THE VINE OF CHRIST

“I am the vine, and you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing… As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.”

(John 15:5,9)

I think of these verses from the Gospel of John, especially as we enter into the Summer months. I see people planting their gardens, caring for their lawns, and beautifying their homes. We put forth much effort in giving attention to our properties, but what about our own spiritual lives?

These verses from the Gospel of John are not about vines and branches, but point us to the essence of the Christian life. Our faith is all about a relationship in which we are connected with God at all times. When we are connected with Him, we find life. When we are cut off from Him, we experience death. We must take care not to forget this relationship with God. He is the source of life! When we separate ourselves from Him, once we cut our branch off from Jesus the vine, then there is only one consequence - the branch will wither and die, just as our souls will grow distant from their Creator and slowly shrivel and waste away.

With these words, Jesus reminds us, nudges us, calls to us, longs for us, and even pursues us each and every day. He loves us so much, that he won’t leave us alone. He wants to unite with us. Yet, at the same time He respects our freedom. He comes to us daily in countless ways, gently knocking at the door of our heart, but then waits for us to freely open it up and invite Him in. When we chose to open our heart, He joyously enters in and gladly dwells with us. When we chose to ignore Him, He doesn’t get angry or upset, but He simply and patiently waits.

Of course, we must remember that God isn’t motivated by any human desire or need. His motivation is pure and simple - He waits for us because of His unconditional and unfathomable love. He created us. He brought us to life. He has an ultimate plan that will bring us complete joy and fulfillment. And He passionately loves us and longs to be with us! Remember, He is our Creator, our God, and our heavenly Father.
Sts. Constantine and Helen  
Greek Orthodox Church  
37 Lake Parkway, PO Box 713  
Webster, MA 01570  
Church Telephone: (508) 943-8361  
website: www.schwebster.org  
Facebook: St Constantine Helens (Church)  
Church Office Hours: Monday, Fridays 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

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

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

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

Father Luke A. Veronis  
Telephone: (508) 949-7623 (h) (774) 230-6985 (cell)  
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The Light - June 2018

THE VINE OF CHRIST

When and if we do accept His invitation to enter into our heart, than an immediate consequence occurs - we will bear fruit, an abundance of spiritual fruit. This is the most definite way of understanding whether one authentically walks with Christ or not - by the fruit of our lives.

And what is this fruit that we will bear if we abide in Christ? St. Paul beautifully describes it as the fruit of the Spirit - “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility and self-control.” These holy virtues will be clearly seen in our lives. A deep joy that no earthly challenge can take away. A peace that passes all human understanding. A love that transcends any boundaries or limits. A kindness and goodness that touch every person we meet. A humility that understands that the root of all goodness comes from God Himself.

Other apparent fruit will be the spirit of mercy, kindness and compassion towards others, especially towards those in need; our readiness to forgive and reconcile with one another, even with our worst enemies; our attitude of continual repentance, where we daily evaluate and judge ourselves in light of the Gospel and then unceasingly strive to turn back towards God.

The fruit of a vibrant and living relationship with God will surely include a generous heart towards others. Jesus taught us how it is more blessed to give than to receive. When we abide outside of a relationship with God, we cynically question this attitude. Yet, when we authentically have Christ dwelling in us, we adopt the “mind of Christ” which has no self-centeredness within it. Just as our Lord gave abundantly and freely, we will find ultimate joy in doing the same. Jesus didn’t count the cost, but found delight in giving freely and giving richly. In fact, He emphasized that no one can show greater love than actually giving all that we have for others, including one’s own life. So the fruit of generously giving of our time, our talents, our treasure, and our life itself is a clear sign that God dwells within us.

As Orthodox Christians and followers of Jesus Christ, we must learn to understand that our central purpose in life is to stay connected with God and to bear the fruit described above for His name’s sake, for His glory. “Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit My Father takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.” (John 15:2)

If we are not bearing Spirit-filled fruit in our lives, the time will come when God will “gather the withered branches and throw them into the fire, where they will be burned” (John 15:6)

And even if we do see signs of genuine fruit in our lives, we should never become complacent or content. The spiritual life is all about a continual pruning process, where even a good branch is pruned to bear more and more fruit. There is never an end to the blessed fruit we can produce and with which we can glory God’s holy name!

