I was recently in a public space where I saw a bulletin board of pictures of men who are sexual offenders. As I read them, however, I realized some committed crimes more than 20 years ago, yet their picture and address are shown for all to see 20 YEARS LATER! It made me think of Les Miserables and Javert’s comment to the former convict Jean Val Jean, “Men like you can never change!”

This then led me to think about some recent visits I had to the District Court. I had the opportunity to watch a variety of cases which exemplified fallen humanity. One drug dealer was caught for the second or third time dealing drugs, and sentenced to prison. Another man violently abused his girlfriend right in front of his children while under the influence of drugs. There was a well-dressed man facing a prison sentence because the police caught him several times driving under the influence of alcohol. And then there were many others who faced minor, and sometimes major offenses.

As I listened to each story, I thought about the victims who suffered, about the perpetrators who committed the crimes, about the family members impacted by these actions, about the innocent bystanders who may have witnessed violent acts, as well as about the sometimes innocent people who became the victim of a fallen judicial system. A room full of broken people, some of whom society wants to cast away into prison and simply forget about.

Our fallen human nature obviously means that people will make all kinds of bad choices, and sometimes act in evil and vicious ways. When such things happen, our world and society too often want to punish people and simply get rid of them. Some go to jail. Some get probation. Others pay fines. Too often our society views punishment and retribution as the only way to keep law and order in tact.

Yet God acts in a very different way! Whenever He sees someone who is fallen and broken, He is NOT interested in punishment and justice! He is NOT interested in revenge and retribution. He is NOT interested in control through fear of chastisement. Instead, God’s unconditional, radical, unfathomable love IS interested in only one thing - healing and repentance. He IS interested in offering second chances that can lead to new life. As the Scriptures say, “there is more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents, than over 99 who have no need of repentance.”
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 hope of our Lord always looks for the old to become new. God has an unfathomable love for each and every one of His children, even children who have made bad choices and acted in foolish or even evil ways. God unabashedly loves each and every sinner as His beloved children.

Metropolitan Anthony Bloom put it this way: "Christ looked at everyone he met, at the prostitute or the thief, and saw the beauty hidden there. Perhaps it was distorted, perhaps damaged, but it was beauty none the less, and what he did was to call out this beauty... Unless we look at a person and see the beauty there is in this person, we can contribute nothing to him. One does not help a person by discerning what is wrong, what is ugly, what is distorted.”

What a great way to summarize the worldview and mission that our Lord calls every Orthodox Christian to have - to first see God’s beauty all around us and in everyone we meet, and then to call forth that beauty from everything and everyone.

We live in an impure world where it seems so much easier to focus on the negative, to point out the evil and darkness and impurity all around us. In fact, our impure hearts and minds often lead us to question and doubt even that which is most pure and beautiful. Our fallen nature and fallen world tempt us to focus on the darkness and evil all around us. That is why we see so many people tear down others, and concentrate on what is negative and evil.

Christ does the opposite. He sees the good in everyone. He knows that each person was created in the palm of His hand. No matter what evil someone has done, no matter how much someone has fallen, no matter how poor the choices are that someone made, Christ knows the divine potential that lies hidden within!

This is what Jesus sees in the Prodigal Son – the lost son who rejects his father, runs away from his heavenly home, wastes his life in extravagant, reckless, and self-indulged living only to end up in the depths of hell, eating the food of pigs and identifying with the swine of the world.

The boy made bad choices. The boy acted not only foolishly, but even eviley. The boy was a self-centered scoundrel. And yet, His heavenly father passionately loved him with His unconditional and unending divine love. No matter what that boy did, God still knew that this was His beloved child, a child created in the image and likeness of God, with an unforgotten potential to become a new creation, a child destined for union with God.

Where the world sees a hopeless case, where they see a lost soul, where they see an evil person, where they think that the person should be cast in prison and forgotten about, God sees something entirely different - a broken child filled with limitless potential, a lost son/daughter who has a hidden beauty deep within. God gladly and joyously offers His unfathomable, radical, divine love to bless each and every fallen, prodigal sinner.

