“This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”

Every day when I wake up, I offer this verse from Psalm 118 as a prayer of thanksgiving and praise to our Lord for allowing me to face a new day full of unlimited hope and untapped potential!

If the Lord has made the day, than we can be sure that love and goodness shall prevail. No matter how we perceive the challenges the day brings, through faith we know that “in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to His purposes.” (Rom 8:28) Thus, we can “rejoice and be glad in this day!”

Along with reminding us of God’s many daily blessings, this verse most appropriately sums up the spirit we should carry as we approach our national Thanksgiving Holiday. Our country pauses once a year in November to focus our attention on the Creator of all and to express our gratitude for life itself and all its blessings. It is a time to pause and reflect upon our health, our family, our faith community, our upbringing, our education, our work, and the numerous freedoms and opportunities available to us in this country.

Of course, as Orthodox Christians our faith calls us to not only thank God once a year, but to begin each week, on Sunday morning, reflecting on our Lord’s goodness. We participate in the Holy Eucharist, the Service of Thanksgiving par excellence. We thank Him for all His blessings in the Divine Liturgy.
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

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2014 PARISH COUNCIL
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Youth: Pres Faith Veronis
Seminarians: Brian and Mari McMullen, Jen Cowles, Jennifer Rice, Theophani Damaniakis
Ecclesiarch: Bill Anthopoulos,
Bookstore: Lorna McWilliams
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REJOICING FOR EACH DAY

Not only each Sunday, but also every morning we rise to face a new day we should offer prayers of thanksgiving for breath and life itself, as well as for the greatest blessing of all - the opportunity to stand in the presence of our Creator and Sustainer of Life as a beloved child and intimate friend. Imagine, we have the privilege of cultivating and participating in the most intimate and dynamic relationship with the Source of Love Himself!

This spirit of gratitude goes hand-in-hand with the spirit of Stewardship, which we will celebrate on November 16th. STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY reminds us that everything in life comes from God. He blesses each one of us with unique talents. He offers us the time of days and years to use and cultivate those talents. And then He gives us the mind, the health, and the opportunities to possess certain financial treasures.

For all these gifts, the Lord places us as “stewards,” or administrators. He says, “I will give you these gifts for a period of time. Understand that you are the caretaker of this loan. One day, I will ask you for an accounting of this precious loan that I have given you.” When we understand Stewardship in this manner, we realize it is about much more than money, it is about a way of life. God has blessed us with special gifts, and we are called to use these gifts wisely for the glory of His name.

As we all understand and practice good Stewardship, we become truly faithful children of God when we use our time, talents, and treasure for the service of God and in the service of others! Thus, we hope to hear on the final day, “Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things… Come and share in your Master’s happiness.” (Mt 25:21)

Along becoming good stewards of our finances, we also have to think of creative ways to become good stewards of our time and talents.

This Saints Constantine and Helen community is our spiritual Family, and each of us are integral parts of it. Just as each of us want the best for our own immediate families, I’m sure that we all want the best for our Church Family as well! May we all act as faithful and dedicated stewards in our offering of time, service, and money.

And as a good steward, try to think about what you offered God this past year, and see how you can increase it in the new year. God is continually increasing His blessings to us, and we in like manner, should try to increase our commitment to Him. Maybe we can volunteer more and commit more time to the Church. Maybe we can use the unique talent or knowledge we have to serve a need in the Church. Maybe we can increase our stewardship financial pledge. In whatever we decide, may we all strive to do it solely for the glory of Almighty God!

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, and on behalf of Presvytera Faith and myself, I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone in this community for the blessing you have been to us over the past ten years. We have truly loved being a part of this Church Family, and thank God for His vibrant presence and love here.

November is an exciting month full of potential and hope! I pray that all of us will participate in our Church life and enter into the abundant life promised by our Lord Jesus Christ. Yes, this is the day that the Lord has made, let us truly rejoice and be glad in it!

With love and gratitude in our Lord Jesus Christ,

+Luke
NO TO CASINOS in Massachusetts
Vote YES to Ballot Question #3

How would you feel if the Massachusetts Gaming Commission decided to build a casino on Webster Lake? Honestly, how many of you would be in favor of this? I have heard numerous people say, “What’s wrong with building casinos in Massachusetts, AS LONG AS IT’S NOT IN MY TOWN!” If you enjoy gambling and going to the casinos, why wouldn’t you want one in your own town? Is it because we know that casinos change everything about the region in which they enter? Is it because we know that crime will increase, small businesses will suffer and that the social fabric of the local community will dangerously change?

On October 9th, 80 Faith leaders - Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Mainline Protestant, Evangelical, Pentecostal, Jewish and Muslim - from around Massachusetts gathered in the historic Old South Church in Boston to make a statement in opposition to Casino Construction in the Commonwealth. We asked all Massachusetts residents to consider VOTING YES TO BALLOT QUESTION #3 – the ballot question “Expanding Prohibitions on Gaming” - in the November 4th elections.

