CELEBRATING is a fundamental characteristic of the Christian life. We live in the light of our Lord’s Resurrection and His victory over Satan, sin and death itself. Of course, the final victory over evil won’t be complete until the Second Coming of Christ. Yet, we can still rejoice and celebrate here and now because we know that His ultimate victory will indeed come! Therefore, armed with this faith and knowledge of our Lord’s triumph, our lives should always be filled with eternal joy!

There are many ways we can celebrate and express the joy of our Lord. As we begin a NEW ECCLESIASTICAL YEAR on September 1, we remember the many liturgical feasts and fasts which complete our Church calendar. This month of September holds two important moments when we celebrate the NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS on Sept. 8 and the ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS on Sept. 14.

Of course, the highest form of celebration comes when we gather before the Throne of God and worship Him as the Almighty Lord in the Divine Liturgy every Sunday! He invites us to His heavenly banquet table and offers the life-giving mysteries of Holy Communion! What a privilege to participate in a heavenly celebration with the angels and all God’s saints at such a feast!

A more earthly form of celebration can come through our times of gathering together as a loving Church Family. Whenever we come together in the name of our Lord, we know that He is there with us, and thus, we can celebrate! A very special time to witness our Church Family celebrating is at our ANNUAL CHURCH FESTIVAL. Our Festival is a wonderful time of Christian fellowship and stewardship. We come together to eat and drink, to dance and discuss, to work and offer a witness of love to our surrounding community.

What a joy it is to see our entire Church Family come out and help make our Festival such a success year after year. Each year, visitors will comment about what a wonderful day of celebration our Festival is! And the many people who
Sts. Constantine and Helen
Greek Orthodox Church
37 Lake Parkway, PO Box 713
Webster, MA 01570
Church Telephone: (508) 943-8361  website: www.schwebster.org
Facebook: St Constantine Helens (Church)
Church Office Hours: Monday, Fridays 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

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

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

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

Father Luke A. Veronis
Telephone: (508) 949-7623 (h)  (774) 230-6985 (cell)
email: veronis@verizon.net

2014 PARISH COUNCIL
President: Lisa Healy
Vice President: Garry Ross
Secretary: Lorna McWilliam
Treasurers: Nick Popiak,
            Cynthia Johnson
Members:
Victor Apostolou, Leah DiDonato,
Chris Geotis, Sandi Kunkel,
Del Monroe, Mary Papageorge,
Helen Pappas, Deborah Raymond

PHILOPTOCHOS
President: Evelyn Pappas
Vice President: Elizabeth Vriga
Secretary: Marie McNally
Treasurer: Sandi Kunkel
Church Secretary: Jaime Ross

Festival Chair: Joey Gliniecki,
               Cynthia Johnson, Garry Ross

Cantor: Demetrios Milios
Choir Directors: Tony and Nike Beaudry
Greek Dance Group: Nike Beaudry
Sunday School Teachers:
Sophia Foisy, Anesti Jordanoglou, Evis Jordanoglou, Amber Kelly, Kristina Mironidis,
Pauline Mueller, Presbytera Faith Veronis
Youth: Pres Faith Veronis
Seminarians: Brian and Mari McMullen,
Jen Cowles, Theophani Damaniakis
Ecclesiarch: Bill Anthopoulos,
Bookstore: Lorna McWilliams
Sexton: Pres. Tammy Cremeens
LET’S CELEBRATE

Continued from Front Cover

offer their time and talents, especially the Festival Committee which has been offering their time since the Spring, are a great example of “good and faithful stewards” to their beloved Church.

I want to encourage everyone who has any connection to our Sts. Constantine and Helen Church Family to please come out on September 6-7 and support our festival. Support it by volunteering and working on these two busy days. You can look on page 8-9 for people to contact about working at our festival. Support our Festival as well by encouraging family, friends and neighbors to come and enjoy the celebration here!

During this past summer, our Church Family has had other special moments of celebration. You can look on page 10 to see pictures of our VACATION CHURCH CAMP, which is always a highlight of our youth ministry each year! Each night of this week of faith, fun and fellowship 70-80 youth, teens and parents participated. We thank Presbytera Faith and her entire staff, as well as all the parents for helping make this another memorable summer camp for our children!

Another celebration occurred during our PROJECT MEXICO MISSION, which we highlighted in last month’s bulletin. Thank God, our 20 member team celebrated in another country and across cultures with the Project Mexico staff and the wonderful family of Maritsa and Julio.

When it comes to celebrating and rejoicing in the name of the Lord, sometimes it is important for the followers of Jesus to learn exactly what this means, especially in a liturgical setting. Our Orthodox Christian faith is like a priceless treasure chest; and yet to open this treasure chest and discover the riches within, we need guidance & help.

