Godparents & Grandparents
And Family Sunday
Feb 21st

Invite Your Relatives and Friends

A “Teaching” Divine Liturgy
February 7

Philoptochos Spaghetti Dinner
March 5

Come to our Studies on “World Religions”

GODPARENTS & GRANDPARENTS

On February 21, our Church Family will celebrate our 12th Annual Godparents and Grandparents Sunday. This is a special Family Sunday when we come together to honor two very special relationships in the lives of many of us. There is a special bond between our godparents (and godchildren) that began when we were baptized. This spiritual relationship is one in which we are called to journey together, helping one another, on our path into the Kingdom of Heaven.

Baptizing a child unites a Godparent to a Godchild for life. It is a sacred responsibility where the Godparent tries to do several things:

1. They try to offer a positive Orthodox Christian witness to their godchild
2. They work together with the parents to educate and inspire their godchild to walk a Christ-centered life of faith.
3. They pray each day that our Lord may have mercy and bless their godchild.
4. They come to Church with their godchild as often as possible, worshipping God and receiving Holy Communion.

Of course, grandparents can play a similar, sacred role in the lives of their grandchildren. How many grandparents didn’t find enough time to spend with their own children when they were young, yet now love to pass endless hours with their grandchildren. Along with having fun and enjoying the grandchildren, the grandparents should never forget about the privilege and responsibility they have to hand down the priceless treasures and traditions of our Greek Orthodox Christian Faith.
Sts. Constantine and Helen
Greek Orthodox Church
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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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Bookstore: Lorna McWilliams
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Kokoszka
Both godparents and grandparents can help the parents of your godchildren/grandchildren raise their children in a truly Christ-centered manner by remembering their namedays, baptismal days, birthdays and holidays. On these special days buy them something that will help them in their faith and spiritual journey - an Orthodox Prayer Book, an Orthodox Study Bible, an inspiring book, an icon, a prayer rope, and other spiritual gifts. We now have our beautiful new “Holy Wisdom” Bookstore which has many books and icons and religious items which you can purchase.

Our New “Holy Wisdom” Church Bookstore

Please make every effort to call up your godchildren and grandchildren (or godparents and grandparents) and invite them to come to church on February 21st. Make this a special celebration!

On this Sunday we will have a special Marionette Puppet Show and delicious luncheon. This delightful show is a great opportunity to invite not only your godchildren and grandchildren, but even any friends who have children.

With love and joy in Christ Jesus,
+ Fr. Luke

A PRAYER FOR GODCHILDREN

O God our Heavenly Father, give to us the Godparents, the grace to proclaim our faith and belief in You and Your only begotten Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and Your most Holy Spirit. Give us the divine spirit to fulfill our privileges as guardians of the tender years of childhood, and to rejoice in the fulfillment of our duties, watching our Godchild grow and be nurtured in the faith, a faithful member of the Church, joining us in the Body of Christ. Help us to be a good example for our Godchild so we can ever strengthen their lives, and draw them ever closer to You their Father, and to Your Son with Whom You are blessed, and to Your all-holy, good, and life giving Spirit. May our Godchild become a more faithful child of the family of the Church, grant to them to be a light in the darkness, pillars of the Orthodox faith, and devoted followers of Him Who is the Way, the Truth and the Life, Your Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.
A group of us traveled to Greece this past August and visited many holy sites. We went to monasteries of recent saints canonized by the Orthodox Church. We prayed before their relics, their very bodies, which were living temples of the Holy Spirit. There was something—no, Someone—present at all these places. From St. Nectarios’ monastery on the island of Aegina to the monastery of the Venerable Loukas, whose relics were 1100 years old, to the tomb of St. Nahum in Macedonia, there was a Holy Presence that was real and tangible and could be felt the moment we entered each site.

I remember years ago being at St. John’s Orthodox Church in Stratford where my grandfather was a priest. Serving as an altar boy, kneeling at the moment of the consecration of the bread and wine, I looked at my grandfather and there was an intensity on his face as he was praying, talking to Someone, but I could not see who. I could sense the holiness at this moment in time, but it was elusive, like trying to grab hold of a cloud. I could see it in my grandfather’s face; I could sense it, but I could not hold on to it or explain it.

What is most comforting to me and most amazing is the recognition that this Presence, is Christ. It is the same Person on our trip just last month and in my grandfather’s church all those years ago. It was the same experience of holiness that I saw in my grandfather’s eyes and witnessed as a young altar boy. Little did I realize that I would be spending my life searching for and discovering this Person my grandfather was praying to.

It was my grandfather who baptized me as a young baby and united me to this Person, Jesus Christ, who throughout my life has been with me always, even without my always recognizing or knowing it. In fact, when there was a difference in the intensity of the experience it was because I was not paying attention to Him, but nonetheless His presence was the same.

Furthermore, these encounters with Christ are the same identifiable, spiritual experiences that I have had in many other instances in my life. It is a great comfort and confirmation of faith to know that the presence of Christ at these sites of early Christians is the same that I have experienced in my life - as a child watching my grandfather serve liturgy, when I was married, at the birth of my children, at my ordination, when I baptized my grandson, at my son’s ordination.