Always remember the image and example of the Prodigal Son. A younger son despises his father, offends his father, rejects his father, forgets about his father and runs off with his father’s inheritance. In Judaic tradition this was an unforgivable offense. And yet, Jesus reveals how the father patiently and lovingly waits for his son. And once that return occurs, the father holds no grudge, no anger, no rebuke, and no desire for retribution or even justice. Instead, he runs out to his son, lovingly embraces him, showers him with kindness and compassion, and sees only a broken man in need of healing. The father blesses his lost son with full restoration back to his original beauty.

God never desires the death of a sinner, but wishes only for his or her return back to their divine destiny. What unfathomable, inexplicable, divine love. That is the love that dominates the heart of God. Imagine a love whose only desire is for broken humanity to find healing and wholeness and renewal in Him! May we dwell in such love, and always strive to share it with others!

With much joy and love in Jesus Christ our Lord,

+Luke
Some times we all set our sights too low, expecting too little of ourselves and others. When we do so, we sell ourselves short and do a disservice not only to ourselves but to everyone around us. When we aim low, we can’t expect to achieve high goals. The season of the Ascension is a powerful antidote to such low expectations, for it reveals the great glory and dignity that Jesus Christ has given us. Through His Ascension, we are raised with Him literally to the heights of the heavenly Kingdom.

Forty days after His resurrection, our Lord ascended into heaven. In Him, humanity and divinity are united in one Person; He goes up into heaven as the God-Man. The Son shares in the glory that He had with the Father and the Holy Spirit before the creation of the world. And He brings our humanity into that glory with Him. There is perhaps no more powerful sign of our salvation than the Ascension, for it makes clear that our Lord has raised us—not only from the tomb, not only from hades—but into the eternal life of the Holy Trinity. We truly become participants in God, partakers of the divine nature by grace, in our ascended Lord.

And we are reminded by the Ascension that Jesus Christ is not merely a great teacher or example or even an angel or lesser god. As the Fathers of the Council of Nicaea proclaimed, He is light of light, very God of very God, of one essence with the Father, the only begotten Son of God. For only One who is truly divine and eternal can ascend into heaven and bring us into the divine, eternal life of the Holy Trinity. That is why the Council of Nicaea rejected the teaching of Arius, who did not think that the Son was fully divine. That is why the Orthodox Church has always disagreed with those who deny our Lord’s full divinity or His full humanity. For only One who is truly both God and human can bring humans into the life of God.

Unfortunately, some have set their sights too low in how they view Jesus Christ and themselves. If we want a Savior who merely teaches and models a good life or advances a political agenda, we might become a bit more moral by listening to Him. But human teachers and examples cannot conquer death and cannot raise us with them into eternal life. There apparently always have been, and continue to be, those who want a Lord in their own image: a teacher of secret spiritual truths to a select few; a social or political activist of whatever ideology; or a rabbi or philosopher who speaks with wisdom. Movies, documentaries, and books come out all the time with the claim to have discovered a true or secret Jesus who is different from the Lord portrayed in Scripture and confessed in the Church.

But countless martyrs, including Jesus Christ’s disciples, did not go to their deaths out of loyalty to a mere human teacher. They looked death in the eye and did not blink because they knew that their Lord was God, that He had conquered death and would share His victory with them in heaven. In a matter of days, Christ’s disciples went from total despair and defeat at His crucifixion to the astounding joy of Pascha and Pente-
We can interpret the words of a merely human teacher however we want, but the One Who has conquered death and ascended into heaven requires something different. The point is not to make Him in our image, to water Him down into someone Whom we can accept and understand on our own terms. Instead, the point is to fall before Him in worship, to accept in humility the great blessing of the resurrected, ascended life which He gives us, and to live faithfully in the unity of the Church as we grow in Him.

Let us celebrate the Ascension, then, by embracing the great dignity that is ours in the God-Man Who has gone up to heaven. Let us pay close attention to our thoughts, words, and deeds, and stop doing what is beneath us as those whose are called to the glory of the Kingdom. Let us make of our life in the Church an icon of the Holy Trinity, a Communion of love and holiness.

