THE LIGHT
Saints Constantine & Helen
Greek Orthodox Church
Webster, Massachusetts
www.schwebster.org

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THE JOY OF THE LORD

Christ is Risen!
Christos Anesti!
Krishti u Ngjall!

Living in the joy of Christ’s victory over death is a central theme during this Paschal season, the 40 days between Jesus’ Resurrection and His Ascension into heaven. In fact, though, living in the joy of the Lord is fundamental to our Christian life each and every day, not only for 40 days.

We are constantly tempted to focus on the negative, on the uncertainties or struggles of life, on the dangers in the world around us, on so much that can pull us down. Yet, we always have a choice to keep our eyes on the Risen Lord. Christ is Risen and is alive, and His victory over evil and death itself is a reason to celebrate and be joyous!

If we choose to open up our hearts and allow the living Christ to live within us, He will fill us with His holy joy.

Nehemiah the Prophet said, “The joy of the Lord is my strength.” We can find strength and power in cultivating God’s joy in our hearts and allowing His joy to overwhelm us.

Remember never to allow anything that happens in life or in the world around us make us forget that Christ is Risen, Jesus is alive, and in Him I am alive! He loves me with His divine, unconditional love, and I know that I am His beloved. This is the Good News that fills me with a deep, inner joy. Nothing can take that away.

We need to understand that Christianity without joy is incomprehensible. One of the greatest accusations against Christianity is that some say it is a joyless religion, that Christians don’t have joy – they are too somber, too serious, always concerned about rules and scared about breaking them. For a true believer, though, the absence of joy is a sure sign that one hasn’t
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truly met the Risen Christ and that one does not have a healthy relationship with him. Jesus Christ is the source of all joy!

Without joy, Christianity is without grace or power; it is ultimately without meaning! It is not Good News, but Bad News – it is hypocrisy at best!

St. Paul exhorts us to “Rejoice in the Lord always... The Lord is near. Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything, by prayer and supplication, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” Elsewhere he teaches us to “Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances.”

St. Seraphim of Sarov talked about how the goal of the Christian life is acquisition of the Holy Spirit – to have the Holy Spirit active in our lives! And one of the first fruits of the Holy Spirit is joy, but not a superficial joy that depends on exterior situations – a joy that disappears with each problem, or crisis, or tragedy. NO! Our joy is deeply rooted in our relationship with Christ, in our communion with the Holy Spirit. When we unite with God, NOTHING can separate us from His joy and love! Even in the midst of problems and challenges, we still have His burning joy in our souls.

One of the beautiful prayers we offer during the Matins of Pascha, and we repeat at every Divine Liturgy, says the following:

*Having beheld the Resurrection of Christ, let us worship the holy Lord Jesus, the only sinless One. We venerate Your Cross, O Christ, and we praise and glorify Your Holy Resurrection. Come all faithful, let us venerate the Holy Resurrection of Christ for through the Cross JOY HAS COME INTO ALL THE WORLD. Blessing the Lord always, let us praise His Holy Resurrection for by enduring the Cross for us He has destroyed death by His own death and given life to the world.*

Maybe that’s a prayer we can make a part of our daily prayers. Each day we wake up, let us say this prayer so that we can remember the “joy that has come into the world.” This joy entered the world through the Cross, a sign of Jesus’ terrible death, and yet it led to Christ’s defeat of Satan and death itself.

Let us walk every day with our victorious Lord, so that His victory of joy will always be ours!

*With much joy and love in our Risen Lord Jesus,*

*+Luke*

**MEMORIAL DAY PRAYERS**

Fr. Luke will be at the Mt. Zion Cemetery from 9am-12:00pm on Monday, May 27th to offer the Trisagion Prayers for all our beloved who have fallen asleep in the Lord.

If you want to reserve a specific time, please call or email him.
I’m sure everyone saw the sad and extraordinary fire at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris recently. The speed in which that great building burned was amazing to me. As soon as the news broke on CNN, I shouted to my wife Charlotte to come down and see the reports and within an hour or so it was clear nearly the entire roof would burn.

I’ve never been to Notre Dame. Indeed, I’ve never been to downtown Paris, but Charlotte visited when she was much younger and recently our daughter Olivia was able to see Notre Dame when she visited Paris earlier this year. These old massive churches around the world are amazing structures in so many ways. The artwork inside many of them, the architecture of the buildings themselves, and of course the religious meaning and importance of them make them all “must see” places.