On behalf of Metropolitan Methodios, I was one of eight faith leaders who spoke to the media, and I focused simply on the fact that our Christian faith is all about LOVE - love for God and love for our neighbor. And if we are trying to live lives of love, we have to realize that when we expand gambling and casinos in this commonwealth, we are not thinking about the welfare of our neighbor. The entire gaming industry represents the exact opposite of love. The passion for exciting gambling entertainment leads us to ignore the fact that we have to win at the expense of others. When we favor casinos, we’re not interested in hearing statistics about how 70% of casino revenues rely on gambling addictions. When we favor casinos, we don’t want to hear how the poor and lower economic classes are affected the most from gambling. When we favor casinos, we don’t want to hear stories about families destroyed and lives ruined from gambling. Can we honestly say we are thinking of our neighbor when we say, “I definitely don’t want the casino in MY town, but if it’s built in some other city of Massachusetts 45 miles away, then I don’t have a problem with it.” The tempting thrill of gambling blinds us to our neighbor!

In the Gospels, we heard Jesus proclaim the Golden Rule: “Do unto others as you want to them to do unto you.” Treat others as you want to be treated. Ultimately, our entire Christian message can be summed up in the words, “Love one another as God loves you.” Love should be the motivating factor for each and every Christian. Yet, what does love have to do with gambling? Although we may not have many clear teaching in the Bible about casinos and gambling, we find very clear reference to divine love as the motivation for everything we do, divine love which expresses a sincere concern for our neighbor.

To love God with all our soul, heart, mind and strength, and then to share this divine love with our neighbor is the essence of our faith. Our identity badge as Christians should be our love for others! What does this love that Christ exemplified on the Cross, this love that we see victorious in the Resurrection, this love that Christ instilled in His followers and commanded us to witness and share with the world around them, what does this love have to do with gambling and casinos and other forms of “gaming entertainment?” Bringing casinos into Massachusetts has nothing to do with love, and as a Christian community, we have to raise our voice.
against allowing casinos to come into our commonwealth.

This sentiment was reiterated by all the faith leaders of Massachusetts! Cardinal O’Malley and the other three Roman Catholic bishops of our state highlighted how “expanded gaming in the Commonwealth opens the door to a new form of predatory gaming. The gambling industry threatens local businesses, weakens the moral fabric of society, and fundamentally alters communities for decades to come. Three destination resort casinos and a ‘slots’ parlor will saturate the entire state, diminishing our rich heritage and history.”

Bishop Alan Gates of the Episcopal Diocese of MA gave a powerful statement when he used the recent example of Ohio, where he served for the past 10 years. Although Ohio residents rejected casinos in numerous previous ballots, the casino industry spent $47 million to capitalize on the economic distress following 2008, and a year later the residents of Ohio voted for the construction of four casinos in their state.

“Now, two years after the opening of those Ohio casinos,” Bishops Gates related, “we see that the promise of 34,000 new jobs was false. There were 10,000 temporary construction jobs, and only 5000 permanent jobs created. After two and a half years, the tax revenue to state and local governments is well less than the amount which had been promised for the first year alone. In 2013, 682 people were treated for gambling disorders, compared with the previous year of 92. And the number of people screened in 2013 for gambling addiction was 14,355, compared with the recent previous annual average of 1,966. That is a 700% increase in the number of individuals and families affected by gambling addiction!”

And it’s not just in Ohio. Thus far in 2014, Delaware taxpayers have paid $43 million to bail out their failing casinos. Earlier this year, FOUR casinos closed in Atlantic City, including the two year old $2 BILLION Revels Casino. And now FIVE THOUSAND WORKERS are out of a job, feeling betrayed by a system that promised stable, well-paying jobs!

Rev. Anthony Livolsi, the pastor of Old South Church who hosted this event, noted that his church was home to some of the greatest movements in the history of our country. Samuel Adams and Benjamin Franklin spoke from this church, as did the patriots of the Boston Tea Party, and some of the first abolitionists in America. “The legendary lions of this congregation pled for the rights and welfare of the vulnerable, and so I believe they would be pulling out their hair to see some billionaire fat cat in Las Vegas profit on the backs of Boston’s needy and poor. This is a battle between David and the Goliath predatory casino industry!”

Of course, in the end we are all free to vote as we choose about casinos. Yet as Orthodox Christians, I challenge us all to allow the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ to influence our worldview, and thus, our vote. Love for God and love for our neighbor has absolutely nothing to do with bringing casinos into Massachusetts! Think about that on November 4th, and consider voting YES on Resolution 3.

May we all strive to grow in divine love, and allow such love to direct us in all we do, and especially now as we think about casinos and gambling.
The Miracle of the “Crying Icon”

A man had a massive heart attack while in the church. Two nurses who were present rushed over to him and began to do CPR, while others called 911. As the nurses tried to revive him, he showed no pulse, stopped breathing and actually died. While waiting the few minutes for the ambulance to arrive, Fr. Mark Leisure, the priest of St. George Orthodox Church in Taylor, PA took the Kardiotisa, “The Tender Heart” myrrh-flowing, miraculous icon of the Virgin Mary and held it over the man so that the fragrant myrrh would drip from the icon onto the chest of the man. Immediately, the dead man took a deep breath, opened his eyes, and began singing “Mary, Mother of God Save Me.” By the time the paramedics arrived, he was sitting up and didn’t think he needed to go to the hospital, even though they insisted he go.

The doctor at the Sloan Kettering Cancer Center tells the woman she has Stage 4 cancer, and there is no treatment that will help her condition. They tell her that they can control her pain, but she has little time to live. With little hope, she leaves the hospital. Yet a friend anoints her with the fragrant myrrh flowing from the Kardiotisa icon. She is miraculously healed. The next time she goes to the doctors and gets checked, they are puzzled and amazed that there is no trace of her cancer.