As we work in our gardens and out in the lawn this summer, let us always remember the garden of our heart, and strive to harvest a rich crop of abundant fruit, all for the glory of God!

With much joy, hope, and love in our Lord Jesus Christ,

+Luke
WE NEED TO DO MORE THAN PRAY
Fr. Luke Veronis

The “unthinkable has happened” was how one government official responded to the latest school shooting in Sante Fe, Texas on May 19. And yet, is it really “unthinkable?” Unfortunately, as a parent of four school age children, we realize that these horrific, mass killings are NOT so unthinkable anymore. They have become too common, and we all are just waiting for the next one to happen. And we all realize, it may happen closer to home, in our own schools, among our own people, sooner than later.

Think about the perpetrator, Dimitri Pagourtzis, a Greek-American, someone who the local Greek Orthodox priest, Fr. Stelios Sitaras affirmed had danced in a Greek dance group at the annual festival, and whose family was a part of a Greek Orthodox church. That’s pretty close to home for us, and it makes me realize this illness of brokenness and darkness, violence, confusion and anger that is leading some people to commit horrendous crimes, is all around us.

Texas governor Greg Abbott stated, “We need to do more than just pray for the victims and their families.” But what must we do? What can we do?

As a society, we have turned away from God and his ways. We no longer live in a Christian world, but in a post-Christian society. Our society no longer offers a strong community foundation, where we know one another, take interest in one another, reach out and care for one another. Our hyper-individualistic society leaves many people feeling alone, lonely, separated from others. How often do I even hear in our own community, how years ago families used to spend time together, visit one another for each other’s namedays and for the major feastdays. Families would come together, and people were connected with one another. And yet, now, so often I hear our elderly talk about how they are all alone. Just come to our Living Bread Luncheon any first Saturday of the month, and you will see some people in our local community who come, not because they necessarily need a free meal, but maybe more so because they want some company.

And then our society is so focused on violence – from the violent video games our kids constantly play, to the violent movies whose images fill our minds, to the violent news we read daily. With each school shooting, confused and lonely people just get more and more ideas for what they can do!

“We need to do more than just pray for the victims and their families.” But what must we do? What can we do?

A day before the shooting in Sante Fe, our Church celebrated our Lord’s Ascension into heaven. This feast marked when Jesus completed His mission of love to the world – He experienced the human condition, with all its darkness and evil, He confronted and conquered death itself, in the process taking the sins of the world upon Himself, and He gathered people who wanted to follow Him, to believe in Him, and not only inspired them with His life and teachings, but empowered them with His Holy Spirit, and then commanded them to continue His mission on earth.

In the Gospel reading two days after the shooting, we heard Jesus praying for His followers, and in a passage from John, where Jesus says to His Father, “As you sent me into the world, so I send them [his followers] into the world.” He doesn’t take His followers out of the world. He doesn’t command His followers to form communities apart from the rest of the world. He isn’t interested in a cult, seeking out its own salvation. Instead, He says, “You are in the world, but not of the world.”

Christ also emphasizes that His sending of His followers into the world will be difficult and dangerous – “you will be lambs among wolves” – yet He promises to be with His fol-
The latest school shooting in Sante Fe, TX by a Greek-American boy is not something “unthinkable.” Such shootings have become too common place... We need to do more than just pray for the victims and their families. But what must we do?!!

Aaron

 lowers each and every day. He promises that “You will receive power from on high, and you will be my witnesses.” And then He commands His disciples to “Go and make disciples of all peoples.” I emphasize this many times in my sermons, but I can’t repeat it often enough.

When we think about the latest mass shooting, and hear the Texas governor say, “We need to do more than just pray for the victims and their families,” we need to turn to our Christian faith and ask God, “What is it that you want ME to do?” Of course, our government officials need to address the issue of gun safety, and school safety, and other such things. But we can’t just wait for others to do something!

Individually, how can each one of us try to reach out to those who are lonely, those who may seem lost, those who may seem overwhelmed with life, those who are broken and confused, and even those who may seem like they are on a dangerous path of destruction – self-destruction or communal destruction. Can we keep an attentive eye out for such people in our midst? Can we reach out in love and befriend them? Can we be the one that fills up some of the lonely space they have in their lives?