Two years ago, Charlotte and I were fortunate enough to take Olivia and John on a small trip to Italy where we saw many beautiful churches. Of course the most beautiful and most magnificent was St. Peter’s Basilica at The Vatican, but what I found most surprising were the many other “neighborhood” churches throughout Rome, Florence and Venice.

On a boat trip back from one of Venice’s many islands we walked through the neighborhood and encountered one of these other churches. The church was renamed in the 1900’s for a recent Roman Catholic Saint, Maria Assunta Pallotta and is called “I Gesuiti,” which means “The Jesuits.”

The church itself was breathtaking both inside and out (look at those statues on the facade of the church in the picture) and what surprised me was that it was open every day for the faithful to come in and there were priests who offered Mass and led the faithful in prayer every day.

When we visited Rome we walked from the famous Spanish Steps to The Vatican one afternoon and tried to stop in every church we could along the way. It was a warm Sunday afternoon and all the churches were open, welcoming whoever passed by to come in and be with Jesus. The churches were open in the same way Fr. Luke opens our church doors when we have public events like our Saturday morning Living Bread Luncheon. Whether it’s at these churches in Italy, or the African church on the cover of the OCMC pamphlet in the Narthex, or at our own church, the message is the same “Come and see!” (John 1:39-41)

I can’t tell you how many churches we stopped at in Rome because I lost count, each one of them over 200 years old, many of them 400-600 years old. Every one was so beautiful in its own way and while Mass was not being said in any of them (as it was the afternoon), there were nevertheless many believers sitting in the pews, or kneeling, lost in prayer and thought. To see the insides of each of these beautiful churches and see the people communing with God was indeed special.

Seeing Notre Dame sadly burn the other week reminded me of the first grand cathedral I ever visited. As a child my parents took me and my younger sister to Germany to visit my mother’s extended family. My father knew all about the southern state of Bavaria in Germany as he was stationed there during the Korean conflict and met my mother there. He was our tour guide!
On a day trip from my aunt’s house he took us to a small city in southeastern Germany called Regensburg, a city a little bit smaller than Worcester. Regensburg has a very old downtown including a 1000 year old stone bridge spanning the Danube River, and the glorious St Peter’s Cathedral also known to locals as “the Dome.” This cathedral is very much in the Gothic style of Notre Dame. In fact, the architects for St Peter’s Cathedral were French and modeled the new church after Notre Dame. St. Peter’s in Regensburg is almost identical Notre Dame but perhaps 90% of the size. Just like Notre Dame, it has the dual bell towers (although these have spires on them), it has the flying buttresses, and it has the gargoyles and Saints carved in stone on the exterior. It does not have the rose shaped windows on each end of the cross of the church. A side view picture from the back corner appears below.

And just like Notre Dame in Paris, and I Gesuiti in Venice, St. Peter’s Cathedral in Regensburg is a working church that has Catholic Mass every day and you can go in and be in a holy place. I can distinctly remember going in as young man of about 12. The doors to the church seemed so massive, and the oak they were made from so heavy. My father pulled open the door and the cool damp air from this ancient building rushed over me, pulling me inside, making me shiver but also making me warm deep inside. St. Peter’s Cathedral is such a mass of stone that the temperature varies by only a few degrees from summer to winter. With no central heating or cooling it’s always in the mid 50’s inside. It’s very dark in these old churches as usually no lights are used during the day. As I looked around I was amazed at how massive the space was underneath the ceiling which seemed to be hundreds of feet in the air.

There is an extreme quiet inside these large cathedrals, the only noise to break the silence coming from the parishioners and visitors of the church. And the air inside is moist and thick and still and heavy. It seems as if you are breathing the same air that has been in that space for nearly 1000 years. It’s a very strange feeling to be in such an old and massive church, at once breathtaking and glorious but also overwhelming. There is a pressure your body feels, not one that causes pain but rather one that pulls you to let go and bare your soul. It’s as if all the millions of people who have worshiped in this place for these hundreds of years were there with you in the church. They have worshiped through countless wars, through famine, through the plague. They are all with you in the church looking down at you from above (always from above in such a place with such a high ceiling) with their hands extended saying, “Come and see!” But in a building such as this it doesn’t feel as much like an invitation but more rather like a command, a command you cannot refuse, a command you don’t want to refuse.

And as I lament the fact that in my many visits to my customer in Paris I never took the time out to go see one of Christianity’s great worship places, I will resolve to take the advice of St. John, and all those open doors on churches, and all those former parishioners at St. Peter’s in Regensburg. From now on, I will “Come and see!”, and make it a point to go see the great churches in the communities I visit, and I invite you to do the same.