Thus, as we begin our new Church year, I want to remind everyone to please take advantage of the opportunities to learn “how to celebrate in the Lord.” For example, on Sunday, Sept. 14 we will have a TEACHING LITURGY, where I will stop the Liturgy at different times and explain exactly what is happening. I will also remind the worshippers how they can participate more and thus, get more out of the service.

We will also restart our WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY on Wednesday and Saturday mornings. This is a great opportunity to read the Holy Scriptures and better understand what the Word of God teaches us. In conjunction with our Bible Study, we will be reading the book *The Mountain of Silence* by Dr. Kyriakos Markidis, a professor from the Univ. of Maine, who will be coming to speak at our Christmas Retreat in November. Come and celebrate our faith by joining one of these groups.

We will also be starting up a new AGAPE FELLOWSHIP GROUP, which will meet each month in the home of one of our parishioners. This month we will meet in the home of Lisa and Dan Healy on Friday, Sept. 26th (see page 13).

For our youth and children, we will begin our regular SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM on September 14. Please try to bring your children regularly to Church at the start of the Divine Liturgy at 9:30am. We will also welcome Brian and Mari McMullen, who will be serving as our new youth directors. With them, we will have some new youth programs for the Fall.

One final Church group that will start up its Fall season is the WOMEN’S PHILOPTOCHOS. They will kick off their new year in October. We hope that all the women of our Church will come and participate in this philanthropic arm of the Church.

Let’s make this year a year of celebration!

With love in our Lord Jesus Christ,

+Luke
WHY BELIEVE IN JESUS?
Adapted from Nicky Gumbel’s “Why Jesus”

What’s Christianity all about? Well, it’s about relationships. They are the most important aspect of our lives - our relationships with our parents, our spouses, our boyfriend or girlfriend, our children, our grandchildren, our friends, and so on.

Christianity is first and foremost about relationships rather than rules. It is about a Person more than a philosophy. It is about the most important relationship of all—our relationship with the God who made us. Jesus said that the first and greatest commandment is to love God. The second is to love our neighbor. Thus, Christ taught us life is all about our loving relationships with God and with others.

You and I were created to live in a vibrant, healthy relationship with God. Until we find that relationship, there will always be something missing in our lives. As a result, we are often aware of a gap. One rock singer described it by saying, “I’ve got an emptiness deep inside.”

People try to fill this emptiness in various ways. Some try to close the gap with money, but that does not satisfy. Aristotle Onassis, who was one of the richest men in the world, said at the end of his life, “Millions do not always add up to what a person needs out of life.”

Others try drugs, or excess alcohol, or sexual promiscuity. One girl said to me, “These things provide instant gratification, but they leave you feeling hollow afterwards.” Still others try finding satisfaction through hard work, entertainment, sports or some vision of success. There may not be anything wrong with these in themselves, but they do not satisfy that hunger deep inside every human being.

Even the closet human relationships, wonderful though they are, do not in themselves satisfy this “emptiness deep within.” St. Augustine summarized this best when he wrote, “Our souls will remain restless until they rest in God.”

According to the New Testament, the reason for this emptiness is that we have turned our backs on God. Jesus said, ‘I am the bread of life” (John 6:35). He is the only one who can satisfy our deepest hunger because he is the one who makes it possible for our relationship with God to be restored.

Our souls will remain restless until they rest in God.
St Augustine

Christ satisfied our hunger for meaning and purpose in life. At some point, everyone asks the question, “What am I doing on earth?” or “Why am I here?” As Albert Camus once said, “Man cannot live without meaning.”

Until we are living in a healthy relationship with God, we will never find the true meaning and purpose of life. Other things may provide passing satisfaction, but will not last. Only in a relationship with our Creator do we find the true meaning and purpose of our lives.

1) Christ gives meaning to this life, and satisfies our hunger for life beyond death. Before I was a Christian, I did not like to think about the subject of death. My own death seemed a long way in the future. I did not know what would happen and I did not want to think about it. I was failing to face up to reality. The fact is, though, we all will die. Yet God has “set eternity in the human
heart” (Ecclesiastes 3:11). Most people do not want to
die. We long to survive beyond death. Only in Jesus
Christ do we find eternal life. For our relationship with
God, which starts here and now, survives death and
goes into eternity. Divine love never ends.

2) Christ satisfied our hunger for forgiveness. If we
are honest, we have to admit that we do things we
know are wrong. Sometimes we do things of which we
are deeply ashamed. More than that, there is a self-
centeredness about our lives which spoils them. Jesus
said, “What comes out of you is what makes you un-
clean. For from within, our of your hearts, comes evil
thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery,
greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arro-
gance, and folly. All these evils come from inside and
make you unclean.” (Mark 7:20-23).

Our greatness need is for forgiveness. Just as someone
who has cancer needs a doctor, whether they realize it
or not, so we need forgiveness whether we realize it or
not. Just as with cancer, those who recognized their
need are far better off than those who are lulled into a
false sense of security.