Over the past three years, these miracles have happened again and again – with people finding healing from prostate cancer, liver cancer, throat cancer, lung cancer, brain lymphoma, and almost every other form of cancer. There is even one oncologist who now, along with his medical treatment, directs his patients to visit the St. George Orthodox Church in Taylor, PA and be anointed by this miraculous myrrh.

One man had a ruptured brain aneurism. While in the hospital’s ICU, he was in a coma with no hope for recovery. The doctors told the wife and family to say their goodbyes. A friend of the family knew a priest who had seen the Kardiotisa icon and had a cotton swab with the myrrh. He came and anointed the man, and the man awoke from the coma, healed. The doctors couldn’t explain what happened, and said it was truly a miracle.

A woman couldn’t see through her pregnancies. Four times she became pregnant, only to have her baby miscarried at a particular point in the pregnancy. There was a problem where the stem that connected the spinal cord and the brain, and this caused the miscarriage. During her fifth pregnancy, before she went to the doctor for an ultrasound, she was anointed with holy myrrh from the icon. In the ultrasound picture, which we all saw, there was an obvious light that had connected the brain with the spinal cord. The doctor and nurses said they had never seen anything like this before. The woman gave birth to a healthy child.

A young boy is rushed to the hospital with a 105 temperature. There is swelling of the brain and nothing seemed to be working to lower his temperature. His grandmother remembered that she had an old cotton swab from the miraculous icon in her purse. When she pulled it out, it was dry. And yet, she took it and tried to anoint her grandson, asking for the Virgin Mary’s intercession. Shortly thereafter, the boy’s temperature broke and he sat up. The next day, she took out the dry cotton swab again, and discovered that it was now soaked with myrrh and had even formed itself into a heart.
A young 14 year old girl had tried to commit suicide several times, and fallen into utter despair because of the bullying, ridicule and pain she experienced at school. While at Camp Nazareth, a Church Camp outside of Pittsburgh, she encountered the grace of God through this miraculous icon, and found inner healing and hope. Months later she wrote the most beautiful four page letter to Fr. Mark, which he read to us, describing how her life has turned around by her experience with the Kardiotisa icon.

Every Wednesday night for the past three years, Fr. Mark and his community have a special prayer service to the Virgin Mary in front of this icon. Every Monday night, Fr. Mark has a Questions and Answer session in his church. Hundreds and hundreds come every Wednesday. Several dozen come each Monday asking questions. One stranger began to attend on Mondays, and at one point stood up and said, “These icons in the Church are against Allah. They are idolatry.” He argued that Allah was not pleased with these icons. After attending for a few weeks, this man from Iran finally approached the icon. Fr. Mark admitted that everyone was tense because he wasn’t sure what the man was going to do. Over the past three years, Fr. Mark has seen someone pull out a knife and try to stab the icon; others have tried to smash it; some have spit on it; and one person even vomited over the protective case. The man from Iran approached and stood motionless in front of the icon covered with fragrant myrrh. Fr. Mark said the man was like in a trance, and it seemed like a battle was going on in his mind. Slowly a tear formed in his eyes, and he began to cry. He kissed the icon. As he walked out of the church, he stopped by the candle stand and wrote something in the sand in Arabic. Since no one could read Arabic, the priest took a picture of what he wrote and found someone to translate it. The man wrote, “Jesus Christ is Lord.” Several months later this man was baptized and is now a pious Orthodox Christian.

These are only a few of the wonders and miracles which 45 of our parishioners and I heard on October 4th when we visited this Tender Heart Icon of the Virgin Mary. Fr. Mark told us that October 13th will mark three years since the icon has been exuding this holy, fragrant myrrh. And not just a drop or two. Fr. Mark began his talk by holding up the icon and walking around the church, allowing the myrrh to drip from the icon into the hands of each of us. Imagine, an icon of wood exuding myrrh for three years!

Bishop Gregory of Nyssa, the head of the Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Archdiocese under whom St. George Church lies, worked for more than 20 years in the field of Cardiovascular Research at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte, NC. He has authored or co-authored more than 100 articles, abstracts and book chapters. When he first saw the icon, Fr. Mark shared how the bishop sat in front of the icon for an hour crying and saying, “My scientific mind cannot grasp how this is happening. How an icon painted on wood can exude myrrh. Yet my mind of faith gives glory to God for this miracle.”

Our God is a God of wonders and miracles. He is not bound by the very laws of nature which He Himself has established. Sometimes in our contemporary, secular and materialistic world we try to insist that science and reason are the only source of truth. The Church honors and appreciates science and reason, yet we know that the Creator of all stands above all. We can never try to limit or keep God confined within our own boundaries. The miracle of the Kardiotisa icon is just one small example of the unfathomable mysteries of life and of the Creator of Life, God Himself! Sometimes we can only observe in awe and wonder, and give glory to God for the way He reveals His majesty!

Ultimately, though, witnessing this miracle was simply a sign from God that He is present in our midst, and He and His Mother are watching over us. After experiencing such a miracle and blessing from God, I realized we have received a sign of encouragement. Witnessing such a miracle won’t necessarily change our lives, but it can combat the skepticism and doubts which constantly assail us in our daily lives. It reminds us that God is real and still active in our world. Now our challenge is to take more seriously our own spiritual disciplines and struggles, seeking union with God each day with the help of the Church and with our Christian fellowship.