And you don’t have to go too far away! If you are in New York, go see St. Patrick’s Cathedral. It’s fairly modern but one of America’s finest. If you are in Boston, go see The Old South Church on Boylston Street. You’ll love the stained glass windows. I don’t even know what denomination it is, but does it really matter? I think God will know you are in His house to come to speak with Him, and that’s all that really matters.

Come in, enjoy the beauty, and see!
THE PASCAL SEASON
THE SEASON OF RESURRECTION
Fr. Basil Zebrun

The week following Pascha is called Bright Week, by the Church. As Holy Week was a final time of anticipation and intense preparation for “the Feast of Feasts,” so Bright Week is a period of unique Resurrection joy, manifested outwardly by the faithful in diverse ways. For instance, during Bright Week there is no fasting at all from various types of food; all liturgical hymns, ideally, are to be sung rather than read; and the Church remains highly decorated, with the royal doors and the deacon’s doors of the iconostasis left open as they were during the Midnight Service. This latter practice visually emphasizes that the gates of God’s Kingdom have been open to man through the Cross, Tomb and Resurrection of Christ. Services celebrated during Bright Week are done so in a particularly glorious manner, identical to that which was experienced during the Midnight Service and Resurrection Vespers on Pascha Sunday.

The traditional proclamation, “Christ is Risen,” is sung repeatedly by the Church choir, and people greet one another with this same message of hope. While Bright Week is a time of profound and perhaps uncommon celebration, the Resurrection season is definitely not limited to one week. For forty days after Pascha, until Ascension (this year June 6), the faithful recall in songs and greetings the joyous news that ‘Christ has trampled down death by death, bestowing life upon those in the tombs.’ Clergy and altar servers continue to wear their brightest vestments, and everyone stands (rather than kneels) in prayer, both at home and in Church. The practice of standing in prayer during the Paschal Season serves to stress our belief that in Christ we are already resurrected beings, residents on earth yet citizens of Heaven. The faithful actually continue this practice until Pentecost (this year June 16), when after Liturgy for the first time since Holy Week we kneel in prayer during three special prayers that are read from the ambo by the clergy.

The five Sundays following Pascha (Easter) emphasize, through the appointed Scripture readings and hymns, (1.) post-resurrection appearances of Christ; (2.) the Church’s early life and missionary endeavors (epistle readings are taken from the Book of Acts); and (3.) aspects of baptism, through which we ourselves have died and risen with the Lord to a new life in God (Gospel readings are taken from the most “sacramental” of the Gospel accounts, that of John the Theologian or Evangelist).

Fr. Thomas Hopko in his Orthodox Faith Handbook Series, Volume II, provides a summary of the meaning of the five Sundays of Pascha. The following contains quotes and paraphrases from that summary.

Thomas Sunday (May 5):
On the Sunday following Pascha, called in our liturgical books “the Second Sunday,” the stress is on the Apostle Thomas’ vision of Christ. The significance of the day comes to us in the words of the Gospel: “Then He
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said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand, and place it in My side; do not be faithless, but believing.” Thomas answer Him, “My Lord and My God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.” (John 20:27-29)

In this last statement Christ refers to all those who will come after the Apostles and become disciples through their words. This includes Christians of every century, including our own. We have not seen Christ with our physical eyes, nor touched His risen body with our physical hands, yet in the Holy Spirit we have seen and touched and tasted the Word of Life (1 John 1:1-4), and so we believe. In the early Church it was only on this day that those baptized at Pascha removed their (baptismal) robes and entered once again into the life of this world.

Sunday Myrrhbearing Women (May 12)
The Third Sunday after Pascha is dedicated to the Myrrhbearing Women who cared for the body of the Savior at His death and who were the first witnesses of His Resurrection. The three hymns of Holy Friday, (having to do with the Noble Joseph of Arimethea anointing and burying the Body of Jesus; Christ’s descent into hell and its defeat; and the angel’s proclamation to the myrrhbearing women of Christ’s resurrection) are sung once again and form the theme of the day.

Sunday of The Paralytic (May 19):
The Fourth Sunday is dedicated to Christ’s healing of the Paralytic (John 5). The man is healed by Christ while waiting to be put down into the pool of water. Through baptism in the church we too are healed and saved by Christ for eternal life. Thus, in the church, we are told, together with the paralytic, to “sin no more that nothing worse befall you” (Jn 5:14). Our Lord’s question to the man, “Do you want to be healed?” is directed to us as well, reminding us that the gift of life and illumination through the Resurrection brings with it responsibilities.