There are also innumerable other moments throughout my life where there has been a Presence, a sense of sacredness, that I now know and recognize as Christ being there. So often we chalk up these experiences to good luck, fate, a good day, a close call where we just missed being in an accident, or even the simple, yet beautiful gift of a sunrise or sunset. These are moments God is calling to our hearts to recognize and acknowledge Him in our Lives. It is this same God, Jesus Christ, Who became man for us so that this relationship would be deeper and even more intimate and personal than just a beautiful sunrise.

On the night before my father died, he was taken to the Hospice Center in Branford. I was there praying and was unsure as to whether I should stay or not. My brother priest was with me and we sang a short service to the Mother of God and anointed
my father with the myrrh from a weeping icon. I can tell you with all honesty that the entire room filled with the fragrance of the oil. Those who know understand what I mean when I say that the fragrance filled the room, overpowering any other odor that was there. A deep and clear sense of the presence of God and His Mother was there. For my dad, I knew then and there that everything would be all right. Not that my dad would somehow miraculously be healed. But that he was in God’s hands and that there was no better place for my dad to be than in the loving care of Him Who loves him more than I ever could. It was OK. It was a consolation and a confirmation that throughout my life God has always been there.

He is familiar and we recognize Him: the same Christ I met while I was a small altar boy kneeling at the altar watching my grandfather, although at the time I barely knew Who this Jesus was; but He knew me. It is the same Christ Who was at my wedding, the birth of my children and my ordination. And looking back now it is certainly the same Christ and the presence of His saints Who we encountered in those sacred places in Aegina, Greece and Macedonia and Who continues to be there, calling me, calling all of us, through all aspects of our lives, to an ever deeper and more intimate relationship with Him. He who has eyes to see, let them see.

I looked at my grandfather and there was an intensity on his face as he was praying, talking to Someone, but I could not see who. I could sense the holiness at this moment in time, but it was elusive, like trying to grab hold of a cloud.

THE AGAPE FUND
In January, I blessed approximately 150 homes. It was a joy to enter your homes and bring God’s special grace for the New Year. Thank you for welcoming me warmly. If I missed your home, please call me to set up a time to come.

When I blessed your home, many of you gave me a monetary gift. Please know that it is my joy to come into your homes and bring the special blessing of our Lord. No monetary gift is ever expected, and if you give a gift, know that I do not keep it for myself. All the money I receive from House Blessings, as well as any money received from Sacraments (Baptisms & Weddings) or Memorials and Funerals goes into my “AGAPE FUND”. I use this AGAPE FUND to help a variety of people in need - this may include people within our parish, as well as others outside our Church Family. I also use it to help various Church ministries. I always welcome any donations made out to this special fund.

If anyone tells me of a special need, I will try to respond to it. Of course, any such help is always held in the utmost confidence.

THANK YOU again for supporting this special AGAPE Fund!
How We Hurt Our Kids
When We Treat Them Like Grown-Ups

By Nicole Villapano on the new book by Dr. Leonard Sax

“Most American parents are completely confused and going utterly in the wrong direction,” Leonard Sax said. “There’s a collapse of understanding what parenting involves.”

In his book, Sax offers a scenario in which parents and a 6-year-old child, who had a sore throat, came into his office. When he said, “Next I’m going to take a look at your throat,” the mother asked for the child’s permission, saying, “Do you mind if the doctor looks in your throat for just a second, honey? Afterward we can go and get some ice cream.”

That led to the child refusing to have the doctor look in her throat to do the strep test and the child having to be restrained to get the test accomplished.

“It’s not a question,” Sax said. “It’s a sentence: ‘Open up and say, ‘Ahh.’” Parents are incapable of speaking to their children in a sentence that ends in a period,” he said. “Every sentence ends in a question mark.”

Some parenting experts told adults that they should offer their children choices instead of telling them what to do and parents believed them, he said.

The hierarchy of parent over child no longer exists, he said. Instead of parents exercising their authority because they know what’s best, they are focusing on making children happy and boosting their self-esteem.

“They now see their job as facilitating whatever a kid wants to do,” he said. Instead, Sax said, a parent’s job is to teach children right from wrong, teach them the meaning of life and keep their children safe.

“In doing that job, you’re going to do a lot of things a child won’t approve of and not understand,” he said. Sometimes, you have to be the bad guy.

According to Sax, parents should focus on helping children develop skills such as self-control, humility and conscientiousness, meaning they think of people other than themselves. Those things are the biggest predictors of future success in adulthood, he said, not education or affluence.

Sax said this is a generation of parents who are spending more time with children than any previous generation. But instead of spending time at family meals, this generation is spending time shuttling children from one extracurricular activity to the next or spending time doing their work for them. “It doesn’t help to spend more time with kids if they are spending it in the wrong ways,” Sax said.