Glory to God for all things!
THANKING GOD AT ALL TIMES

Each day we have a choice to make when we wake up - will we express gratitude and thanksgiving to God for this particular day with all the blessings that await us, or will we choose to focus on the problems and uncertainties of life, allowing our particular worries to control our worldview?

We all know positive and uplifting people who live life with a grateful, vibrant spirit and thus, radiate contagious joy, inner contentment and a deep happiness. These people encourage, build up and nourish all those whom they encounter. They stand in stark contrast to others who choose to focus on the negative, who complain about the unfairness of life, grumble about all that they don’t have, and who drain the spirit out of life.

We must realize, though, that the choice we make each day clearly reflects the authenticity of our relationship with Jesus Christ and our understanding and living out of our Orthodox Christian faith. To live in Christ, and have His Spirit dwelling within us automatically implies a life of gratitude and thanksgiving!

If we strive to walk with our Lord, from the moment we wake up until the end of each day, and consciously try to dwell in His loving presence, our entire outlook in life cannot but be one of appreciation and gratefulness.

We have our loving, merciful and compassionate Creator and Father watching over us, walking with us, guiding us in all our steps, carrying us when we are tired or afraid, comforting us in our moments of distress, and ultimately filling us with His abundant Spirit and continual presence. If we understand and believe all of His precious promises to us, His beloved children, how can we not express unceasing gratitude and thanksgiving for all life brings!

Our Christian faith proclaims Good News of God’s unconditional, unending, personal love - a divine love which surpasses all other blessings. A love that forgives us our countless and continual sins. A love that values us and cherishes us in our uniqueness. A love that heals us from our deepest brokenness, loneliness and illness. A love that doesn’t abandon us in our final moments of life and death, but give us hope and even victory over death itself. A love that continues into eternity!

When we understand our Christian faith, and sincerely strive to walk with Jesus Christ and allow His Spirit to dwell richly within our hearts and minds, a positive and grateful attitude becomes a beautiful and apparent fruit of our faith.

Saints throughout history displayed this joyful and gracious spirit despite any and every injustice, difficulty, and challenge they faced. They understood the fundamental element of an authentic Christian life - that God is with us always, and will never abandon us. Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ! And understanding this created a grateful heart!

The Apostle Paul was one who was unjustly beaten, imprisoned, ridiculed, rejected, and often near death, for no other reason than he tried to share the good news of Jesus Christ with others. At one point in his life, he even wrote, “we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life. Yes, we had a sentence of death in ourselves.” His situation, though, didn’t lead him to despair or become pessimistic. In fact, the opposite occurred, where his spirit of gratitude only increased.
He writes, “We learned not to trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead, who delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver us; in whom we trust that He will still deliver us.” (2 Corinthians 1:8-10)

St. Paul had every logical reason to complain and pessimistically look at life. Instead, he chose to allow every situation to draw him closer to God, trusting in our Lord’s merciful compassion and abundant grace. He could tell his fellow Christians to “Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I say rejoice!... For I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know what it is to have nothing, and I know what it is to have much. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me... And my God shall supply all our needs ac-
cording to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:4,11-13, 19)

St. Paul even thanks God for “a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan which buffeted me,” because he learned the invaluable lesson that “God’s grace is sufficient for me, and God’s strength is made perfect in weakness.” (2 Corinthians 12:7-9)

St. John Chrysostom, who preached before thousands of people who loved him as the Bishop of Antioch back in the 4th century, and then reached the highest position in the Church as the Archbishop of Constantinople, ended his life in exile when the Byzantine Empress turned against him. He was forced to march through the bitter winter snows to his death, and yet the last recorded words of his were, “Glory to God for all things!” Despite his situation, he understood that “in all things God works together for good to those who love Him,” and thus, he could face his suffering end even with gratitude and thanksgiving!

As we approach and celebrate our national holiday of Thanksgiving this month, it’s a great time to reflect on what role gratitude plays in our daily lives, and think about how we can make thanksgiving a more central part of who we are.

One simple yet powerful habit each of us can begin with is to start our day with an attitude of gratitude. Before we get up out of our bed each morning, let’s make our cross and then thank God for TEN things in our lives. Try that - each morning throughout every week say out loud TEN different things for which we thank God!!! If we begin each day and week in this manner, it will help cultivate and nourish that spirit of thanksgiving and gratitude.

May you all have a blessed and joyous Thanksgiving celebration!
Happy Fall! Over the weekend I was trying to decide what to write in my monthly message. This was one of those times I struggled to find something to share. I decided to look back through some emails I wrote when I was going through treatment for breast cancer. I came across one particular email that brought back many memories and a variety of emotions.

It was Fall, November 9, 2009 when I stepped off the elevator onto the radiation/oncology dept and took the “bridge” from the Levine Cancer Center to the hospital for chest x-rays. These were needed for my surgery and treatments to follow. After Dan and I passed the radiation/oncology dept, I stopped and cried, saying to him “I don’t want to do this”.

Six months later, May 14, 2010, the day before the Relay for Life walk, I cried all day saying to myself, “I am a survivor”. I’m not sure when I became a survivor. About.com writes “An individual is considered a cancer survivor from the time of diagnosis, through the balance of his or her life.”

I walked with all other survivors on May 15th. There were a few tears, not as many as I thought there’d be. I’m sure I got them all out the day before! This was a big step for me and I am thankful for all the support I received from my family, relatives, and friends.