We have a choice to make, whether we want to participate in the Resurrection or not. This divine gift is something that must be nurtured and shared with others.

The Feast of Mid-Pentecost (May 22)
In the middle of the Fourth Week, there is a day which is called by the Church, the Feast of Mid-Pentecost (this year May 9). On this day we recall that Christ, “in the middle of the feast” teaches men of His saving mission and offers to all “the waters of immortality” (John 7:14). Again we are reminded of the Master’s presence and His saving promise: “If anyone is thirsty let him come to Me and drink” (John 7:37).

Sunday of Samaritan Woman (May 26):
The Fifth Sunday after Pascha deals with the Woman of Samaria with whom Christ spoke at Jacob’s Well (John 4). Again the theme is the “living water” and the recognition of Jesus as God’s Messiah (John 4: 10-11; 25-26). We are reminded of our new life in Him, of our own drinking of the “living water,” of our own true worship of God in the Christian Messianic Age “in Spirit and in Truth” (John 4: 23-24). We see as well that salvation is offered to all: Jews and Gentiles, men and women, saints and sinners.

The Blind Man (May 20):
Finally, the Sixth Sunday commemorates the healing of the man blind from birth (John 9). We are identified with that man who came to see and to believe in Jesus as the Son of God. The Lord has anointed our eyes with His own divine hands and washed them with the waters of baptism (John 9:6-11). In Christ we are given the power to see and confess Him as God’s only-begotten Son, and we are given the ability to comprehend clearly and with love, our own lives, the lives of others and the world around us.

Ascension (June 6)
The Paschal Season ends with the great
feast of **ASCENSION** on which believers celebrate the Lord’s ascent in order to be glorified with God the Father and to glorify us with Himself. He goes in order to “prepare a place” for us, and to take us into the blessedness of God’s presence. He goes to open the way for all flesh into the “heavenly sanctuary...the Holy Place not made by hands” *(Read Hebrews 8-10).*

Furthermore, Christ ascends in order to send the Holy Spirit *(an event celebrated on Pentecost)* who proceeds from the Father, to bear witness to Him *(Christ)* and His Gospel in the world, by making Him *(Christ)* powerfully present in the lives of His disciples.

**Pentecost (June 16)**

On **PENTECOST** the Church celebrates the final act of God’s self-revelation and self-donation to the world. God’s plan of salvation – starting with and including the formation of His chosen people, Israel; the sending of the prophets; the birth of Christ; His teachings, miracles, sufferings, death, burial and resurrection – all of this culminates with the giving of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost and the birth of the New Israel, the Church of God, the life of which is the continued presence of the Spirit in our midst.

**All Saints Sunday (June 23)**

The Sunday after Pentecost, that of **ALL SAINTS**, reveals the power of the Holy Spirit in this world, the reason that He was given. The Saints are those who, without a doubt, have been saved and transformed by the Spirit’s presence, a fate open to all who believe.

**Our Journey Continues**

Thus a journey which began for us way back on February 17th with the beginning of the Triodion period and the Sunday of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector, concludes on June 23rd. Yet this journey was taken for a reason. The seasons of fasting and celebration that we have experienced are to lead us to a deeper faith commitment in and relationship with Christ as Savior. They are to instill within us a stronger commitment to our own mission, to be Christ’s witnesses “to the ends of the earth.” *(Acts 1:8)*

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**Learn Holy Scripture**

Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen as He said. Go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead.”

**Matthew 28:5-7**

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth.”

**Acts 1:8**

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.

**John 3:16-17**
WORDS OF WISDOM

One day Abba Anthony asked God, “Lord, how is it that some die when they are young, while others drag on to extreme old age? Why are there those who are poor and those who are rich? Why do the wicked men prosper and why are the just in need?”

He heard a voice answering him, “Anthony, keep your attention on yourself; these things are according to the judgment of God, and it is not to your advantage to know anything about them.”

We often confuse unconditional love with unconditional approval. God loves us without conditions but does not approve of every human behavior. God doesn’t approve of betrayal, violence, hatred, suspicion, and all other expressions of evil, because they all contradict the love God wants to instill in the human heart. Evil does not belong to God. God’s unconditional love means that God continues to love us even when we say or think evil things. God continues to wait for us as a loving parent waits for the return of a lost child. It is important for us to hold on to the truth that God never gives up loving us even when God is saddened by what we do. That truth will help us return to God’s ever-present love.

Henri Nouwen

When someone has no compassion for another’s transgressions, but pronounces a severe judgment on them, it is an obvious sign of a soul not yet purified of evil passions.