To reach out to others takes effort, it takes time, it takes a commitment, it takes a serious understanding that this is a responsibility and calling each of us have as followers of Jesus Christ. He asks us first of all to create communities that care for one another. We are asked to cultivate this Saints Constantine and Helen Church to become truly a family where we know one another, enter in the lives of one another, care for one another, sacrifice for one another, and be there for one another. May our Church Family be a witness of community and love to the world around us!

Yet, we can’t stop only with this goal. As a Church Family, we then are placed in a particular community in Webster, in Central Mass, or wherever else we live. Can all of our members reach out to the larger community, and create the same type of loving spirit where we reach out, care for, and love others??

And can we do it in a way where we are trying to befriend others, mentor others, become lights in the dark lives of others.

What can we do in the aftermath of another school shooting? Can we make a decision to become a big brother or sister to someone, truly mentoring them and becoming a friendly influence in their lives? Imagine if someone did that to Dimitri Pagourtzis? Imagine if he had a whole community reaching out to him, trying to love him, guide him, care for him, and influence him!

“We need to do more than just pray for the victims and their families.” Absolutely!

We need to fulfill our calling as followers of Jesus Christ, and truly begin reaching out to a hurting world all around us!
In AD 258, the Christian Church established a feast honoring Saints Peter and Paul as the two leading saints of apostolic times. In recognition of their tremendous contributions in the spreading of the Gospel and in the growth of the early Church, the Church named them Chief and first among the Apostles, and celebrated their feastday on June 29th.

Peter and Paul became Apostles in different ways. Peter was chosen by Christ and was with Him throughout His earthly ministry. Paul, who was a Pharisee and an outright persecutor of Christians, converted to Christianity by revelation on the road to Damascus. This happened in the early days of the Church shortly after Saint Stephen was stoned to death, to which Paul was witness.

Both apostles were filled with the power of the Holy Spirit: Peter, at Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles in the form of fiery tongues, and Paul, by the laying on of hands by those already recognized as possessing the Holy Spirit.

When St. Peter preached on the day of Pentecost, 3,000 people became Christians through baptism. Peter then continued his missionary activities in Asia Minor, Palestine, Italy and Illyria. A pillar of the Faith, he healed the sick and even raised the dead.

Paul preached everywhere he went, founded numerous Christian communities, performed miracles and suffered greatly for the Faith. While not one of the Twelve Apostles, Paul became the greatest of the Apostles in zeal and sacrifice for the Gospel. Paul became the most outstanding missionary for Christianity.

Interestingly, the two giants of the early Church were unlike one another in many ways. Peter was a fisherman, Paul a scholar. Peter was married, while Paul was single. Peter was a simple, impulsive person. Paul was a thinker, a philosopher of great erudition.

Yet they had one thing in common: they were one in their love and devotion to Jesus Christ in their missionary zeal to propagate the Christian faith. And both died for their faith - Peter being crucified head downward and Paul beheaded on June 29th, in the year AD 67 during the persecution of the Roman Emperor Nero.

**Wisdom from Saint Paul**:

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice” Philippians 4:4

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” Philippians 4:13

“We do not live to ourselves and we do not die to ourselves. If we live we live to the Lord, and if we die we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s.” (Romans 14:7-9)
SLOW DANCE

Have you ever watched kids on a merry-go-around?

Or listened to the rain slapping on the ground?

Have you ever followed a butterfly’s erratic flight?

Or gazed at the sun into the fading night?

You better slow down.
Don’t dance so fast.
Time is short.
The music won’t last.

Do you run through each day on the fly?

When you ask “How are you?”
Do you hear the reply?

When the day is done, do you lie in your bed

with the next hundred chores running through your head?

You better slow down.
Don’t dance so fast.
Time is short.
The music won’t last.

Ever told your child “We’ll do it tomorrow?”

And in your haste not see his sorrow?

Ever lost touch, let a good friendship die because you never had time to call and say “hi”

You better slow down.
Don’t dance so fast.
Time is short.
The music won’t last.

When you run so fast getting somewhere, you miss half the fun getting there.

When you worry and hurry throughout your day, it’s like an unopened gift thrown away.