In his book, Sax cites numerous research studies that found that a lack of parental authority is why obesity is on the rise, why more kids are on anti-anxiety and attention deficit disorder medication, why children have a culture of disrespect, seem fragile, and why American children no longer lead the world in education.

He offered some solutions:

HAVE FAMILY MEALS AT HOME AND MAKE THAT A TOP PRIORITY.

“You have to communicate that our time together as a parent and child is more important than anything else,” he said. One
study found that for each additional meal a family had together, the children were less likely to internalize problems such as anxiety or externalize problems such as skipping school. It also helped children develop good nutrition habits, lessening the obesity problem.

TAKE SCREENS OUT OF THE BEDROOM. This includes cellphones, computers, TVs and video games. Kids are chronically sleep deprived, which leads to poor behavior and can even be the reason why kids are getting mental health diagnosis.

PUT SCREENS IN PUBLIC PLACES AND LIMIT HOW THEY ARE USED. This generation lives life in a virtual world. Online friends can quickly become more important than the friends children see in person. They don’t know how to communicate with someone face to face or have outside interests and hobbies. Video games also rewire the way their brains work. And what they post online never goes away. Install software like My Mobile Watchdog, which will share every photo that they take or post with you.

TEACH HUMILITY. Give lessons that show children that they are not the most important people in the world. They need to be able to see the world through another lens and be able to handle rejection or failure. It really cannot be “everybody gets a trophy.”

HAVE AN ALLIANCE BETWEEN THE SCHOOL AND YOU. If your child did something, don’t approach teachers or administrators with suspicion and distrust. “Parents swoop in like attorneys demanding evidence,” Sax said. Instead lessons of honesty and integrity should be enforced. That means that a brilliant kid who cheated takes the 0.

Most American parents are completely confused and going utterly in the wrong direction. There’s a collapse of understanding what parenting involves.

PARENT WHAT THEY DO. No, your 14-year-old cannot go to a party with college students or to the beach for spring break. No, they will not be at parties where alcohol is served, and you will not be the one serving it. You have to think of worst-case scenarios like drinking and driving, alcohol poisoning and sexual assault, and know that these are not decisions that they are ready to make because they are not adults. They need an adult, and that’s you. And even if their peers’ parents are fine with something, you don’t have to be. “Other parents don’t have a clue at what they are doing,” Sax said. “That’s why what they are doing doesn’t have good outcomes.”

Some of those things, especially if they are new for your family, can be difficult and might be hard to enforce. Sax recommends persistence and commitment.

"Your kids will thank you, not today or maybe not tomorrow, but some day, perhaps."
WHAT DOES LOVE MEAN? 
From Children 4-8 Years Old

The question “What does love mean?” was posed to a group of 4 to 8 year-olds. The answers given were broader, deeper, and more profound than anyone could have ever imagined!

'When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love.'
Rebecca - age 8

'When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth.'
Billy - age 4

'Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other.'
Karl - age 5

'Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French fries without making them give you any of theirs.'
Chrissy - age 6

'Love is what makes you smile when you're tired.'
Terri - age 4

'Love is when my mommy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK.'
Danny - 8

'Love is when Mommy sees Daddy smelly and sweaty and still says he is handsomer than George Clooney.'
Chris - age 7

'If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate.'
Nikka - age 6

'Love is when you tell a guy you like his shirt, then he wears it everyday.'
Noelle - age 7

'Love is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends, and just enjoy being together because they know each other so well.'
Tommy - age 6

'During my piano recital, I was on a stage and I was scared. I looked at all the people watching me and saw my daddy waving and smiling. He was the only one doing that. I wasn't scared anymore. That's love.'
Cindy - age 8

'My mommy loves me more than anybody. You don't see anyone else kissing me to sleep at night.'
Clare - age 6

'Love is when Mommy gives Daddy the best piece of chicken.'
Elaine - age 5

'The question “What does love mean?” was posed to a group of 4 to 8 year-olds. The answers given were broader, deeper, and more profound than anyone could have ever imagined!'
'Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day.'
Mary Ann - age 4

'I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes and has to go out and buy new ones.'
Lauren - age 4

'When you love somebody, your eyelashes go up and down and little stars come out of you.'
Karen - age 7

'Love is when Mommy sees Daddy on the toilet and she doesn't think it's gross.'
Mark - age 6

'You really shouldn't say 'I love you' unless you mean it. But if you mean it, you should say it a lot. People forget.'
Jessica - age 8

The winner was a four year old child whose next door neighbor was an elderly gentleman who had recently lost his wife. Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old gentleman’s yard climbed onto his lap, and just sat there. When his Mother asked what he had said to the neighbor, the little boy said, 'Nothing, I just helped him cry'

Cell phones and ipods, along with other electronics, can be a blessing in their proper place, but in or after Church they can be a distraction to authentic fellowship.

For the two hours on Sunday that we come to worship God and share in loving fellowship with one another, it is appropriate to leave these devices at home, or in our car.