The weekend before the walk, I took Dan to PA to see Jim Brickman, a pianist and fantastic entertainer. One song he played during the concert had absolutely beautiful words which I want to share with you. You can listen to it at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5pXrMPtCVCf

May the angels protect you, Trouble neglect you
And heaven accept you, when its time to go home
May you always have plenty, The glass never empty
Know in your belly, You're never alone

May your tears come from laughing
You find friends worth having
As every year passes, They mean more than gold

May you win and stay humble
Smile more than grumble
And know when you stumble, You're never alone

Chorus:
Never alone, Never alone
I'll be in every beat of your heart
When you face the unknown
Wherever you fly, This isn't goodbye
My love will follow you stay with you
Baby you're never alone

I have to be honest,
As much as I wanted
I'm not gonna promise
that cold winds won't blow
So when hard times have found you
And your fears surround you
Wrap my love around you,
You're never alone

Chorus
My love will follow you stay with you
Baby you're never alone
So when hard times have found you
And your fears surround you
Wrap my love around you
You're never alone

One last note...as I walked around UMASS hospital today, working my way from the parking garage to the radiation/oncology dept. I made a conscious effort to look at all the people that I passed. I was amazed at how much I noticed the expressions on each person's face. I found myself praying for them and I'm not even sure what I was supposed to be praying for. May God simply comfort them and give them His peace and strength.

I wish you all a joyful Thanksgiving !!!

God's Blessings on all of you!

Lisa Healy
Parish Council President
The six teams that participated in our Church’s first 3 x 3 Basketball Tournament.

Part of the group of our 45 parishioners who visited the “Crying Icon” at St. George Orthodox Church in Taylor, PA. We also visited the Holy Protection Monastery in Weatherly.

Fall Youth Activity

NIGHT CORN MAZE

5:00pm NOVEMBER 1
At the
WEST END CREAMERY

KIDS NIGHT TOGETHER
(while parent are at the Church Dinner/Dance)

5:30pm NOVEMBER 8

THANK YOU!!!
Thanks to all who warmly welcomed the Associate Director to Project Mexico, Fr. Nicholas Andruchow, and Presbytera Merilynn, when they gave a presentation in our Church. We collected $2,100 to give to the ministry of Project Mexico and St. Innocent Orphanage.
Come and Hear Best Selling Author
Dr. Kyriacos Markides

“Understanding the Rich Orthodox Tradition of Athonite Spirituality”

Fall Retreat
9:30am-12:30pm
Saturday, November 22

Dr. Kyriacos Markides is a Professor of Sociology at the Univ. of Maine, and author of numerous best selling books on Orthodox Spirituality

Come and Support our 4th Annual Philoptochos SPAGHETTI SUPPER
5:00pm - 7:00pm
Saturday, November 22
Enjoy Good Food & Fellowship!

SPAGHETTI SUPPER
SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 22, 2014
5:00P.M. TO 7:00P.M.
AT GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
35 LAKE PARKWAY
WEBSTER, MA
ADULTS $10.00 KIDS UNDER 12 $5.00

Pampered by: The Pts. Constantino and Helen Boubi Orthodox Church Ladies Society
Dinner Dance
Parents Night Out
Saturday, November 8th
6-7pm Cocktail Hour
7pm Roast Beef & Chicken
Dinner followed by dancing

Come and Enjoy a great night out dancing, sharing in fellowship and having a delicious meal at Point Breeze in Webster by Webster Lake. Come for a Great Night Out with Lots of FUN!!!

Proceeds Benefit Sts. Constantine & Helen

Any question or to Buy Tickets please call Lisa at 508-981-8109 or Sts. Constantine & Helen Church at 508-943-8361

$45 per person
$85 per couple
Ages 18+
I would like to thank all who attended our first meeting. We had a great turn out and a wonderful time. October and November we are having our Bakeless Bake Sale. Please see Thomai Gatsogiannis and Leah Didonato for any donation you would like to give. We will be having our annual Spaghetti Supper on November 22nd. We would like to thank all who volunteered all the ingredients for the event. All expenses are being covered. We are also having a center table raffle so we would appreciate a gift for the table. A table will be set up in hall after church for purchase of tickets. Please see Donna Cooney. Our annual Christmas Party will be December 14th at Point Breeze after church. Save the date. See Olga Pappas to sign up. The cost is $20.00. Join in the Christmas festivities, and don't forget Evelyn's Bingo game! See you in church on Sunday! May all of you stay happy and healthy!

With love,

Evelyn Pappas
Philoptochos President

Come and Bring a Friend to our 4TH ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER. The dinner will be held from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm, November 22nd, and will include a Center Table Raffle. First Prize will be a Thanksgiving Basket. Tickets are $10 for adults and $5 for children under the age of 12. Tickets may be purchased the night of the dinner, or in advance during coffee hour after Church.

We are selling advertisements for the Spaghetti Dinner placemats. Ads are a $25 donation each, and can be purchased to highlight your business, or to offer personal well wishes. Anyone interested may contact Evelyn Pappas for more details.

Donations are also being accepted for Center Table gifts. Anyone interested in donating a gift for the Center Table may contact one of the Philoptochos officers.

We will once again sponsor our “BAKELESS BAKE SALE” during the month of November. Donations may be given to either Thomai Gatsogiannis or Leah DiDonato, after Church on Sundays, or during the upcoming Philoptochos meeting.