You better slow down.
Don’t dance so fast.
Time is short.
The music won’t last.

Life is not a race.
Do take it slower.

Hear the music before the song is over.

Written by a young woman who was terminally ill.
PARISH COUNCIL
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

“Regrowth & Rebirth
in the Spring”

As I write this, it is mid-May and many of the flowers
that I love to see are in full bloom. Spring is such a
wonderful time of the year, especially here in New Eng-
land where we get to experience the explosion of
growth after the winter’s seemingly interminable sus-
pension. I don’t know if you’ve ever noticed how long
it takes some leaves to turn and then fall off the trees in
the autumn. Oak trees are notorious for not only being
the last to turn color but also the last to grudgingly give
up their leaves, many of them stubbornly holding on to
the brown lifeless leaves well into February. It is only
after these trees have finally dropped their leaves that
the promise of regrowth and rebirth in the form of
spring is just around the corner.

In every spring we see the world coming back from the
deep winter being reborn. The blossoms on the tulips,
crocuses, and daffodils in April look familiar yet beauti-
ful every year. And in May the beauty of the blossoms
of the crab-apple trees, dogwoods, azaleas, and rhodo-
dendrons are just as I remember them from my child-
hood and perhaps more breathtaking every year as I get
older. I find myself needing to see this beauty more
and more as I get older in order for the world to be right
for me. Every spring I need to see a fully-in-bloom
pink dogwood. Something about seeing that tree year
after year makes me feel whole, makes me feel happy,
and makes me feel young again. In a similar way the
teachings of our church, year upon year, are both famil-
 iar and beautiful.

I have often thought about why the church teaches and
re-teaches the same lessons from the Bible every year.
Clearly there is much in the Bible we, as a parish, have
never read during the church services. There are many
stories and lessons in the Bible we do not get to hear
Father Luke expound upon in his weekly sermon. Is it
possible we are missing something important? Is it pos-
sible that our personal growth as Christians is somehow
lessened by not experiencing more parts of the Bible in
the weekly Divine Liturgy?

Or is it perhaps that the church elders, in their wis-
dom, have found the best stories, the best lessons,
and the most important passages of the Bible for
our Divine Liturgy every week? Is it possible that
these lessons that we hear year after year are the
most important for us to live a good and just life?
Do I need to hear the story of the Prodigal Son
again in my life? I think I know the story well, but
the answer is yes I do desperately need to hear it,
and re-hear it next year and the year after because it
and other key passages of the Bible are important
to our existence as Christians.

Just as I look forward to the rebirth and regrowth of
spring every year, that one fully blooming pink
dogwood, the full blossom of the deep purple Ger-
man iris flowers we have in our front yard, and the
eventual blossoming of the blue hydrangea, I also
look forward to the regrowth (or continued growth)
I feel when I hear our beautiful Divine Liturgy les-
sions year after year. It’s funny how spirituality imi-
tates life, or perhaps the other way around!

Very Sincerely,
Neal Neslusar

LIVING BREAD LUNCHEON
UPDATE

We want to thank those who have spon-
sored luncheons this year. We have be-
tween 70-80 people who come on the first
Saturday of each month to enjoy warm
fellowship and a delicious meal!

Thanks to the following sponsors:
January - Anonymous
February - For the glory of God from
Sandi & Gerry Kunkel
March - For the glory of God from Nick/
Sissy Darlagiannis
April - In memory of Dina Teguis from
Mary Fatsi
May - For the Glory of God from
Emmanuel Pappas
June - In memory of Charlie & Helen Pap-
pas from the Scott/Kathy, Lee/Ashley,
and Sandi/Gerry Kunkel
PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

On May 14th we had a very busy meeting. We are selling the June Calendar Raffle. Marie had to print more tickets because the sales are that good! They will be sold until the end of May. Every Sunday in June we will raffle off the prizes for the week. Thank you all who donated the 30 prizes for every day of the month.

On Monday, June 4th we will hold our end of the year meeting and dinner at Our Father's Table in No. Grosvenordale at 6:00. It is $20.00. Please see Leah DiDonato to sign up. I will be at the church at 5:30 if anyone wants to carpool or follow me. Hope to see you there!