PLEASE DO NOT bring them into the Church. The time after the Divine Liturgy should be a time of loving fellowship, of interacting with one another, of developing and cultivating friendships. Cell phones, and ipods or other electronics, can distract us from this endeavor

Please parents, set a good example for our kids, and be firm with your own children to disconnect for the time we are in Church.

Thank you very much for your consideration!
NOSTAGLIA

Where, O where are the blessed good old days,
When life was simpler, happier, and not such a maze?
What happened to the gatherings at yiayia’s after
Church? Now getting everyone together is like
an all-outright search!

Where have the days gone when what mattered most
was love and laughter, and when people did not boast?
Friendship was a magnet, just “dropping by” the way,
Now, to visit her own kids, even mom needs an “okay”
Times have changed “for shame!
They’ve changed quite a lot.

We hardly ever eat together - grandparents to tots.
Yes, now the only times that it seems we’re together
is when the Church calls - but even then, we skip
“cuz of the weather!”

Just take a look - it wasn’t that long ago,
when being with family was the best way to go.
Like rabbits gone wild, it seems we’re all scattered;
One’s on a tight schedule. The other? He’s all tattered.
Eating together? Come on get real!

Seems much more is important than sharing a meal!
Some like wrapped veggies, others fast food that’s hot.
We have no more use for the stove and one pot.
Everything’s mechanical and one thing we still lack
a mechanism (it’s coming) that will feed us a snack!
Where are the days when true love was not a “fall?”
But a responsible step taken with faith - that’s all!
Remember when marriage was holy and sublime?
Now it seems that’s only true in a nursery rhyme.
The “stefana” were placed above the bed of a couple;
showing their union in good times & times of trouble.
It seems gone the days we said, “Till death do us part.”
Now because of pride, we’re whipped from the start!

Where are those days when for joy and for grace
our babies were baptized and made strong for the race!

And who could forget the grateful look on yiayia
and papou’s face
When their names took first place.
That was another time -
something now that seems like outer space,
Now for things like tradition, honor, and
respect… there’s hardly a trace.
Our hearts have grown cold;
things have gotten “out of whack.”
We’ve been duped - by the one
who sets all of the traps!
We’ve given in to selfish passions -
so don’t look surprised
Now modesty and shyness
are almost even despised!

Where, o where are the blessed good old days?
Those sparkling days of sharing and caring?
The competition is great and
there’s not lots of room,
for people with morals
who can innocently gaze at the moon.

Passing ones neighbor’s is the game we’re now in,
We’ve fallen, what’s worse, we don’t call it sin.
Co-suffering, self-sacrifice are things of the past,
now we all run just to buy things that won’t last.

Be gracious, O Master, from heaven above,
and send us a voice like the one once told of,
Crying out from the desert, the Baptist, John.
It’s restoration we seek -
help us to see what is wrong!
Opportunity was given when “Repent!” said he,
Let’s hope for the best!
May holy matrimony again just be!
Come teach us O Savior, so again we might see
It’s all well within reach,
You did if first - it’s called humility.

Translated from an anonymous Greek poem
by Fr. Christodoulos Papadeus
Two years ago when I was in St Petersburg Russia I heard this story about Saint Xenia and was fascinated by her life. A friend of mine posted this on Facebook on St Xenia’s feastday on January 24th. I thought I would share it with all of you.

Saint Xenia lived during the eighteenth century, but little is known of her life or of her family. She passed most of her life in Petersburg during the reigns of the empresses Elizabeth and Catherine II. She was the wife of an army officer, and after their wedding, the couple lived in St Petersburg. St Xenia became a widow at the age of twenty-six when her husband suddenly died at a party. She grieved for the loss of her husband, and especially because he died without Confession or Holy Communion.

Once her earthly happiness ended, Xenia lost interest in the things of this world, and followed the difficult path of foolishness for the sake of Christ. The basis for this strange way of life is to be found in the St Paul’s letter to the Corinthians (1 Cor. 1:18-24, 1 Cor. 2:14, 1 Cor. 3:18-19). The Lord strengthened her and helped her to bear sorrow and misfortune patiently for the next forty-five years.

She started wearing her husband’s clothing, and insisted that she be addressed as “Andrew Feodorovich.” She told people that it was she, and not her husband, who had died. In a certain sense, this was perfectly true. She abandoned her former way of life and experienced a spiritual rebirth. When she gave away her house and possessions to the poor, her relatives complained to the authorities. After speaking to Xenia, the officials were convinced that she was in her right mind and was entitled to dispose of her property as she saw fit. Soon she had nothing left for herself, so she wandered through the poor section of Petersburg with no place to lay her head. She refused all assistance from her relatives, happy to be free of worldly attachments.