Yes, we really can live this way because we are not simply following the teachings of a human being; instead, we are participating even now in the eternal life of the One Who has conquered death, the tomb, and hades, and taken our humanity into heaven. If Jesus Christ can do that, we may put no limits on what He can do with our lives, our families, our marriages, our friendships, our relationships with other people, or anything else. For the Lord has ascended into heaven, and He will take us with Him if we will only embrace—with humility and repentance—the great glory that He has brought to us as those created in His image and likeness.

This is not a message for a few select souls, but good news for the entire world, for you and for me, no matter how we have fallen short of fulfilling God’s purposes in our lives. We are all called to ascend in Jesus Christ to a life of holiness and to the blessedness of the Kingdom of Heaven. The only question is whether we will answer that call.
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. He acted as a pillar of the Faith, sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ, healing the sick and even raising the dead.

Paul, following his conversion, preached everywhere he went, founded numerous Christian communities throughout Asia Minor and Greece, performed miracles yet despite all his good works, he endured terrible suffering for the Faith. In his letter to the Christians in Corinth, he describes his travails: “Five different times I was whipped with 39 lashes, three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned where the people left me for dead, three times I was shipwrecked and even spent a night and day at sea, I have faced peril often in my journeys, at sea, amidst robbers, in perils from my own countrymen as well as among the Gentiles… in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fasting often, in cold and nakedness. Besides the other things, what comes upon me daily is my deep concern for all the churches. Who is weak and I am not weak? If I boast I will boast about the things which concern my weakness… For God told me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore, I will boast in my infirmities that the power of Christ may rest upon me. (1 Cor 11:24-30; 12:9)

Although Paul was not one of the 12 Apostles, he 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 an illiterate, simple fisherman, Paul was a well-educated Roman citizen and scholar; Peter was married, Paul was single; Peter was a passionate, impulsive person, Paul was a deep thinker who also could be quite passionate.

Of course, the two of them had one central thing in common: their love and dedication to following Jesus Christ above all else in life, and their desire to do whatever He asked of them in order to share the Good News of His life, death and resurrection, and the new life that Christ offers to all who believe in Him.

Both of these great apostles died for their love for Jesus Christ - Peter being crucified upside down because he didn’t think himself worthy enough to be killed in the same manner as his master Jesus, and Paul beheaded, since he was a Roman citizen. Both died on June 29th, in the year AD 67 during the persecution of the Roman Emperor Nero.

Here are some more words of wisdom from the letters that both these Apostles left to the early Christian churches, which are now in the New Testament of the Bible.

**Wisdom from Saint Paul:**

“Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

“I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed to us.” Romans 8:18

“Love is patient and kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs... Love never fails... These three remain, faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.” 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

**Wisdom from Saint Peter:**

“As He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.” 1 Peter 1:15-16

“You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; you once were not a people but are now the people of God.” 1 Peter 2:9

“Always be ready to give a defense to everyone who ask you a reason for the hope that is in you, but do it with gentleness and fear.” 1 Peter 3:15

“His divine power has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him, by which we have been given exceedingly great and precious promises that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, escaping the corruption that is in the world.” 2 Peter 1:3,4
In the Old Testament Pentecost was the feast which occurred fifty days after Passover. As the Passover feast celebrated the exodus of the Israelites from the slavery of Egypt, so Pentecost celebrated God’s gift of the Ten Commandments to Moses on Mount Sinai.

In the new covenant of the Messiah, the Passover event takes on its new meaning as the celebration of Christ’s death and resurrection, the “exodus” of humans from this sinful world to the Kingdom of God. And in the New Testament as well, the Pentecostal feast is fulfilled and made new by the coming of the “new law,” the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples of Christ.

When the day of Pentecost came they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed as resting upon each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit . . . (Acts 2.1–4).

The Holy Spirit that Christ had promised to his disciples came on the day of Pentecost (Jn 14.26, 15.26; Lk 24.49; Acts 1.5). The apostles received “the power from on high,” and they began to preach and bear witness to Jesus as the risen Christ, the King and the Lord. This moment has traditionally been called the birthday of the Church.