The parish council will be having their 2nd annual Gyro Fest on June 23rd. The Philoptochos will have a center table so please bring an item for the raffle. We also will be having a bake sale. On Wednesday June 20 we will be baking petas, baklava, and koulourakia at the church at 8:30. Most of the ingredients are donated. We still need a few more ingredients. Please come help on that day. All other desserts such as finikia, kourabiedes, etc, made at home will be deeply appreciated. Let’s make this another huge success!

Father Luke spoke to us about having a bus trip to the Hellenic College Holy Cross Theological School in Brookline, along with visiting the Philoxenia House and the Metropolis. We tentatively set a date for Saturday, September 29. We will also stay for Vespers and hear the beautiful Byzantine choir at the school. We are looking into a bus for the event and will let you know all the details when to sign up.

In November, Sarah is looking into having a mystery dinner, with actors that come and perform. We will try to incorporate the Spaghetti supper with this. Sounds like fun! Sarah will have more details in the months to follow.

Congratulations to all our high school and college graduates. We have the largest group of high school seniors ever this year! We wish them the best in all their future endeavors!!

With much love and affection,

Evelyn Pappas

MAY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

- Reports on upcoming fundraising events of the church were given, including reports on the Gyro Fest June 23, Golf Tournament July 28, and our annual Festival Sept 8-9.
- We had a successful and beautiful Godparents/Grandparents Sunday on May 6th.
- Financial Report showed a Total Income through April of $79,050, with expenses at $84,040. So our net operating balance as of April 30 is negative $4990.
- The Parish House foundation is in need of major repairs, which may cost approximately $70,000. We are getting several estimates on how to repair this.
- We have a leaky roof on one flat section of the church roof. Estimated repairs will cost possibly $6000.
- A committee is preparing plans for a major landscaping project. A donor has offered to repave our parking lot, add additional parking, put lighting, and landscape the surrounding area. More details to follow.
Sts. Constantine & Helen’s Greek Orthodox Church
Summer Fundraisers

Saturday June 23, 2018
37 Lake Parkway, Webster MA

GYRO FESTIVAL

11 a.m. - 7 p.m

Gyro Platter $10
(Gyro, Rice, Olive & Feta)
Gyro $8
Assorted Greek Pastries
Beer & Wine
Raffle Table

Ticket Purchase CALL
Church Office (508-943-8361)
or
Call Mike (860-481-0405)

YARD SALE

8 a.m. - 2 p.m
50+ Spots available
$30 per 10x10 spot
(table not included)
Deadline to register
June 16th

Registration forms available at www.schwebster.org or
by email: stsconstantineyardsale@gmail.com

www.schwebster.org | 508 - 943 - 8361 |
Vacation Summer Camp

9th-13th JULY

discount for siblings!

Spiritual Lessons
Learn about missionaries from around the world.

Go Forth to All Nations

Food & Refreshments
Dinner, snacks and refreshments provided each night.

Activities
Recreation, arts & crafts, music

Extra Add On Activities:
- Family Kickoff Cookout and Water Slide Sunday
- Tubing on Webster Lake Wednesday
- Gigura's Trampoline Thursday
- Pool Party Saturday

Deadline to register is July 2nd

www.schwebster.org

PosterMyWall.com Stock Graphic
Godparents - Grandparents Sunday 2018
Congratulations to JULIAN RAYMOND on his baptism!

Thanks to our Spring Clean Up Crew! A few of the Volunteers —>
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 !!!!

THESE ITEMS ARE NEEDED BY 7/10/2018

36 BOXES  BARILLA BRAND RIGATONI
10 LARGE (16 OUNCES) GRATED PARMESAN CHEESE
16 POUNDS FETA CHEESE
14 MED ONIONS (FOR PASTITSIO)
7 PACKAGES CELERY STALKS
8 DOZEN EGGS (LARGE)
10 POUNDS OF BUTTER
24 - 29OZ CANS OF TOMATO SAUCE
6 BOXES CORNSTARCH
7 GALLONS OF WHOLE MILK
3 LARGE BOTTLES CABERNET WINE