When her late husband’s red and green uniform wore out, she clothed herself in rags of those colors. After a while, Xenia left Petersburg for eight years. It is believed that she visited holy Elders and ascetics throughout Russia seeking instruction in the spiritual life. St Xenia eventually returned to the poor section of Petersburg, where she was mocked and insulted because of her strange behavior. When she did accept money from people it was only small amounts, which she used to help the poor. She spent her nights praying without sleep in a field outside the city. Prayer strengthened her, and in her heart’s conversation with the Lord she found the support she needed on her difficult path. When a new church was being built in the Smolensk cemetery, St Xenia brought bricks to the site. She did this in secret, during the night, so that no one would know.

Soon her great virtue and spiritual gifts began to be noticed. She prophesied future events affecting the citizens of Petersburg, and even the royal family. Against her will, she became known as someone pleasing to God, and nearly everyone loved her. They said, “Xenia does not belong to this world, she belongs to God.” People regarded her visits to their homes or shops as a great blessing. St Xenia loved children, and mothers rejoiced when the childless widow would stand and pray over a baby’s crib, or kiss a child. They believed that the blessed one’s kiss would bring that child good fortune.

St Xenia lived about forty-five years after the death of her husband, and departed to the Lord at the age of seventy-one. By the 1820s, people flocked to her grave to pray for her soul, and to ask her to intercede with God for them. So many visitors took earth from her grave that it had to be replaced every year. Later, a chapel was built over her grave.

Those who turn to St Xenia in prayer receive healing from illness, and deliverance from their afflictions. She is also known for helping people who seek jobs.

With much love,
Lisa Healy, Parish Council President
Happy new year everyone! I hope we all have a healthy and happy new year!

On February 1st at 6:00 we will have our first meeting of the year. We will discuss plans for our Spaghetti Supper on Saturday, March 5th. John Sgouritsas and Lake Pizza will generously donate the meatballs and sauce for the event. We will be looking for donations for the other things we need. We will also be asking for place mat ads for $25.00.

We will have a center table raffle so please bring in a prize for the table. Tickets will be $10.00 adults and $5.00 for children. Tickets will be available to be passed out at the meeting. Let’s start early selling tickets.

We will also discuss plans for future activities to be held at our future meetings. See you on the 1st. Let’s just hope we have good weather.

With much love and gratitude,

Evelyn Pappas
You are INVITED to our 12th Annual
Godparents/Grandparents
Family Sunday Celebration

Sunday, February 21st

9:30am Divine Liturgy
10:45 Children’s Program in Church
11:00 “An Arabian Adventure” Puppet Show
11:45 A Delicious Luncheon

Adults: $10.00  Children Under 12: FREE

Bring Your godchildren, grandchildren, godparents & grandparents to Divine Liturgy and receive Holy Communion together! Then enjoy a delightful Marionette Puppet Show and delicious luncheon! Bring any friends with children as well!

We welcome the Tanglewood Marionettes, a professional puppet theatre who will put on a delightful show entitled “An Arabian Adventure.”
FROM OUR PARISH NURSE

On February 14, come to the Church early and our Parish Nurse Nicoleta Cojocaru will check your blood pressure, offer medication management and consult on any health related issue. She will be at the Church on these Sundays from 7:30am until the Divine Liturgy begins, and can also meet people after the Divine Liturgy. If you prefer her to visit you in your home, feel free to call me at 774-452.1049

Join us

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

A BUILDING PROJECT IN AUBURN

Saturday, April 2

We need 12 volunteers from 8am-12pm and 12 volunteers from 12noon-4pm.

Sign up by calling or emailing Fr. Luke.

A “TEACHING” DIVINE LITURGY

Sunday, Feb 7th

Make Sure you don’t miss coming this Sunday to Better Understand What We Do During the Divine Liturgy!

WEEKDAY SERVICES

WEEKDAY DIVINE LITURGY
Feb 1 - Vesperal Liturgy at 6:30pm for Presentation of Lord in the Temple
Feb 9 - 9:00am for St. Harallambos
Feb 17 - 9:00am for St. Theodore

SPECIAL HEALING SERVICE FOR THE SICK
6:30pm Wednesday February 10

SATURDAY VESPERS (5:00pm)
Every Saturday
SUPPORT OUR MISSION to PROJECT MEXICO

Dear Beloved Parishioners

Our Church will once again sponsor a MISSIONS TEAM TO MEXICO to serve our Lord Jesus Christ and His Church in a cross-cultural setting. This will be the FIFTH TIME our Church will send such a group. We have 15 people interested in participating in this exciting mission. As in past years, we will travel to Tijuana, Mexico and work with the Orthodox organization PROJECT MEXICO, while staying at the St. Innocent Orphanage. We will go from July 14-20, 2016.

Our primary goal will be to help construct a home for a needy family in Rosarito. This family presently lives in the outskirts of the city, where many of the homes are made of pieces of scrap that can be found in junk yards. The week we are there, we will work with 125 Orthodox Christians from around the country, and will build FIVE SIMPLE HOMES. We will also have the opportunity to spend time with the teenage orphans who stay at the St. Innocent home, as well as share our faith and spend time with the local people we meet.