In the liturgical services of the feast of Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit is celebrated together with the full revelation of the divine Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The fullness of the Godhead is manifested with the Spirit’s coming to man, and the Church hymns celebrate this manifestation as the final act of God’s self-disclosure and self-donation to the world of His creation. For this reason Pentecost Sunday is also called Trinity Day in the Orthodox tradition. Often on this day the icon of the Holy Trinity—particularly that of the three angelic figures who appeared to Abraham, the forefather of the Christian faith—is placed in the center of the church. This icon is used with the traditional pentecostal icon which shows the tongues of fire hovering over Mary and the Twelve Apostles, the original prototype of the Church, who are themselves sitting in unity surrounding a symbolic image of “cosmos,” the world.

On Pentecost we have the final fulfillment of the mission of Jesus Christ and the first beginning of the messianic age of the Kingdom of God mystically present in this world in the Church of the Messiah. For this reason the fiftieth day stands as the beginning of the era which is beyond the limitations of this world, fifty being that number which stands for eternal and heavenly fulfillment in Jewish and Christian mystical piety: seven times seven, plus one.

Thus, Pentecost is called an apocalyptic day, which means the day of final revelation. It is also called an eschatological day, which means the day of the final and perfect end (in Greek eschaton means the end). For when the Messiah comes and the Lord’s Day is at hand, the “last days” are inaugurated in which “God declares: . . . I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh.”; This is the ancient prophecy to which the Apostle Peter refers in the first sermon of the Christian Church which was preached on the first
When the Most High came down and confused the tongues, He divided the nations. But when He distributed the tongues of fire, He called all to unity. Therefore, with one voice, we glorify the All-Holy Spirit! (Kontakion).

The Great Vespers of Pentecost evening features three long prayers at which the faithful kneel for the first time since Pascha. The Monday after Pentecost is the feast of the Holy Spirit in the Orthodox Church, and the Sunday after Pentecost is the feast of All Saints. This is the logical liturgical sequence since the coming of the Holy Spirit is fulfilled in humans by their becoming saints, and this is the very purpose of the creation and salvation of the world. “Thus says the Lord: Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I your God am Learn Holy Scripture

“You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, & to the end of the earth.”
Acts 1:8

I will pray the Father and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever - the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him, but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave your orphans; I will come to you.
John 14:16-18

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things.
John 14:26


Once again it must be noted that the feast of Pentecost is not simply the celebration of an event which took place centuries ago. It is the celebration of what must happen and does happen to us in the Church today. We all have died and risen with the Messiah-King, and we all have received his Most Holy Spirit. We are the “temples of the Holy Spirit.” God’s Spirit dwells in us (Rom 8; 1 Cor 2–3, 12; 2 Cor 3; Gal 5; Eph 2–3). We, by our own membership in the Church, have received “the seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit” in the sacrament of chrismation. Pentecost has happened to us.

The Divine Liturgy of Pentecost recalls our baptism into Christ with the verse from Galatians again replacing the Thrice-Holy Hymn. Special verses from the psalms also replace the usual antiphonal psalms of the liturgy. The epistle and gospel readings tell of the Spirit’s coming to men. The hymns sing of the reversal of Babel as God unites the nations into the unity of his Spirit. The troparion proclaims the gathering of the whole universe into God’s net through the work of the inspired apostles. The hymns “O Heavenly King” and “We have seen the True Light” are sung for the first time since Easter, calling the Holy Spirit to “come and abide in us,” and proclaiming that “we have received the heavenly Spirit.” The church building is decorated with flowers and the green leaves of the summer to show that God’s divine Breath comes to renew all creation as the “life-creating Spirit.” In Hebrew the word for Spirit, breath and wind is the same word, ruah.

Blessed are You, O Christ our God, You who did reveal the fishermen as supremely wise sending down upon them the Holy Spirit: and through them the whole world draws into Your net, O Friend of All, Glory to You. (Troparion).
I read recently on line about the Vineyard Wind project receiving a key approval from the state to start the construction of a large offshore wind farm south of Martha’s Vineyard. You’ve perhaps seen these on the television, large windmills out in the ocean spinning in the wind and making electricity.