IF YOU ARE DONATING THE FOLLOWING,
WE WILL NEED TO KNOW BY 8/30/2017

30 CASES OF WATER  140 HOT DOGS AND HOT BUNS
12- PACKS OF SODA  140 HAMBURGERS AND BUNS
24 COKE  500 DINNER ROLLS
14 DIET COKE  3 CASES SERNO (6 HOUR)
10 GINGER ALE  ICE
10 ROOT BEER
12 ORANGE
11 SPRITE
2 LARGE BOTTLES OF KETCHUP
1 LARGE BOTTLE RELISH
2 LARGE BOTTLES MUSTARD
20 LARGE ONIONS (FOR GYROS)
3000 NAPKINS
600 SMALL PAPER PLATES 6 OR 7 INCH
100 SLICES OF AMERICAN CHEESE (INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED)
Saints Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church

7th Annual Golf Tournament
Dudley Hill Golf Club

12:30 Registration
1:30pm Shotgun Start
6:30 Dinner

Saturday July 28, 2018
$90 per person
includes golf, cart, prizes, and dinner

Raffles, Mulligan and Strings
Contests (Closest to Pin, Closest to Line, Best 4-some overall)

Hole Sponsors - $50
Monetary or Raffle Donations are welcome!

Not golfing? Join us for dinner $30/person.

For More Info to sign up a four some,
or to sponsor a hole contact
Arthur Bilis 508-943-8341

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AMERICAN RED CROSS
BLOOD DRIVE

FRIDAY, June 22
8:00am - 1:00pm
at our Church

For appointments please call
800-733-2767
Or visit RedCrossBlood.org

Walk-Ins Welcome
Please bring a positive ID
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. Elisheos 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: JERUSALEM / 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!
BOSTON OF METROPOLIS
MINISTRY AWARDS
RECIPIENTS
CONGRATULATIONS
DEL & MARIE MONROE!

Del and Marie Monroe were chrismated and joined the Orthodox Church in 2009, coming from their lifelong Roman Catholic background. They joined the Church three years after their daughter Kathy was chrismated, joining their son-in-law Arthur and two of their grandchildren David and Kara.

Over the past 10 years, they have become extremely active and engaged in the life of our Church Family. They are in church every week worshipping the Lord. Del has served on the parish council for a number of years, served as a Greeter and Usher welcoming people into the church over the past 9 years, is one of the department heads for the annual Church Festival, and is always ready to do anything that the church asks of him. His humble, gentle demeanor always sets a wonderful example for other parishioners to follow.

Marie is active on the Philoptochos, always baking, helping and serving in whatever activities the Ladies run for the Church. She serves on a monthly Coffee Fellowship group, and is always ready to volunteer for whatever else there is to do. She has a contagious smile that endears her to everyone. Del and Marie have been a wonderful example of a couple that joined our church later in their lives, yet have earned the deep respect and love from all the parishioners, playing an integral role in the life of our Church.
USHERS & GREETERS SCHEDULE

June 3 - Neal Neslusan, Jimmy Karapanos, Bill Thompson, Tasi Vriga, Tatyana Zhuk, Mike Chito
June 10 - Nicoleta Cojocaru, Arthur Darligiannis, Zach Gianaris, Jared Quill, Nikitas Zagoras
June 17 - Arthur Bilis, Chris Geoti, Thomai Gatsogiannis, Trish Lareau, Ron Sanderson
June 24 - Marie McNally, Matt Benoit, Lisa Healy, Nick Seferi

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP SERVING GROUPS

June 3 - Thomai Gatsogiannis, Trish Lareau, Deb Raymond, Vange Wilson, Alexandra Kou lax
June 10 - Donna Cooney, Leah Didonato, Rena Klebart, Betty Tonna, Therese Totolos
June 17 - Marie McNally, Christa Benoit, Sandi Kunkel, Mary Seferi,
June 24 - - Kathy Bilis, Sara Darligiannis, Marie Monroe, Charlotte Neslusan, Stephanie Quill

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!!!