This is a great opportunity for our Church Family to take part in the Great Commission of our Lord to “Go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19). In order for our group to participate in this mission trip, WE NEED TO RAISE $15,000, which will pay for the supplies and materials needed to build the house, our food and lodging at the orphanage, our flights to San Diego and the van we must rent for Mexico. In order for this mission trip to succeed, we need many partners. Would you prayerfully consider either participating in this trip, and/or becoming a spiritual and financial partner with us on our mission?

As a financial partner, you can send a tax-deductible donation to Sts. Constantine and Helen Church. Please write Project Mexico in the memo line of the check. We hope to receive all our donations by March 1st. If you are interested in learning more about Project Mexico, please look on their website www.projectmexico.org.

Please keep our group in your prayers as we prepare for our mission, as well as during our actual trip. If you are possibly interesting in participating in this exciting experience, please talk with Fr. Luke as soon as possible! Unfortunately, our spots are limited and the interest is great. I even asked Project Mexico to give us five additional spots, but their groups (which include 650 people all summer) have been sold out since early December!!

Thank you for helping our Church fulfill its part in our Lord’s global mission and outreach!!

In Christ’s love,

†Luke
OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Our Capital Campaign’s Newest Givers

Thank You to Matthew and Daphne Teguis, *Patrons Level*

93 families or individuals, including 75 Church Stewards (or 50% of our parishioners) have contributed to our Capital Campaign. If you have not participated yet, please consider doing so. We still have several projects we hope to complete in the Spring!

- Three Offices and Office Bathroom Renovation $50,000
- Large Stain Glass Window $35,000
- Front Church Walkway Pavers $12,000
- Back Patio Pavers $12,000
- Repaving of Parking Lot $30,000
- Additional Parking Spaces $25,000
- Outside Landscaping $10,000

QUESTION AND ANSWER BOX

In the Narthex of the Church there is a QUESTIONS BOX. Please write any questions you may have about our Orthodox Christian Faith or our Greek Orthodox Traditions?

Or you can email any questions to frlukeveronis@gmail.com. Fr. Luke will try to answer these in his sermons or in the Monthly Bulletin.

YOUTH NEWS

WINTER CAMP
Sign Up for MBC Winter Camp at www.mbcamp.org
Feb 12-15

TEEN DINNER DIALOGUE
5:00pm
Sunday, February 28
12 Things I Love About Being Orthodox Christians

I love being Orthodox because …

1. When my children reach adulthood, the Orthodox Church will still be the same church.

2. Orthodox worship is timeless, set apart, sacred and holy. It is not simply entertainment, but an encounter with the living God.

3. Orthodoxy gives me tangible, practical tools to live as a Christian. It is a "hands on" faith.

4. Orthodoxy allows me to submit to something greater than my own personal conscience.

5. Orthodoxy fills each day of my life with its daily spiritual calendar. I am never bored.

6. Orthodoxy is not simply mental exercise. It requires physical participation and discipline.

7. Orthodoxy provides me with the complete Bible, not a 16th century abridgement.

8. Orthodoxy offers me the true body and blood of Jesus Christ every Sunday.

9. In any Orthodox Church in the world, I never have to wonder before entering "What's the worship going to be like here?"

10. Orthodoxy offers me a path to the transformation of my whole being. My salvation is so much more than "Hell insurance."

11. Orthodoxy teaches me to venerate the Lord's Mother and the Saints rather than the inflated egos of celebrity preachers.

12. Orthodoxy teaches me that sin is MY problem, not God's. And He’ll help me with it.

DEMONS

Spewing forth from the bowels of hell
Demons assail the humble priest
ringing a church bell.

Never content with those whose inner peace is intact
They fight hard to poison those with whom God has a pact.

Knowing that men are quite vulnerable and weak
They seek to possess both the strong and the meek.

Using the tools of their trade, most notably greed, power and passion
They achieve their desired result in most clever fashion.

The demons love prejudice and hate filled thought
And revel when people of different creeds and colors have fought.

Their power is quite evident in our world at the present
As they go to great liberty to create irrepressible resentment.

Although they temporarily succeed with those who have fear
Their influence wanes when God's people draw near.

Their ultimate goal is suffering, death and a downward flight
Yet we believers know that the Lord's Resurrection rescues us from that plight.

Nicholas A. Veronis
USHERS & GREETERS SCHEDULE

Feb 7 - Arthur Bilis, Del Monroe, Chris Geotis, Thomai Gatsogianis, Trish Lareau
Feb 14 - Marie McNally, Eric Beland, Matt Benoit, Lisa Healy, Nick Seferi
Feb 21 - Neal Neslusan, Mary Papageorge, Jimmy Karapanos, Cindy Johnson
Feb 28 - Nicoleta Cojocaru, Zach Gianaris, Garry Ross, Jared Quill

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:

Feb 7 - Marie McNally, Christa Benoit, Sandi Kunkel, Mary Seferi
Feb 14 - Donna Cooney, Athena Cooney, Leah Didonato, Jaime Ross
Feb 21 - Kathy Bilis, Marie Monroe, Carolyn Niemeck, Deb Raymond
Feb 28 - Thomai Gatsogiannis, Trish Lareau, Stephanie Quill, Betty Tonna, Evangeline Wilson