St. John Cassian

“When you have thought of criticism, of judging others, ask God to take hold of you at that hour so that you can love that person as He loves them and you. Then God will help you see your own condition. If you could see Christ visible in that person, would you criticize them? And yet, they were created in the image of God?”

Mother Gavrilia

The sense of futility is one of the greatest evils of the day... People say, “What can one person do? What is the sense of our small effort?”

They cannot see that we can only lay one brick at a time, take one step at a time; we can be responsible only for the one action of the present moment. But we can beg for an increase of love in our hearts that will vitalize and transform all our individual actions, and know that God will take them and multiply them, as Jesus multiplied the loaves and fishes... Love and ever more love is the only solution to every problem that comes up. If we love each other enough, we will bear with each other’s faults and burdens. If we love enough, we are going to light a fire in the hearts of others. And it is love that will burn out the sins and hatreds that sadden us. It is love that will make us want to do great things for each other.

No sacrifice and no suffering will then seem too much.

Dorothy Day

Do not worry yourself with strict rules but do whatever the Lord gives you the strength to do. And do not neglect your reading and prayer; little by little, you will gradually spend the day pleasing God. For our perfect fathers were not limited by any particular rule. Indeed, their daily rule included singing Psalms a little, repeating prayers by heart a little, examining their thoughts a little, working for a living a little, and doing everything with deep reverence for God. For it is said: “Whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.”

Sts Barsanouphios and John

Let us pray each day for God to give us the eyes to see beauty all around us - in the people we meet, in the opportunities that we have, in nature itself. As John Ruskin say, “Never lose an opportunity for seeing anything that is beautiful; For beauty is God’s handwriting - a wayside sacrament.” Or Saint Porphyrios put it this way, “Beautiful moments predispose the soul to prayer.”
Come and celebrate the

Feastday of our Saints
Constantine & Helen Church

And Welcome our Beloved

Metropolitan Methodios of Boston
For His Pastoral Visit to our Church Family

6:00 pm Vesper Service Monday MAY 20th

OUR NEW BYZANTINE CHOIR
WILL SING THE VESPERS

FOLLOWING VESPERS IS A COMMUNITY DINNER
offered by
SANDI & GERRY KUNKEL
In Loving Memory of her beloved parents
CHARLIE AND HELEN PAPPAS
and in honor of
all those who celebrate their feast day!
WELCOME INTO OUR CHURCH FAMILY

On Holy Saturday morning at our First Resurrection Service, we followed the ancient tradition of welcoming the Catechumens of our Church as new members of our Church Family through the Sacrament of Holy Chrismation.

We thank God for the entrance of Chris (Demetrios) Dillon, Christine Kiritsis, Brittany (Alexandra) Moore, Brandi (Eleni) Patricks and Amanda (Demetra) Raymond and pray for their faithful journey with us into the Kingdom of Heaven! We also thank their Sponsors Nick Seferi, Titi Chito, Sara Darlagiannis, Debby Raymond and Thomai Gatsogiannis who will walk with them on their spiritual journey.

The Gospel we hear on the day that we are baptized is the Great Commission, where Jesus tells His followers “All authority in heaven and on earth have been given to me. Go and make disciples of every nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Mt 28:18-20)

This command to “go forth” and share the Good News of Jesus Christ to all people is a command for each one of us to follow. We all know people who are non-religious, or who are not Christian, or have fallen away from faith. How can we share the Good News of God love, of Christ’s Resurrection, and the new life that He promises all His followers? How can we show with our actions, and in our words, the divine love of God which He has filled us with. We all have this great responsibility and privilege to be witnesses of God’s love to the world around us. Let’s invite people we know to become the newest “catechumens” of our Church!
Christ is Risen!
The Joy of Pascha!!!
THANK YOU FOR ALL LENTEN & PASCHA DONATIONS

**Lenten Altar Flowers:**
In loving memory of my father from Ann Chito

**Friday Salutations Flowers**
In loving Memory of Nick Stathis from Dora Stathis
In gratitude for my family from Pres Faith Veronis
In loving memory of our mother Bessie from Charlotte Neslusan
In loving memory of my mother Lorraine Vesho from Barbara Desrosiers

**Cross Sunday Flowers** - In loving memory of our beloved Family Members who have gone with the Lord from Ana Naum

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In loving memory of my father from Ann Chito

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In loving memory of my mother Lorraine Vesho from Barbara Desrosiers