June 3 - Titi Chito, Rina Sgouritsas, Lorna McWilliam, Pres. Faith Veronis
June 10 - Palm Sunday & Pascha
June 17 – Sandi Kunkel, Evelyn Pappas, Gulapka Kostovski, Betty Tonna, Alexandra Kou lax
June 24– Kathy Bilis, Marie Monroe, Eleni Sgouritsas, Tina Collelo
July 1- Leah Didonato, Mary Seferi, Olga Poulkhone, Vasiliki Zahariadis
July 8 – Sara Darligiannis, Sissy Darligiannis, Therese Totolos Helen Constantine
July 15 – Lisa Healy, Marie McNally, Despina Condos, Trish Lareau
July 22 – Charlotte Neslusan, Evis Jordanoglou, Dolly Sosnowski, Annalisa Dunning
July 29– Lynn Purcell, Rayne Purcell, Sophia Foisy, Kelly Vosnakis

YOUTH EPISTLE READERS

June 3 - Theodora Veronis
June 10 - Maia Beaudry
June 17 - Zach Beaudry
June 24 - Kiera MacKenzie
July 1 - Lily Mueller
July 8 - Olivia Neslusan
July 15 - Helen Dunning
July 22 - Panayiota Veronis
Remembering Our Church Family

Important Dates in JUNE:

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

**BIRTHDAYS:**

June 1    Jimmy Milios
June 2    Adam Rivelli
June 2    Presbytera Faith Veronis
June 4    Peter Christo
June 5    Ian Mackenzie
June 6    Nick Rivelli
June 8    Pauline Angelo
June 11   Gabriela Ross
June 12   Rose Angelo
June 13   Claire Milios
June 14   Arthur Bilis
June 14   Dan Rivelli
June 15   Ron Sanderson
June 16   Sam Pappas
June 19   Helen Zenon
June 23   Nikoleta Cojocaru
June 24   Carolyn Niemeck
June 25   Jennie Manthos
June 26   Nike Beaudry

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:**

June 1    Ted & Gail Avlas
June 3    Matt & Christa Benoit
June 13   Dan & Susan Rivelli
June 14   Bill/Helen Zenon
June 16   Harry & Catherine Jordanoglou
June 18   Anestis & Evis Jordanoglou
June 18   Rayne/Elise Purcell
June 26   Bob and Lea Mirandola
June 27   Angelo & Dhimitra

**NAMEDAYS:**

June 2    St Nikiphoros
          Nick Popiak
June 14   St. Methodios
          His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios
June 24   St Elizabeth
          Elizabeth Cojocaru
          Lisa Healy
          Betty Tonna
June 29   Sts Peter and Paul
          Pauline Angelo
          Peter Christo
          Petru Cojocaru
          Peter George
          Paul Geotis
          Paul Karapanos
          Pauline Mueller
          Peter Porazzo
          Paul Veronis
          Apostolos Xanthopoulos

**Congratulation to MARIA PAPA**

The mother of Evis Jordanoglou who passed the test to become an American Citizen on May 7

**Congratulations to DIANA MEGAS**

Who completed her schooling and is now a Registered Nurse.
Come and Celebrate our
MISSION SUNDAY
& A LUNCHEON FROM AROUND THE WORLD
and support our
Project Mexico Team in the process

SUNDAY, JUNE 10

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.

GYRO FEST

Please consider making donating of baking goods, items for center table or a general donation for the Gyro Fest.

See Mike Chito or Joey Gliniecki

Look for our safe and convenient Online Giving 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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HAPPY FATHER’S DAY

My father didn’t tell me how to live; He lived and let me watch him do it.
   Clarence Kelland

My father used to play with me in the yard. My mother would come out and yell at us for messing up the grass. “We’re not raising grass,” my father would reply, “We’re raising boys!”
   Harmon Killebrew

One father is worth more than a hundred schoolmasters.
   George Herbert

When I was a boy of 14, my father was so ignorant that I could barely stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be 21, I was astonished at how much he had learned in seven years.
   Mark Twain

Father, Your guiding hand will remain with me forever.
   Author Unknown

Any man can be a father, but it takes a special man to be a dad.
   Author Unknown

Every parent is at some time the father of the unreturned prodigal, with nothing to do but keep the house open to hope.
   John Clardi

A dad is someone who wants to catch you before you fall, but instead picks you up, brushes you off, and lets you try again.

A dad is someone who wants to keep you from making mistakes, but instead lets you find your own way, even though his heart breaks in silence when you get hurt.

A dad is someone who holds you when you cry, scolds you when you break the rules, shines with pride when you succeed, and has faith in you even when you fail.
   Author Unknown