LEARN ABOUT “WORLD RELIGIONS”

EARLY RISERS GROUP
7:00AM SATURDAYS

WEDNESDAY GROUP
10:00AM WEDNESDAYS

LEARN ABOUT “WORLD RELIGIONS”

EARLY RISERS GROUP
7:00AM SATURDAYS

WEDNESDAY GROUP
10:00AM WEDNESDAYS

YOUTH EPISTLE READERS
Feb 7 - Panayiota Veronis
Feb 14 - Olivia Neslusan
Feb 21 - Gabriela Ross
Feb 28 - Maia Beaudry
March 6 Maria Mironidis
March 13 - Lily Mueller
March 20 - Zach Beaudry
March 27 Theodora Veronis

Orthodoxy Classes
6:30pm Monday, Feb 8
6:30pm Monday Feb 22

Special Service of Healing
6:30pm Wednesday, February 10
Remembering Our Church Family

Important Dates in FEBRUARY:

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

**BIRTHDAYS:**

Feb 1  Michael Chito
Feb 2  Fr Luke Veronis
Feb 2  Teddy Benoit
Feb 3  Vasiliki Zahariadis
Feb 3  Katia Sidorchuk
Feb 4  Grace Darlagiannis
Feb 11  Lily Mueller
Feb 12  Bozena Khozami
Feb 13  Norman Desrosiers
Feb 13  Michael Angelo
Feb 15  Richard Bethune
Feb 23  Eleanor Teguis
Feb 25  Nike Avlas
Feb 26  Angelina Papageorge
Feb 28  John Sgouritsas

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:**

Feb 11  George/Mary Papageorge

**NAMEDAYS:**

Feb 6  St. Katia
       Katia Zhuk

Feb 10  St Haralambos
        Harry Jordanoglou

Feb 11  St. Theodora
       Theodora Veronis
       Theodora Stathis

Feb 17  St. Theodore
       Ted Tonna
       Tenny Benoit

Feb 26  St. Fotini
       Faith Fotini Veronis

THANK YOU
For Christmas Poinsettias
Dhimitra/Angelo Adamopoulos  in
Memory of Charles & Loucia Christos
Stavros Pappas in Loving Memory of his wife Evangelia

Congratulations
And a Blessed New Year to Those Who Found the Coins in the Vasilopita Bread This Year!

ATHENA COONEY

CHARLOTTE NESLUSAN

THIRD COIN???

God Grant You Many Years!!!
God does not expect more than you can give. Nor does He expect less. Proportional giving is not something unique to the New Testament (I Corinthians 16:2).

Even in the Levitical offerings there was provision for giving according to means. If God had richly blessed you, there was a fitting way to show your gratitude - the offering of a young bull. Those not so fortunate could still express their thanks by offering a sheep, a goat, or a bird. But whether the offering was as large as Solomon's (who sacrificed 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep at the dedication of the temple (I Kings 8:36), or as small as Mary's (who brought the offering of the poor, a pair of turtledoves, after the birth of Jesus (Luke 2:24), the important thing was not the size of the gift but the intent of the giver. The poor man's pigeon smelled as sweet to God as the rich man's bull.

+   +   +

St. Paul says,
“The love of money is the root of all evil”
(I Tim. 6:10).
That is why Jesus issues more warnings about materialism and wealth than any other sin. Christian Stewardship places God first and serves as an antidote to this terrible temptation and sin.

“Will anyone rob God? Yet you are robbing me! But you say, “How are we robbing you?”
In your tithes and offerings!
Bring the full tithe (the offering of 10%) into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing.”
Malachi 3:8-10

Thank You to those who were Stewards for 2015. These are names we missed mentioning in the January bulletin:
Michael Belanger
Kathy/Scott Kunkel
Jennie Manthos
Laurie Manthos
Emmanuel Pappas
Jared/Stephanie Quill
## HOLY SCRIPTURE

*All wisdom comes from the Lord And is with Him forever…*

*The beginning of wisdom is to fear the Lord… The fear of the Lord is the crown of wisdom… The root of wisdom is to fear the Lord.*

*Wisdom of Sirach 1:1,12,16,18*

*Do not set your heart on your possessions, and do not say, “I am independent.” Do not follow yourself and your strength, so as to walk in the desires of your heart… Do not delay to turn to the Lord, and do not put it off from day to day.*

*Wisdom of Sirach 5:1,2,7*

*If you draw near to serve the Lord, prepare your soul for temptation. Set your heart right and be steadfast, and do not strive anxiously in distress. Accept whatever is brought upon you, and in exchange for your humiliation be patient; because gold is tested in fire and acceptable men in the furnace of abasement. Believe in Him, and He will help you, make your ways straight and hope in Him.*

*Wisdom of Sirach 2:1,2,4-6*

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## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