Why would I write about such topic? Well, I am an Electrical Engineer by schooling so it interests me, but I also fundamentally believe that we are all stewards of God’s earth and as good stewards we should make use of renewable energy resources wherever and whenever we can. But often this topic can be wrapped up in a lot of unnecessary politics. I will strive to avoid that. First a few facts…

- There is exactly one operational offshore wind farm in the United States today, just one, and it is off the Block Island coast in Rhode Island. It creates about 30 Mega Watts (MW) of energy or enough fairly constant average energy to supply electricity to about 15,000 homes.
- The number of homes a single MW of power can support varies depending on where you are in the country and how much electricity you use (in the South they use a lot more than us due to their higher use of Air Conditioning), but a good rule of thumb for our area is each MW supports about 500 homes.
- Vineyard Wind will supply 800MW of power to Massachusetts (400,000 homes).
- There are about 2.4 million homes (including apartments) in Massachusetts so Vineyard Wind, when fully operational in 2021 or so, will supply about 16% of the energy used in the state by homes.

Now, you may say, “hey, that’s pretty good”, and that is pretty good to go from zero homes supplied with offshore wind turbine electricity to 400,000. But don’t forget that’s only the energy measured in homes. We still have to power all our businesses and schools and other buildings.

There is a tremendous need for more renewable energy like this in the US, and the fact of the matter is that we are behind in this space, especially as compared to western Europe. In 2017, the Netherlands supplied 9% of all its electricity needs with wind power. In the same time period in the US we generated 6.3% of our electricity with wind farms.

But the good news is that we did this all without having offshore wind farms. In the US we have some very large wind farms in low populated windy areas. If you’ve ever driven from Los Angeles to Palm Springs in the desert in California you will pass by one of the United States’ largest wind farms. There are, literally, thousands of windmills in the desert out there as you can see below.

What is so special about offshore wind farms as compared to land based wind farms? Simply put the wind over the ocean is more constant. As you can imagine, when the wind stops blowing then the windmill stops making electricity. In the ocean the wind rarely stops blowing and that is why offshore wind farms are so attractive, because the supply of energy is more reliable as compared to an onshore wind farm.

You may ask which country is amongst the leaders in the world on offshore windmill installations. That would be the United Kingdom. Some more facts…

- The total coastline of the United States is about 12,383 miles (without Alaska).
- The total coastline of the United Kingdom is 7,723 miles (and I’m not sure we measure coastlines the same as they do).
- While the US has only one operational offshore wind farm supplying 30MW of power, the UK has 32 operational offshore wind
farms supplying about 6GW (Giga Watts) of power.

That’s 200 times more energy than we produce with our single offshore wind farm and it’s the equivalent of 3 million homes. Below you can see the areas south of Martha’s Vineyard where the wind farms will be located.

But of course we need a varied power supply to insure we have constant power, because sometimes the wind is not blowing or is slow, sometimes the sun is not shining or its night time, and sometimes the dam cannot release more water. Well, if you believe as I do that we should strive to more renewables and more clean energy then you will be happy to find out that the last coal power plan in Massachusetts was shuttered this year and the majority of our electricity produced by burning fossil fuels is now produced by burning natural gas.

I find this all to be great news. I am as excited to see the wind farms out in the ocean as I am to see the solar panels cover the old Webster Dump on Cudworth Road. As stewards of God’s beautiful earth we should embrace renewable energy supplies and other green ideas. We’ve made good progress so far but still have a ways to go.

In our Church calendar, we also have set times throughout the year when we specifically pray for the dead. These days are called “SATURDAY OF THE SOULS.” We always have these Saturdays on the two Saturdays before Great Lent begins, and then the first Saturday of Great Lent. We also have a Saturday of the Souls on the Saturday before the great feast of Pentecost, which this year falls on June 15th.

Plan on coming to Church on Saturday, June 15th and give Fr. Luke the names of all those you want to remember on this Saturday of the Souls. By doing this, we are expressing our deep love and concern for those who have departed. We are saying, “You are not forgotten, and I am asking God to have mercy on your soul and to surround you with His light and love for all eternity.”

May the memories of our loved ones be eternal and may we wish them all “A Good Paradise!”
Sts. Constantine & Helen’s Greek Orthodox Church

GYRO FESTIVAL

Saturday June 8, 2019
37 Lake Parkway, Webster MA

11 a.m - 7 p.m

Gyro Platter $10
(Gyro, Rice, Olive & Feta)

Gyro $8

Greek Pastries
Beer & Wine
Raffle Table
Car Show
Car Wash
Music & More!!!!