**Cross Sunday Flowers** - In loving memory of our beloved Family Members who have gone with the Lord from Ana Naum

**Incense (for a year)** - For the glory of God from Sam and Evelyn Pappas

**Charcoal for (one Year)** – For the glory of God from Ted Theodores

**Altar Candles (for a Year)** – For glory of God from George/Helen Kerbici

**Garland at Entry of Church** – In loving memory of my beloved husband Charles from Ann Chito

**Palms and Trees** – For the glory of God from Denise and Rob Gritzner

**Bridegrooms Icon Flowers** – In loving memory of Bruce and Alexis from Despina and Bill Condos

**Unction Supplies - $50** In memory of those who have gone before us – from a friend

**Holy Thursday Candles** - For the Glory of god from a friend.

**Holy Thursday Flower Crown** - For glory of God from Grace and Bill Milios

**Holy Friday Epitaphio Candles** - For glory of God from Sophie Apostol

**Holy Friday Epitaphio Flowers** - In loving memory of my grandmother and godmother from Joseph Gliniecki and In loving memory of my grandparents and in honor of my parents from Zach Gianaris

**Holy Saturday Rose Petals** - In loving memory of my father John from Kostas Panagiotou

**Holy Altar Easter Arrangement** - – In loving memory of Charlie and Helen Pappas from Sandi Kunkel and Family

**Resurrection Candle** - In loving memory of her husband John from Evangelia Panagiotou

**Resurrection Icon Flowers** – In loving memory of my husband Paul from Eleni Xanthopoulos

**White Lilies for Easter**
For glory of God from Leah DiDonato

In loving memory of my mother from Ann Chito

In loving memory of Arthur and AJ from Edna Vogel

In loving memory of Charles and Loucia Christos from Sam and Evelyn, Angelo and Dhimitra

In loving memory of Stavros and Evangelia Pappas from Sam and Evelyn, Sakis and Lola, and Olympia

In loving memory of our grandparents and parents from George and Julie Milios

In loving memory of our mother Irene, our father Nick, and our dear sister Dina Teguis from Mary, Roxanne and Eleanor

In loving memory of my husband Ted from Mary Fatsi

For the glory of God from Trish Lareau

In loving memory of Maria and Harry Patras from Pauline Mueller

In loving memory of our brother Christy Carabina from sister Rita and Family

In loving memory of our parents Aglaia/Gregory Koumoullos and Anna/Zenonas Zenon from Helen and Bill

For the glory of God from Jimmy and Hariklia Milios

And THANK YOU to everyone else who offered a special Pascha Donation to support our Beloved Church!
PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Christos Anesti! Christ is Risen!

On April 11th we had a quick meeting after church. We discussed making the Easter breads. Thank you again to Eleni and her ladies for making a double recipe and thank all who donated towards the ingredients. We sold them on Palm Sunday and throughout Holy Week. We also discussed the calendar raffle. Thank you to all 30 ladies who donated for the 30 days in June. Marie McNally has printed them and we will pass them out by our next meeting on May 6th. Please buy and or sell these tickets. We need your help and support. We will also sell them on a Saturday at park n shop and maybe a few other locations. Thank you Marie for chairing this.

We are still hoping to go to Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology on Saturday, May 11th, but we don’t have many people signed up. Please see Leah DiDonato ASAP to sign up so we can determine whether we need to reserve a bus. This will be a beautiful event for our parish family to take part in. Hope to see you there!

We will have a buffet dinner on Monday May 20th to welcome His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios for his annual pastoral visit, and to celebrate our church’s name day. We are looking for anyone that would like to bake for this event. Please come, and also please help us prepare.

We will be having our year end dinner in June. We are still planning the date and venue.

At our May 6th meeting we will be electing a new board of directors and holding elections for officers. According to our bylaws, we have to have them every 2 years. It’s hard to believe that two years have gone by already. Please come and participate. We need more ladies to get involved!

I hope everyone had a nice Easter and a happy spring!

With much love and affection,

Evelyn Pappas

Come and Support our
8th Annual
Sts. Constantine & Helen

GOLF TOURNAMENT

1:00pm June 22
at Harrisville Golf Club
Putnum, CT

Cost: $100 per person

which includes
golf, cart, dinner, and prizes.

Contact Arthur Bilis (508-331-8006)
to sign up and/or to sponsor a hole

LIVING BREAD LUNCHEON

Cinco de Mayo Celebration with our Guests!

12:30-1:30pm
Saturday, May 4th

Come & Help Cook, Set Up, Offer Hospitality, Serve Meals & Clean Up. We need volunteers.