Please remember to pay your annual PHILOPTOCHOS DUES. Dues are $20 per member, and can be paid to any of the Philoptochos Officers.

SAVE THE DATE
Our ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY will be held on SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14TH at Point Breeze.
FALL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
11:30, Sunday, Nov. 16

Agenda:
1) Discuss our Major $550,000 Building Renovation and Building Project Proposal
2) 2015 Budget Proposal
3) Other Business

Please come and join us for an update on the State of our Church Family.

Christmas Poinsettia
If you would like to donate a Christmas Poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one, or for the Glory of God, please send in $50 to the Church Office. We will purchase the poinsettia and list the names of those honored or commemorated in our Monthly Bulletin.

We are also looking for donors for our outdoor Christmas Wreaths at $75 each.

WEEKDAY SERVICES

WEEKDAY DIVINE LITURGY (9:30 am)
Nov 8 - Holy Archangels
Nov 14 - St Philip
Nov 21 - Entrance of Theotokos in the Temple
Nov 25 - St Katherine

PARACLESIS SERVICE & HOLY OIL for HEALING
6:30pm Wednesday Nov 5, 19

THANKSGIVING SERVICE
6:30pm Monday, Nov 24

SATURDAY VESPERS (5:30pm)
Every Saturday except Nov 29
THANKSGIVING BASKETS

Help our Church give 18 Thanksgiving Baskets to needy families! Pick up a basket, and with another family, fill it up with delicious goods! Show your gratitude to God by sharing what you have with others!!! See Sophia Foisy or Pauline Mueller to sign up.

2014 Annual Church Family Christmas Card

Our Philoptochos Society will offer an opportunity for all our Church Family members to be a part of our annual CHURCH FAMILY CHRISTMAS CARD. The Christmas Card goes to the homes of all our parishioners wishing them blessings during the upcoming holiday season.

A minimum donation of $15 per family is greatly appreciated. All donations will support the various philanthropic ministries of the Philoptochos.

If you would like to be included, please give your donation and the names to Donna Cooney or Debby Raymond by Dec. 7th, or mail them to the Church Office, noting Church Family Christmas Card.

SERVING ON THE PARISH COUNCIL

One special way to act as a good steward of your time and talents is by serving on the Parish Council. This two year commitment is a way you can serve in the leadership of our Church Family and assist Fr. Luke in fulfilling the mission & vision of our Church.

The role of a Parish Council member is a sacred and spiritual task. Each Parish Council member is to act as an ambassador of Jesus Christ and offer a good witness of their Orthodox Christian Faith. In assisting in the administrative responsibilities of the Church, the Parish Council works hand-in-hand with Fr. Luke in strengthening the earthly ministry of God’s Holy Church.

One should run for the Parish Council out of a conviction to glorify our Lord Jesus Christ through humble service to one another and to His Church. Any steward wishing to serve, including those who are seeking re-election, should hand in a PC Election form to our Nomination Committee.

Every candidate must:

- Live his/her life in accordance with the Faith and canons of the Church
- Attend a PARISH COUNCIL SEMINAR before Elections
- Be an UP TO DATE FINANCIAL STEWARD of the parish for at least one year preceding the date of the elections

If elected, a Parish Council member should:

- Attend Divine Liturgy regularly
- Participate in the sacramental life of the Church
- Administer the affairs of the Parish in such a way as to work with Fr. Luke in the fulfillment of the Church’s ministry.
ST NEKTARIOS
THE WONDERWORKER

St. Nektarios of Aegina, one of the most beloved and popular modern saints of Greece, is celebrated on November 9th. He is not only loved because many miracles have happened through his prayers since his death in the early 1900s, but also because he offers inspiring lessons in humility, patience, love, holiness!

St Nektarios came form a poor family in 19th century Greece, and yet through a generous benefactor, was able to receive an education, and eventually became a priest. He quickly rose up in the Church and became the Bishop of Pentapolis, serving a large Greek community in Egypt. The love of the people and his popularity grew so quickly though, that some bishops and other church authorities became quite jealous of him. They slandered him to the Patriarch of Alexandria, and he was unjustly sent away from his diocese and exiled from Egypt.

Upon his arrival in Greece, the slanders followed him, and he continued to endure unjust persecution from fellow clergy. He was not allowed to preach or serve in the Church for a long period of time. Eventually, he became the Dean of the Rizario Seminary in Athens, but even there some school trustees slandered him, and eventually got him removed. Even after he moved to the island of Aegina, where he founded a women’s monastery, enemies continued to falsely accuse him with lies, slander and ridicule.

Throughout all his unjust suffering, he never tried to defend himself. He would say, “What did I do that they hate me so? And yet, what did Jesus do that they hated him so much that they even crucified him.” St Nektarios preferred to endure suffering than accuse another, and possibly shame them. “If God allows tribulation, then it is for the salvation of our souls... I shall have patience and trust in the Lord.”

Through these trials and tribulations, St Nektarios attained the gift of extreme humility. His sufferings led him to be a man of continual and fervent prayer. He would often keep all night vigils, and prayed the Jesus Prayer continuously. He was a man of discipline, fasting strictly, living simply, and never allowing himself to indulge in any luxuries.

Once three students at the seminary fought with one another. When they were called in front of the dean, St. Nektarios announced to them that he himself would begin a three day total fast, and if they weren’t reconciled by the end of the three days, he would continue his fast until they all repented.