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

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Saints Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church

8th Annual Golf Tournament
Harrisville Golf Club

1:00 Shotgun Start
Dinner Following

Saturday June 22, 2019
$100 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!

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

PROJECT MEXICO
“CAR WASH”

While you enjoy a Gyro at our Gyro Fest, have your car washed and give a donation to support our team going to Project Mexico!

10:00am-3pm; Saturday, June 8
First of all a belated Happy Mother's Day to all. Sorry I forgot to wish that in my letter last month. And also Happy Father's Day.

On May 6th we had a very full and long meeting. Different events have been going on all month. Winners for our June Raffle Calendar will be drawn every Sunday. I will have totals next month. It looks like we will surpass last year's earnings.

We baked the Easter breads and they sold out. We profited $1525.00. A special thank you to Eleni Xanthopoulos and all who helped her. Also a special thank you to Sandi Kunkel for sponsoring once again our Church's Feastday Vesper meal in loving memory of her parents, Charlie and Helen, and in honor of all those who celebrated their nameday. What a nice tribute to her parents and our community. Thanks to all who baked petas and desserts to supplement the dinner. Great job! It was a beautiful evening with the pastoral visit of His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios, along with the Byzantine choir!! We gave His Eminence a check for $500 for the philanthropic work of the Philoxenia house, which offers hospitality to families from abroad whose children are being attended at the world renown hospitals in Boston. His Eminence was very appreciative!

We are now planning for the upcoming Gyro Fest on Saturday, June 8th. We will be baking petas and baklava on Wednesday June 5th, so anyone who can help, please come and help! We will be there at 8:00am until late afternoon. Please come!

Eleni and her crew will be making koulourakia on Wednesday, May 29th. We are also asking anyone that would like to bake other pastries from home to please do so. At the Gyro Fest, we will also have a center table headed by Celia Milios and Dhimitra Adamopoulos. Please bring in some prizes for the table. We are still looking for donations for the ingredients as we do not have all the expenses covered. Anything will be greatly appreciated!

Monday June 10th we are having our “End of the Year” party at Lake Pizza at 6:00. We will have a short meeting where we will hold elections for next year’s officers and board of directors. Of course, we will especially enjoy a lovely dinner with our ladies! Come and join us. You can contact Leah DiDonato to sign up. It is $20. Hope to see you all there!

We congratulate our three graduates from high school - Adam Sanderson, David Bilis, and Eliot Benoit. We will give each of them a scholarship on Sunday, June 14th. Good luck to them in all their future endeavors!

I hope you all have a happy and healthy summer. See you in August for our next meeting to start planning for our festival!

With much love and appreciation for all we do for our church!

Evelyn Pappas

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**LIVING BREAD LUNCHEON**

12:30-1:30pm
Saturday, June 1st

Come & Help Cook, Set Up, Offer Hospitality, Serve Meals & Clean Up. We need volunteers!
ALICE Security Training
for our Church Family

6:00pm Monday, June 3

Our Church’s New SAFETY COMMITTEE has arranged with the Webster Police to come to our Church at 6:00pm on Monday, June 3 and offer a ALICE Training session to help our Church Family become aware of how best to handle an emergency situation with a violent intruder. This will be the first of a number of emergency training classes that will be offered over the next year. Topics addressed will include among other issues: 1) Violent Intruders, 2) Disaster Behavioral Health, 3) Fire Emergency Preparation, 4) CPR/First Aid/AED Training, 5) Developing Emergency Plans. Everyone in the community is welcomed and encouraged to come to these trainings.

Our first training will be on ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate), which provides preparation and a plan for individuals and organizations on how to more proactively handle the threat of an aggressive intruder or active shooter event. ALICE Training option based tactics have become the accepted response, versus the traditional “lockdown only” approach.

A variety of factors may have an impact on your religious institution’s safety. As the leadership, you must ask, “How would our institution react, survive and cope, if we came under attack from a violent intruder?”

For places of worship, safety is assumed upon entering. Worrying about an active shooter is not among most people’s thoughts as they enter their religious community. Because of this, church security and emergency preparedness has to be something that religious leaders take into consideration as the day to day operations of their churches are carried out.

