgha (Seven Springs) and the Church of the Multiplication of Fishes and Loaves. It is here that the miracle of the loaves and fish took place. Over 5,000 men, women and children were fed from the miraculous multiplication of the five loaves of bread and two fish. Our last stop will be Yardenit on the River Jordan, the site for Spiritual Baptism and Water Blessing. Experience an affirmation of your baptism in the same river that our Lord was baptized by Saint John the Baptist 2,000 years ago.

Day 4: TIBERIAS / MT. TABOR / CANA / NAZARETH / JERUSALEM
We will visit the Church of the Transfiguration on Mt. Tabor. At the top of Mt. Tabor. There, see an utterly commanding view of all of lower Galilee and the valley of the Armageddon. It was here that Jesus revealed the wonderful power of presence in communion with the Lawgiver and prophets of the past (Moses and Elijah). This also became immediate evidence of Communion with His Father. At the foot of Mt. Tabor is the little village of Naim, where Jesus raised the only son of the poor widow from the dead. In Cana our Lord performed his first public miracle turning water into wine at the request of His Blessed Mother the Virgin Mary to spare the bridegroom the embarrassment of running out of wine at his wedding party. A special service for married couples will follow.

In Nazareth, the home of Mary, Joseph and Jesus until the beginning of His ministry. Nazareth is also where Jesus spent some years of His youth after returning to Israel from Egypt and until His public ministry began. Visit the Virgin Mary’s Well where the Angel Gabriel announced the “good news” to Mary that she would give birth to Our Lord, Jesus Christ. The Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation is built over this site.
Day 5: JERUSALEM / BETHLEHEM / JERUSALEM
In Bethlehem is the birthplace of our Lord and Savior and the cradle of biblical history. Bethlehem is located five and half miles from Jerusalem. Visit the Shepherd’s field and the Church of the Nativity. A Greek Orthodox Church has been built over the birthplace of Our Lord by the Emperor Justinian and is over 1,500 years old. It is the second oldest Orthodox Church in existence. On the way back to Jerusalem, visit the Monastery and Church of the Prophet Elias and the Church and Tomb of St. Symeon, the Just.

Day 6: JERUSALEM
We will walk through old Jerusalem to the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate and enjoy a private audience with His Beatitude Theophilos III, then continue with a visit to the Church of Saint Anna (birthplace of the Theotokos). Within its grounds are the Pools of Bethesda. These are the pools located near the sheep gate where the Lord cured the paralytic. Archeologists have uncovered all of the pools and the five porticoes, as was reported by St. John in the Gospel. Then, we will walk along the Way of the Cross. Venerate at the same cell the Lord was held prisoner before His crucifixion. It is located deep in a dungeon. There is a slab of stone with two holes through which His legs were passed and ankles shackled together. The cells of Barabas and the two thieves, who were crucified with Him, are here. We will continue with a visit to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the site of our Savior’s death and resurrection. This is the most important church for Christians. We climb the stairs to reach Golgotha, the place of the crucifixion. Over the site, a main altar has been built. Take a moment to reflect in this Holy Place and to feel the spirit engulf you and appreciate all that Our Lord has given you and your loved ones. At the bottom of the stairs, as you leave the Chapel of the Golgotha, is the site where the body of Christ was placed after he was taken down from the cross. Then, we are led to the site of the Tomb, the place of the Lord’s resurrection. A small chapel has been built over the sacred place under the watch of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate. In the first small room is the great stone that sealed the tomb. It was here that the Angel of the Lord sat proclaiming the resurrection of Christ from the dead. The next small room contained the slab of stone on which the dead body of the Lord was placed, entombed and resurrected. It is a truly incredible experience to be in this church! It is from this tiny room that the Holy Light of the Resurrection emanates.