Everyone is welcome!
100th CHURCH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Our 100th Anniversary Committee had its first meeting on April 30th, 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. The next committee meeting will be Sunday, May 19th.

Our Book Corner

Leah DiDonato will be offering selections of books that she has read and which she is donating to our Church Library, in hopes that others will read these books. Everyone is welcome to come and take out any book from our Church Library, which is located in the classroom next to our secretary office.

A MURDERER who would change the WORLD. From the multi-million copy best-selling novelist Jerry Jenkins comes a compelling international thriller that conveys you from present day Texas to a dank Roman dungeon in AD 67, then down the dusty roads of ancient Israel, Asia, and back to Rome.

A young seminary professor, Augustine Knox, is drawn into a deadly race to save priceless parchments from antiquities thieves and discovers a two thousand year old connection with another who faced death for the sake of the truth. I, Saul consists of two riveting adventures in one, transporting you between the stories of Augustine Knox and Saul of Tarsus.

Filled with political intrigue, romance, and rich historical detail, I, Saul is a thrilling tale of loyal friendships tested by life-or-death quests, set two millenia apart, told by a master storyteller.
HEALTHY LIVING

HOME COOKED MEAL CLASS

Spring is here and before you know it we will be donning our bathing suits. What better time then now to start learning to live a healthier lifestyle. Join our church family in a monthly cooking class!

Participants will meet once a month in our church kitchen to learn how to prepare a delicious home cooked meal using fresh ingredients. Each person will be responsible for bringing one ingredient and a healthy recipe to pass along to the group. Hopefully those recipes will be tested during the month and enjoyed! Families and friends are encouraged to join the group!

If you are interested in joining the group please contact Sara Darlagiannis (508-207-3177). Date and time of the classes will depend on participant availability and a schedule will be developed and disseminated.

A NEW “WALKING CLUB”

We will also start up a walking group. We will be walking from the church to Bartlett High School and around their grounds following coffee fellowship and weather permitting. All are welcome to join! Come and enjoy a beautiful and healthy time of fellowship! Contact Sara if interested in joining.

SAVE THE DATES

General Assembly
June 2
GYRO Fest
June 8
Pentecost/Missions 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

Church Festival
Sept 7-8
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 22 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 May Luncheon is donated in loving memory of “Charlie and Helen Pappas” from Sandi Kunkel and Family

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.
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!!!*

May 5 - Sara Darlagiannis, Sissy Darlagiannis, Helen Constantine, Alexandra Koulax
May 12 – Lisa Healy, Marie McNally, Despina Condos, Trish Lareau
May 19 – Bia Pappas Magaritidis in loving memory of her father’s three year memorial (Stavro Pappas)

May 26 - Charlotte Neslusan, Evis Jordanoglou, Dolly Sosnowski, Annalisa Dunning
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 Poulokhine,
Remembering Our Church Family

Important Dates in MAY:

Try to make a visit or give a call, to those celebrate special days this month.

BIRTHDAYS:

May 1  Nick Seferi
May 3  Kara George
May 5  Ted Tonna
May 8  Maria Econome
May 9  Joe Gliniecki
May 12 Angelo Adamopoulos
May 12 Yanni Mironidis
May 13 Elliot Benoit
May 14 Cristina Enache
May 15 Matthew Neslusan
May 16 Barbara Gianaris
May 21 Stephanie Quill
May 21 Taso Zahariadis
May 22 Joan Geotis
May 25 Dimitri Mironidis
May 25 Scott Kunkel
May 26 Nicholas Avlas
May 27 Michael Belanger
May 29 Stephen Pappas
May 30 Sophia Koulax
May 30 Lea Koveas Mirandola
May 31 Gus Koulax
May 31 Matt Benoit
May 31 Tina Colello

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

May 6  Nicholas/Athanasia Darligianis
May 7  Michael & Titi Chito
May 9  Michael & Muriel Angelo
May 12 Garry & Jaime Ross
May 19 Yanni & Katie Mironidis
May 21 Dimitrios & Efkarpa Sidopoulos

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

May 22  John and Eleni Sgouritsas
May 23  Scott and Kathy Kunkel
May 24  Ron and Sandy Sanderson
May 27  Pauline & Carl Mueller

NAMEDAYS:

May 5  St Irene
May 5  Irene Mountzouris

May 8  St John the Evangelist
May 8  Ian Mackenzie

May 13  St. Glykeria
May 13  Glykeria Partsalis

May 21  Sts Constantine & Helen
May 21  Constatine Anifantinis
May 21  Eleni Baraklilis
May 21  Charles Constantine Chito
May 21  Helen Constantine
May 21  Helen Dunning
May 21  Louisa Eleni Foisy
May 21  Elaine Goulas
May 21  Helen Hazatones
May 21  Helen Kerbici
May 21  Constantine (Gus) Koulax
May 21  Helen Lepine
May 21  Elena MacKenzie
May 21  Helen Metropoulos
May 21  Chuck Spiro Pappas
May 21  Kostas Panagiotou
May 21  Brandi Eleni Patricks
May 21  Eleni Sgouritsas
May 21  Helen Theodores
May 21  Helen Thomas
May 21  Eleni Xanthopoulos
May 21  Helen Zenon
The Resurrection of Christ offers immeasurable hope, based on the joyous news that our relentless enemy, death, was thwarted by Christ. Even in our most difficult times, the experience of the resurrection supports us. The human mind cannot conceive this miracle. The heart, however, senses this truth and leaps for joy chanting ‘Christ is Risen.’ The Christian hope does not come from unspecified optimism, is not related to a utopian illusion but is based on the certainty that God Almighty, the Creator of everything, exists. The hope of resurrection does not refer to a vague idea, but is connected with one Person, the God-man Jesus Christ, who voluntarily suffered horrible tortures, was crucified and defeated death. For death came to the world by one man, and thus the resurrection of the dead came from one man too. May the God of hope fill the souls of all with immense joy and peace, coming from faith.

Archbishop Anastasios of Albania

Look for our safe and convenient

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

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

www.myocn.net

www.AncientFaith.com
Thank You to those who sponsor our monthly bulletin!
# MAY 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 28</td>
<td>Pascha</td>
<td>29 Bright Monday (St George)</td>
<td>30 Bright Tuesday</td>
<td>1 Bright Wednesday</td>
<td>2 Bright Thursday</td>
<td>3 Bright Friday Life-Giving Font 8:45 Matins 9:30 Liturgy</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 Easter Egg Hunt</td>
<td>9:00 Matins 9:30 Liturgy</td>
<td>6:30 100th Anniversary Meeting</td>
<td>10:00 Bible Study</td>
<td>6:30 Festival Meeting</td>
<td>7:00pm Bible Study</td>
<td>6:00 Vespers</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 Vespers of Love</td>
<td>1:00 Paaxha Luncheon</td>
<td>2 Bright Thursday</td>
<td>3 Bright Friday Life-Giving Font 8:45 Matins 9:30 Liturgy</td>
<td>4 Bright Saturday 12:30 Living Bread Luncheon</td>
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- May 5
  - 8:30 Matins 9:30 Divine Liturgy
  - 7pm AA
  - 6:00 Philoptchos Meeting

- May 6
  - Mother’s Day 8:30 Matins 9:30 Divine Liturgy
  - 7pm AA
  - 6:00 Paraclesis and Prayer Group
  - 7:00PM BIBLE STUDY

- May 7
  - 10am Bible Study
  - 6:00 Vespers

- May 12
  - 8:30 Matins 9:30 Divine Liturgy w 3 Year Memorial Stavro Pappas 100th Anniv Meeting 7pm AA
  - 6:00 Vespers of Sts Constantine and Helen w Pastoral Visit from Metropolitan Methodios

- May 19
  - 8:30 Matins 9:30 Divine Liturgy w 3 Year Memorial Stavro Pappas 100th Anniv Meeting 7pm AA
  - 6:00 Matins 9:30 Liturgy
  - 8:45 Matins 9:30 Liturgy

- May 20
  - 27 Memorial Day 9:00-12:00 Fr Luke at cemetery

- May 21
  - Sts, Constantine and Helen 8:45 Matins 9:30 Liturgy

- May 22
  - 10am Bible Study

- May 23
  - 7:00pm Bible Study

- May 28
  - 10am Bible Study
  - 6:00 Paraclesis and Prayer Group

- May 29
  - 7:00pm Bible Study

- May 30
  - 12:30 Living Bread Luncheon

- May 31
  - 12:30 Living Bread Luncheon

- June 1
  - 6:00 Vespers
A MOTHER’S LOVE

There’s no love like a Mother's
her heart is filled with care
With Christ as her example
her Savior’s love she’ll share.

A Mother’s love is endless
not changing for all time
When needed by her children
A mother’s love will shine.

God bless these special mothers
God bless them every one
For all their tears and heartache
And special work they’ve done.

When days on earth are over
A Mother’s love lives on
Through many generations
God’s blessings on each one.

Be thankful for our Mothers
Who love with higher love,
From power God has given,
And strength from up above.