Places of worship are highly visible in their communities, and their leaders can be viewed as the embodiment of inflammatory political issues – placing them at heightened risk. Typically, places of worship are seen as a sanctuary or safe haven, but the reality of today is that places of worship are just as vulnerable to active shooter events as schools and businesses. Generally there are very low measures in place for detecting threats. The ALICE Training Institute can offer on-site assessments and training to help you plan and prepare for a day we pray never comes.

Please come and join us on Monday, June 3rd. And feel free to invite any friends who may be interested. There will be several representatives of other local churches who will join us this evening.
GREEK FESTIVAL PREPARATIONS

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 JULY 10th

- 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 AUG 30th

- 30 CASES OF WATER
- 12- PACKS OF SODA
- 24 COKE
- 14 DIET COKE
- 10 GINGER ALE
- 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)
100th CHURCH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Our 100th Anniversary Committee had its first meeting and brainstormed on ideas of how to celebrate our Church’s 100th Anniversary. Everyone from the church is invited to join this committee, if you would like to share some ideas of how to remember the past, focus on the present, and plan for the future.

We will be trying to have monthly events to honor this special milestone, starting from September 2019 through November 2020. We will have a variety of educational, inspirational, and practical events, along with various fundraisers.

Contact Fr. Luke, or Mike Chito or Joseph Gliniecki if you want to share any ideas you may have.

SPECIAL DATES

Spring General Assembly
June 2

GYRO Fest
June 8

Missions Sunday
June 9

Pentecost Sunday
June 16

Golf Tournament
June 22

Project Mexico
Team
July 9-15

Vacation Church
Camp: July 18-22
Mark your calendars for our 15th annual VCC. This is always a highlight for our children. Arrange your summer vacation plans around this special event.

Metropolis of Boston
Summer Camp:
July 29-Aug 4
PROJECT MEXICO
FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN
50 Envelopes = $4000

We have 50 Envelopes on our Project Mexico Table in the Church Hall. Please take, or send, in one of the 50 Envelopes which have suggested donations from $25 to $100.

Help our Group of 25 go to the Project Mexico this summer and build another home for the needy. This will be the 9th time our Church goes to Mexico!

This is one way YOU can participate and help our Church fulfill Christ’s mission “to go into all the world and share the good news.” Help us build a home for those in need!!!

THANK YOU!!!

LIVING BREAD LUNCHEON

_The June Luncheon is donated in loving memory of my father DR PETER STEFFA from Paulette Steffa_

We already have donors sponsoring the “Living Bread Luncheon” for each month through October. We are looking for donors for November and December. You can honor some special person or event, or offer the meal in loving memory of a beloved one.

We serve approximately 80-100 guests each month. A $400 donation will cover the cost of each month expenses for each month.
The Light - June 2019

**USHERS & GREETERS SCHEDULE**

June 2 - Arthur Bilis, Chris Geoti, Thomai Gatsogiannis, Trish Lareau
June 9 - Marie McNally, Matt Benoit, Lisa Healy, Nick Seferi, Bill Thompson
June 16 - Neal Neslusan, Jimmy Karapanos, Tasi Vriga, Tatyana Zhuk, Mike Chito
June 23 - Nicoleta Cojocaru, Arthur Darlagiannis, Zach Gianaris, Jared Quill
June 30 - Arthur Bilis, Chris Geoti, Thomai Gatsogiannis, Trish Lareau

**BIBLE STUDIES**

Wednesdays 10:00am-11:15am
Thursday 6:30pm
at home of Fr. Luke/Pres Faith

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP SERVING GROUPS**

June 2 - Donna Cooney, Leah Didonato, Rena Klebart, Betty Tonna
June 9 - Marie McNally, Christa Benoit, Sandi Kunkel, Mary Seferi
June 16 - Kathy Bilis, Sara Darlagiannis, Marie Monroe, Charlotte Neslusan, Stephanie Quill
June 23 - Thomai Gatsogiannis, Trish Lareau, Deb Raymond, Vange Wilson, Alexandra Koulax
June 30 - Donna Cooney, Leah Didonato, Rena Klebart, Betty Tonna