Day 7: JERUSALEM
Visit the Monastery of St Mary Magdalene to venerate the relics of St Elizabeth, the 20th century Russian Martyr and St Stephen’s Church. Then we visit the the Chapel of Ascension, the site our Lord ascended from the earth to Heaven. Continue to Gethsemane. Visit the Church of All Nations and the Garden of Agony. It is here our Lord prayed with great passion before He was to endure the selfless sacrifice to come. Continue with a visit to the Tomb of the Virgin Mary. It is from this site that the holy body of the Virgin Mother was taken into Heaven by her Son and God. We will visit the Western Wall (Wailing Wall) on Mount Moriah, where it is said the Patriarch Abraham was ready to sacrifice his son. Here also stands the Dome of the Rock, with its marble and multi-colored mosaics, quotations from the Koran and the Golden Cupola. Continue on to Mt. Zion to visit the Room of the Last Supper, King David’s Tomb and the Church of the Dormition. Return to the hotel for dinner. Those who wish may attend midnight Liturgy at the Holy Sepulcher for a truly unforgettable and spiritually-fulfilling evening.

Day 8: JERUSALEM / JERICHO / JERUSALEM
Visit the Mount of Temptation, where the Lord was tempted by the devil and fasted for forty days and forty nights. There is an altar built over the same slab of stone where Jesus prayed and fasted. The Monastery was built over this site, and there is only one elderly monk who takes care of it. He is truly inspirational. En route to the Dead Sea, stop in Qumran, the area where a Jewish sect thought to be the Essenes wrote the Dead Sea Scrolls. Continue to the Church of St. Elisseos and Zacchaeus’ Tree. This is the tree upon which Zacchaeus climbed in order to see the Lord walk by. From here, drive to the Judean Desert to the Monastery of St. Gerasimos. It is one of the oldest monasteries in the world, built by Abbot Gerasimos in 455 A.D. Continue to Martha and Lazarus Tomb in Bethany where Lazarus was raised from the dead by Jesus after 4 days in the tomb. The Lord wanted to establish His power over death and waited until Lazarus was confirmed dead before raising him from the dead.

Day 9: JERUSAELM / USA—Return Home
SAVE THE DATES FOR NEXT YEAR AND HAVE A ONCE IN A LIFETIME SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE!!!
Contact Fr. Luke today to reserve your spot!
NEW GREEK SCHOOL PROGRAM BEGINS SEPTEMBER 10TH

Interested in learning Greek?

We are trying to create three or four classes
+ Younger Children Under 7
  + Children’s 7-12
  + Teens 13-17
  + Adults

This will be a serious Greek School Program.
Two Hours once a week

Cost per year: $400/year (scholarships available for need)

Teachers: Maria and Nikitas Zagoras

See Fr. Luke if you are interested

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY & NEW EVENING BIBLE STUDY WILL START UP IN SEPTEMBER

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Supplication Service to the Virgin Mary
Aug 1, 2, 3 - 6:30pm
Aug 6 - 7:00pm
Aug 7, 8, 9, 10 - 6:30pm
Aug 13 - 7:00pm

Aug 6 - 9:30am Divine Liturgy for the Transfiguration
Aug 15 - 9:30am Divine Liturgy for Feast of Virgin Mary
Aug 29 - 9:30am Divine Liturgy for St John Baptist

Saturday Vespers - Every Saturday 6:00pm
COFFEE FELLOWSHIP SERVING GROUPS

Aug 5 - Donna Cooney, Leah Didonato, Rena Klebart, Betty Tonna,
Aug 12 - Marie McNally, Christa Benoit, Sandi Kunkel, Mary Seferi,
Aug 19 - Kathy Bilis, Sara Darligiannis, Marie Monroe, Charlotte Neslusan, Stephanie Quill
Aug 26 - Thomai Gatsogiannis, Trish Lareau, Deb Raymond, Vange Wilson, Alexandra Koulax

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP SUPPLY
Pastries/Donuts Groups

These groups will bake or bring in pastries/donuts and/or fruit and veggies for our coffee fellowship. We are looking for more volunteers to help!!!