Another time two janitors had a fight with one another. St Nektarios told them to resolve the issue, or he himself would begin doing their job and cleaning the toilets. “There exists no job beneath a person,” he would say. Years later, one of these janitors was hospitalized for several months. When the man was afraid that he would lose his job due to his absence, St. Nektarios told him not to worry. Then, for following months, St Nektarios himself began doing all the work of the janitor late at night, saving the position of the worker until he would be able to return.

St Nektarios understood that pride was the beginning of distancing oneself from God. Pride enters a person’s heart through the door of irreverence and ignorance. “When you hear praise, turn your thoughts to the Lord and pray that he will erase them from your memory. Remember, nothing is ours.”
The Light - November 2014

USHERS & GREETERS SCHEDULE
Nov 2
Marie McNally, Eric Beland, Matt Benoit, Zach Gianaris, Lisa Healy, Nick Seferi
Nov 9
Neal Neslusan, Betty Vriga, Leah Didonato, Gus Koulax, Cindy Johnson, Jared Quill
Nov 16
Chris Constantine, Barbara Gianaris, Deb Raymond, Dan Rivelli, Alex Seferi
Nov 23
Arthur Bilis, Del Monroe, Chris Geotis, Thomai Gatzogianis, Trish Laurea
Nov 30
Marie McNally, Eric Beland, Matt Benoit, Zach Gianaris, Lisa Healy, Nick Seferi

EARLY RISERS BIBLE STUDY
6:30 am - 7:30 am
Every Saturday
Come and Join Us.
We will be Studying the book “Mountain of Silence” and connected Bible Studies.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY
10:30-11:45
Every Wednesday
We will be Studying the book “Mountain of Silence” and connected Bible Studies.
All Are Welcome!

YOUTH EPISTLE READERS
Nov 2 - Panayiota Veronis
(Galatians 6:11-18 - page 147)
Nov 9 - Lily Mueller
(1 Corinthians 1:18-24 - page 148-49)
Nov 16 - Hanna Kunkel
(Galatians 2:16-20 - page 151)
Nov 23 - Theodora Veronis
(2 Corinthians 9:6-11 - page 93)
Nov 30 - Maria Mironidis
(2 Corinthians 11:31-12:9 - page 95)
Dec 7 - Olivia Neslusan
(Galatians 2:16-20 - page 98)
Dec 14 - Smaranda Cojocaru
(Galatians 1:11-19 page 97)
Dec 21 - Maia Beaudry
(Ephesians 2:4-10 page 102)

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:
Nov 2 and 30 - Kathy Bilis, Marie Monroe, Carolyn Niemeck, Deb Raymond, Charlotte Neslusan
Nov 9 - Thomai Gatsogiannis, Stephanie Quill, Betty Tonna, Kiku Andersen
Nov 16 - Marie McNally, Christa Benoit, Sandi Kunkel, Mary Seferi
Nov 23 - Donna Cooney, Athena Cooney, Leah DiDonato, Bill Anthopoulos, Jaime Ross
Remembering Our Church Family

**Important Dates in NOVEMBER:**

Try to make a visit, give a call, or express your congratulations to our Church Family members who celebrate special days during this month.

**BIRTHDAYS:**
- Nov 4 Despina Condos
- Nov 6 Natalie Megas
- Nov 8 Stella Pappas
- Nov 10 Christopher Grzyb
- Nov 10 Logan Mueller
- Nov 13 Charlotte Neslusan
- Nov 13 Victoria McNally
- Nov 14 Ann Chito
- Nov 15 Georgia Beland
- Nov 15 Victor Enache
- Nov 18 Spiro Pappas
- Nov 20 Said Khozami
- Nov 21 Peter George
- Nov 22 Alexandra Koulax
- Nov 27 Chris Constantine
- Nov 30 Leah Didonato
- Nov 30 James Pappas

**NAMEDAYS:**
- Nov 8 Archangel Michael
  - Michael Angelo
  - Michael Chito
  - Michael Belanger
- Nov 11 St. Menas & St Victor
  - Michel (Mina) Pappas
  - Victoria McNally
- Nov 16 St. Matthew
  - Matt Benoit
  - Matt Neslusan
  - Matthew Weiss
  - Matthew Zhuk
- Nov 25 St. Catherine
  - Katerina Beland
  - Kathy Bilis
  - Catherine Jordanoglou
  - Kathy Kunkel
  - Katerina McWilliams
  - Katie Mironides
  - Katerina Quill

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:**
- Nov 6 Christie & Helen Constantine
- Nov 10 Chris and Joan Geotis
- Nov 19 Arthur & Kathy Bilis
- Nov 19 Sandi & Gerry Kunkel
- Nov 24 Tom and Mary Baxter
- Nov 27 Eric & Katerina Beland

As Many as have been baptized in Christ, have put on Christ. Alleluia

**Congratulations to Grace Nicole, the daughter of Arthur & Sara Darligannis, on her baptism, and her godmother Anna!**
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY NOV 16TH

How has God blessed you in your life? How does God expect us to use the blessings He has given us? Do we receive God’s gifts simply to enjoy them for ourselves - to keep them, invest them, use them for our own pleasure and the pleasure of our family?