**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 2 – Lynn Purcell, Rayne Purcell, Sophia Foisy, Kelly Vosnakis
June 9 – Titi Chito, Rina Sgouritsas, Lorna McWilliam, Pres. Faith Veronis
June 16 – Sandi Kunkel, Evelyn Pappas, Gulapka Kostovski, Betty Tonna
June 23 – Kathy Bilis, Marie Monroe, Eleni Sgouritsas, Tina Collelo
June 30 - Leah Didonato, Mary Seferi, Olga Poulkhine, Vasiliki Zahariadi
July 7 - Sara Darlagiannis, Sissy Darlagiannis, Helen Constantine, Alexandra Koulax
July 14 – Lisa Healy, Marie McNally, Despina Condos, Trish Lareau
July 21 - Charlotte Neslusan, Evis Jordanoglou, Dolly Sosnowski, Annalisa Dunning

**YOUTH EPISTLE READERS**

June 2—Kara Bilis
June 9 - Helen Dunning
June 16 - Panayiota Veronis
June 23 - Maia Beaudry
June 30 - Zach Beaudry
July 7 - Kiera MacKenzie
July 14 - Lily Mueller
Remembering Our Church Family

Important Dates in June:

Try to 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 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 25: Annalisa and George Duning

**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 25: Annalisa and George Duning

**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
  Peter Christo
  Petru Cojocaru
  Peter George
  Paul Geotis
  Paul Karapanos
  Pauline Mueller
  Peter Porazzo
  Paul Veronis
  Apostolos Xanthopoulos

Congratulations to Amber and Dylan Breton for the birth of their son Ronan William Joseph

A Good Paradise to

PETE THOMAS

May 30, 2019
IS OUR CHURCH IN YOUR WILL?

Remember Christ’s Beloved Church in your Estate Planning and Legacy Giving!

What a beautiful way to remember the Church that has blessed you and nourished you throughout your life, or at different stages in your life.

Even after you have gone to be with the Lord and join the Church Triumphant in the company of the saints, you can still help the Church here on earth continue her sacred ministry of love and hope to the world!

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 through Meditation and Scripture.

Sign up to the daily email at www.schwebster.org and go to left column of homepage.

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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<td>8:30 Matins 9:30 Divine Liturgy w Memorial for Alexandra Thomas 11:15 General Assembly</td>
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<td>5 Close of Pascha Season 8:30 Matins 9:00 Liturgy 10:00 Bible Study</td>
<td>6 Ascension 8:45 Matins 9:30 Liturgy 6:30 Bible Study</td>
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<td>June 1 12:30 Living Bread Luncheon 5:00 Vespers</td>
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<td>6:00 Security ALICE Training</td>
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<td>9 Graduation Sunday and Missions Sun 8:30 Matins 9:30 Divine Liturgy 6:30 Metropolis Awards Banquet</td>
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<td>12 9:30 Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity Nursing Home in Worcester</td>
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<td>15 Saturday of the Souls 8:45 Matins 9:30 Divine Liturgy w Memorial Service 5:00 Vespers</td>
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<td>17 Feast of the Holy Spirit 8:45 Matins 9:30 Liturgy</td>
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<td>19 No Fasting 10:00 Bible Study 6:30 Paralesis Service and Prayer Group</td>
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<td>26 10am Bible Study</td>
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<td>29 Sts. Peter and Paul 8:45 Matins 9:30 Divine Liturgy 5:00 Vespers</td>
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HAPPY FATHER’S DAY

The best thing that a father can do for his children is to love their mother. Thank you dad, for being a wonderful father to our family.

You have given me the greatest gift that anyone could give their child. And that is believing in me. Thank you Dad, for always believing in me, for never doubting my abilities and my potential to succeed. I am who I am today because of you.

Why does it feel like the older I get, the smarter you get? Thank you Dad, for your infinite wisdom and for always giving me the best advice when I need it. No matter what the situation is, you always know just what to say.

When I was younger, I thought I had it all figured out. I didn’t always understand your rules or why things had to be a certain way. I thought I knew it all. Now that I am older, I understand that you were just looking out for me and my best interests. Thank you Dad, for being such a great father.

One father is worth a hundred teachers. Thank you for teaching me about the important things in life. Not only did you teach me things like how to drive, but you also taught me how to be a strong person and an amazing father.