**FEBRUARY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Romansverse</th>
<th>Hebrewsverse</th>
<th>Ephesiansverse</th>
<th>Markverse</th>
<th>Johnverse</th>
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The Light - February 2016
Thank You to those who sponsor our monthly bulletin!
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<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 Matins</td>
<td>6:00 Philoptochos Meeting</td>
<td>Presentation of the Lord Liturgy on Monday Night</td>
<td>10:00 Bible Study on “World Religions”</td>
<td>6:30 Parish Council Meeting</td>
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<td>7:00am Study on World Religions</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>6:30pm Vesperal Divine Liturgy for Presentation of</td>
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<td>6:30 Orthodoxy Classes</td>
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<td>AA - Every Sunday 7pm</td>
<td></td>
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<td>8:15 Orthros 9:00 Liturgy</td>
<td>10:00 Bible Study on “World Religions”</td>
<td>12 MBC Winter Camp for Teens</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00am Study on World Religions</td>
<td>6:30 Orthodoxy Classes</td>
<td>8:30pm NA</td>
<td>10 St Harallambos</td>
<td>6:30 Healing Service</td>
<td>12 MBC Winter Camp for Teens</td>
<td>7:00am Study on World Religions</td>
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<td>8:30 Matins</td>
<td>6:30 Orthodoxy Classes</td>
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<td>8:15 Orthros 9:00 Liturgy</td>
<td>10:00 Bible Study on “World Religions”</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 A</td>
<td>Teaching Divine Liturgy and 5 Year Memorial for Olympia Orlofski</td>
<td>8:30pm NA</td>
<td>10:00 Bible Study on “World Religions”</td>
<td>6:30 Healing Service</td>
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<td>8:30 Matins</td>
<td>9:30 Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>10:00 Bible Study on “World Religions”</td>
<td>5:00 GOYA Dinner/Dialogue</td>
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<td>20 7:00am Study on World Religions</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 Parish Nurse at the Church</td>
<td>8:30pm NA</td>
<td>17St. Theodore</td>
<td>8:15 Matins 9:00 Liturgy</td>
<td>10:00 Bible Study on “World Religions”</td>
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<td>7pm AA</td>
<td>8:30pm NA</td>
<td>17St. Theodore</td>
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<td>10:00 Bible Study on “World Religions”</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 Godparents Grandparents Sunday</td>
<td>8:30 Matins</td>
<td>10:00 Bible Study on “World Religions”</td>
<td>24 FAST FREE</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>FAST FREE</td>
<td>7:00am Study on World Religions</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 Divine Liturgy</td>
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<td>10:00 Bible Study on “World Religions”</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:15 Luncheon/Special Puppet Show</td>
<td>8:30pm NA</td>
<td>24 FAST FREE</td>
<td>10:00 Bible Study on “World Religions”</td>
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<td>March 1</td>
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<td>28 8:30 Matins</td>
<td>March 1</td>
<td>March 2</td>
<td>March 3</td>
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<td>May 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 Divine Liturgy w 40 Day Memorial for Steve Angelo</td>
<td>8:30pm NA</td>
<td>10:00 Bible Study on “World Religions”</td>
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<td>9:00-12:00 Retreat on “Adult Education”</td>
<td>5:00-7:00 Philoptochos Spaghetti Dinner</td>
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MONEY
Sought by so many
as the ultimate goal
It can obsess the mind and
make the sane lose their soul.
Never enough, it can lead to destruction
And make one think
he can forgo reconstruction.
Used wisely and for good,
it can transform the earth
But hoarded and praised
it results in great mirth.
The right balance can lead
to peace and posterity
Too much however
results in a false sense of security.
Preoccupied and possessed
by the lure of the green
It can mesmerize the weak
and fatten the lean.
Warned by God that it can blind
the path to heaven
And make our bread tasteless and
lacking sweet leaven.
So heed the warning
of those who have gone before
Seeking riches solely for comfort
will lead to nothing more.

THE JOURNEY
Born naked into a world of sin
We seek solace in bonding with our kin.
After learning to walk, our parents teach us to talk.
We go to school to learn knowledge, wisdom, rules
Making friends and acquiring the necessary tools.
Inspired by teachers who profess new thoughts
We remain mired in doubt and a future of wrought.
From coaches who teach valuable lessons of the day
We learn discipline, teamwork and how to play.
Searching for partners whom we yearn to possess
Hoping they fill our hearts with more and no less.
An innocent kiss or an intimate touch
Can easily lead to something special or not much.
We yearn to make a difference, be part of the cog
Yet fearing we will fall short,
we remain immersed in thick fog.
By avoiding drugs, bad characters
and excessive drink
We will earn a bright future full of much link.
To those who work hard and persevere
Our mantle will rise with much revere.
Yet remember, fame and fortune are fleeting
As is beauty and youth.
Make the most of each day
as you search for the truth.
Heed the advice of the wise men
Who live in accordance with the Ten.
If you remain faithful and do what is right
The Lord will reward you
with his peace and his might.

Nicholas A. Veronis