According to Holy Scriptures, Jesus gives us a very different challenge and vision. He tells His followers that all we have - materially, spiritually, intellectually, socially - are special gifts from God, and we are STEWARDs of these gifts. A steward was one who was in charge of his master’s possessions. The good steward would take care of these possessions, and do with them according to his master’s desire.

Our Lord and Master is Jesus Christ. He is the Source of life and Giver of all good things we possess. As our Master, He reminds us that He has given us all we have, expecting us to use our blessings to support His Church and to help others. Yes, we can enjoy the gifts God gives us, but we enjoy them all the more when we are spreading His Good News to the world around us, and sharing them with others, especially with those who in need.

On November 16th, we celebrate Stewardship Sunday in our Church. This is the day we ask all the members of our Church Family to reflect on how they wisely use the gifts God has given them, and make a commitment to support God’s Church and the ministries we do through this Church to glorify His name!

Please prayerfully reflect on your own stewardship, and strive to make a greater commitment to supporting Christ’s Church and His ministries!

We’ve collected $81,311 in Stewardship as of Oct 1st. Please help us reach our 2014 goal of $106,000 in stewardship.

If you have not given towards stewardship this year, or if you have not fulfilled your pledge, please do so this month!

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY is on November 16. We hope every member of our Church Family will make a pledge, according to how God has blessed them, to support the Church’s ministry and work!

A rich man is not one who has much but one who gives much. For what he gives away remains his forever.

St. John Chrysostom
**HOLY SCRIPTURE ON THANKSGIVING**

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him and bless His name, for the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations.

*Psalm 100:4-5*

“In everything gives thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

1 Thessalonians 5:18

O Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, His steadfast love endures forever.

*Psalm 136:1*

“Were there not 10 lepers cleansed? Where are the other nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except for this foreigner?”

*(When only one of 10 healed lepers returned to Jesus to offer thanks. Luke 17:17-18)*

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**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

**November**

**Nov 1** 1 Corinthians 12:27-31; 13:1-8, Matt 10:1, 5-8


**Nov 3** Colossians 2:13-20, Luke 11:29-33


**Nov 5** Colossians 3:17-25; 4:1, Luke 11:42-46

**Nov 6** Hebrews 8:1-6, Luke 12:8-12

**Nov 7** Colossians 4:10-18, Luke 12:2-12

**Nov 8** Hebrews 2:2-10, Luke 10:16-21


**Nov 12** 2 Corinthians 9:6-11, Matt 5:14-19

**Nov 13** Hebrews 7:26-28; 8:1-2, John 10:9-16

**Nov 14** 1 Corinthians 4:9-16, John 1:43-51


**Nov 16** Mt 28:16-20, Roma10:11-21; 11:1-2, Mt 9:9-13

**Nov 17** 1 Corinthians 12:7-11, Luke 14:1, 12-15


**Nov 19** 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12 Luke 15:1-10


**Nov 25** Galatians 3:23-29; 4:1-5, Mark 5:24-34

**Nov 26** 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12, Luke 18:15-17, 26-30


**Nov 29** Galatians 1:3-10, Luke 10:19-21

**Nov 30** 1 Corinthians 4:9-16, John 1:35-52
Thank You to those who sponsor our monthly bulletin!

If you would like to place an ad and support our monthly bulletin, please contact Fr. Luke or the Church Office.

$200/year or $20/month.

Robert J. Miller, Inc.
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ROBERT J. MILLER  Toll Free 866-360-0045
Funeral Director  Fax (508) 943-3163
Email: miller.funerals@verizon.net  www.rjmillerfunerals.net

Sitkowski and Malboeuf
Funeral Home
340 School Street
Webster, MA 01570
508-943-1515

Roland P. Malboeuf, Funeral Director
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**Notes:**
- **8 Holy Archangels:**
  - 6:30am Bible Study
  - 8:45 Matins 9:30 Liturgy
  - 6:00 Church Dinner Dance
- **Christmas Fast Begins:**
  - 8:45 Matins 9:30 Liturgy
- **St. John Chrysostom:**
  - 8:45 Matins 9:30 Liturgy
- **Entrance of Theotokos:**
  - 8:45 Matins 9:30 Liturgy
- **Happy Thanksgiving!**
  - 8:45 Matins 9:30 Liturgy
  - 9:30-12:30 Retreat with Dr. Kyriacos Markidis
  - 5:30 Vespers
The Pilgrims made seven times more graves than huts. No Americans have been more impoverished than these who, nevertheless, set aside a Day of Thanksgiving.

H.U. Westermayer

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H.U. Westermayer

Gratitude is a sign of a noble soul

Aesop

Gratitude ... goes beyond the "mine" and "thine" and claims the truth that all of life is a pure gift. In the past I always thought of gratitude as a spontaneous response to the awareness of gifts received, but now I realize that gratitude can also be lived as a discipline. The discipline of gratitude is the explicit effort to acknowledge that all I am and have is given to me as a gift of love, a gift to be celebrated with joy

Henri J. M. Nouwen

Some people complain because God put thorns on roses, while others thank Him for putting roses among thorns."

Anonymous

“Thanksgiving Day comes, once a year; yet to the honest person it comes as frequently as the heart of gratitude will allow.”

Edward Sandford Martin

“You say, 'If I had a little more, I should be very satisfied.' You make a mistake. If you are not content with what you have, you would not be satisfied if it were doubled. Learn to be grateful.

Charles Spurgeon

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“You make a living by what you get. But you make a life by what you give.”

Anonymous

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