Aug 5 - Titi Chito, Rina Sgouritsas, Lorna McWilliam, Pres. Faith Veronis
Aug 12 – Sandi Kunkel, Evelyn Pappas, Gulapka Kostovski, Betty Tonna,
Aug 19 – Kathy Bilis, Marie Monroe, Eleni Sgouritsas, Tina Collelo
Aug 26 – Leah Didonato, Mary Seferi, Olga Poulakhine, Vasiliki Zahariadis
Sept 2 – Sara Darligiannis, Sissy Darligiannis, Helen Constantine, Alexandra Koulax
Sept 9 - CHURCH FESTIVAL

Sept 16 – Lisa Healy, Marie McNally, Despina Condos, Trish Lareau
Sept 23 – Charlotte Neslusan, Evis Jordanoglou, Dolly Sosnowski, Annalisa Dunning
Sept 30 – Lynn Purcell, Rayne Purcell, Sophia Foisy, Kelly Vosnakis

YOUTH EPISTLE READERS

Aug 5 - Kiera MacKenzie
Aug 12 - Lily Mueller
Aug 19 - Helen Dunning
Aug 26 - Panayiota Veronis
Sept 2 - Maia Beaudry
Sept 9 - Zach Beaudry
Remembering Our Church Family

Important Dates in AUGUST:

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

**BIRTHDAYS:**
- Aug 1: Dimitrios Milios
- Aug 1: Adam Sanderson
- Aug 2: Evelyn Belanger
- Aug 3: Mary Stefanides
- Aug 4: Nicholas Veronis
- Aug 6: Katerina Beland
- Aug 6: Sophia Quill
- 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: Steliane Thompson
- Aug 19: Richard Seferi
- Aug 20: Elias Thompson
- Aug 21: Padraic Peterson
- Aug 22: Katerina Quill
- Aug 23: Julie Milios
- Aug 27: Arthur Peterson
- Aug 27: Clara Enache
- Aug 28: Matthew Zhuk

**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
  - Maria Zagoras
- Aug 30: St. Alexander
  - Alexandra Koulax
  - Alexander Pappas
  - Sandi Kunkel
  - Alex Massie
  - Sandy Sanderson
  - Alex Seferi
  - Alexandra Thomas
  - Alexandra Xanthopoulos

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:**
- Aug 8: Chris/Alex Massie
- Aug 20: Aristotelis/Gloria Panagiotou
- Aug 20: Paul & Eleni Xanthopoulos
- Aug 24: Anton & Nicoleta Cojocaru
- Aug 30: Nikita & Maria Zagoras

Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

Ephesians 4:29
THANK YOU
To Arthur Bilis for organizing our 6th Annual Church Golf Tournament!

We made $2025 to help support the ministries of our Church!

COMMIT TO 20 MINUTES WITH GOD EACH DAY

Use Fr. Luke’s Daily Email to help you spend 20 minutes every day connecting with God throughout the new year.

You can sign up to the daily email at the Church’s website www.schwebster.org. On the left column of the main page you will find a place to sign up.

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope in the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Romans 15:13

Look for our safe and convenient

at bottom left of Church webpage at www.schwebster.org

Learn your Orthodox Faith from Orthodox podcasts, music, teachings at

www.myocn.net

www.AncientFaith.com
Thank You to those who sponsor our monthly bulletin!

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Dudley - Auburn - Blackstone

Thank You to those who sponsor our monthly bulletin!
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WALK WITH JESUS

Carry Jesus in your bosom like Mary His mother.
Come with the Magi and offer Him your gifts.
Take Him from Symeon so that you may also carry Him in your arms.
When He changes water into wine be there to fill the jars.
Raise the stone from Lazarus in order to learn what is the resurrection from the dead.
Put your head with John upon His breast in order to hear the beating of His heart which pulsates with love for all the world.
Take for yourself a morsel of Bread which He has broken during the Mystical Supper in order to unite with His Body and abide in Him forever.
Go out with Him to the Mount of Olives in order to learn from Him and pray with Him, till your sweat falls down like His.
Stand up, my brother. Wear not carry the cross as it is time for departure. Stretch your hands with Him for the nails.
Arise early while it is still dark.
Go to the tomb to see the marvelous resurrection.
Go with the others to a solitary place, and bow to receive the last blessing before His Ascension.
Sit in the Upper Room to be clothed with power from on High from the Holy Spirit.
Live with the Lord each and every day, during every moment in your life. Amen.

St John Saba