Through His death on the Cross, Jesus made it possi-
ble for us to be forgiven and brought back into a
healthy relationship with God. By His resurrection
and victory of over Satan, sin and death itself, He sup-
plied the answer to our deepest need.

We have all sinned (i.e. we all have broken our rela-
tionship with God) and fallen short of the glory of
God. The result of the things we do wrong is that we
are cut off from the source of life, we have severed our
relationship with God. Through Christ’s life, death
and resurrection, He has granted us a path of freedom
and an opportunity for a new life. He has freed us
from any fear of evil or death. He has freed us from
any addiction or passion that controls us. He has freed
us from anything that hinders our path to truly and in-
timately know God. He has freed us with His divine
love, and taught us how to love with a divine love. We
are set free to live a life of love centered around
loving and serving Christ, and loving and serv-
ing others, even our enemies.

Ultimately, Jesus has freed us to live a new life
in Him. The Good News is that with the help of
God, all things are possible. We are a “new crea-
tion” in Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit gives us
the power and inspiration to live lives filled with
“love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,
faithfulness, humility, and self-control.

So God offers us a chance for a new life—a life
full of meaning and purpose, a life graced with
mercy and forgiveness, a life with freedom and
love, a life inspired and directed by His Holy
Spirit. All this is a gift from God, but each one of
us have a choice to accept or reject
this new life.

What will you do? May we each renew our com-
mitment to Christ and find a life of meaning and
purpose.
Twenty six years ago, I experienced one of the most amazing, spiritually moving moments in my life. As a 15 year old, I attended a week at the Metropolis of Pittsburgh Camp Nazareth in Mercer, PA. I was living in Florida at the time, but every summer I would come back home to spend a week at camp. At this point, I had been going to Camp Nazareth for about four or five years, and every year this was the best week of the year! It resulted in building new friendships, reconnecting with old friends, and creating memories that would last a lifetime.

Some of you may have heard of the Miracle of the Weeping Icon of the Panayia in Cabin 3 at Camp Nazareth in 1988. As a camper and a young adult, the Lord blessed me with an experience that has stayed with me throughout my life. Witnessing a “Crying Icon” as a teenager was overwhelming. The ability of a young person to truly grasp the after-effects of a miracle is difficult and almost impossible to verbalize. At such a tender age, our adult identities are being formed. The Panayia allowed me to be touched by her tears as my pathway to adulthood began.

I attended Camp Nazareth a total of ten years, and was able to serve as a counselor once in my mid-twenties. After many life changes and moves around the country, I moved back to Pittsburgh in my mid-thirties. I was asked to serve as a counselor and come back to Camp Nazareth, even though it seemed a bit odd to serve with so many other younger counselors. I had spent 10 years counseling at different church camps, and I was now older than most of my counterparts. I loved witnessing to young people, however, and thus felt compelled to join the GOYANS from Holy Cross who were going to Camp this year.

Camp Nazareth is a part of who I am. It was like going home. The spiritual nourishment and rejuvenation was something I desperately needed. Someone once asked me, “What does Camp mean to you?” I thought that was an easy question, but the words don’t come so easily. I believe that Camp Nazareth is the closest we can get to heaven on earth. A place where everyday life is put on hold, all our thoughts and efforts are directed towards spiritual purity.

Well, I went to Camp this year very excited. When we arrived, we heard that another “Crying Icon” would be visiting Camp later in the week. The icon Kardiotissa, meaning “The Tender Hearted” was an icon painted at the Holy Protection Monastery in the Poconos, PA and resided at St. George Church in Taylor, PA. Two years ago this icon was anointed with myrrh from another “crying icon” from Hawaii. Well, for the past year and a half, this Kariotissa icon has been streaming myrrh. Not just a little oil coming from the icon, but it is actually dripping with myrrh!

The week at Camp began to take on a new spirit knowing that we were soon to be blessed with the presence of the Panayia in a very special way. A spiritual buzz started among the campers in anticipation for the icon’s arrival on Thursday. The entire evening program was designed around venerating and honoring the Panayia. Around 5pm, I was standing by the bath house when one of the counselors looked at me and said, “Can you smell that?”

I began to smell a beautiful, sweet fragrance, similar to the one I remember from 26 years ago. The smell was fresh, clean and pure, something indescribable. It came from the icon!

The icon arrived and the Panayia made her presence felt immediately. The bell rang and the entire camp was summoned to the pavilion to sing the hymn “Rejoice, O Unwedded Bride.” Everyone was filled with deep emotion as we knew that she was with us at that very moment. As we moved
into the chapel, the aroma of myrrh enveloped our souls and senses. Some began to shed tears of joy and amazement, while others looked on with complete awe. One by one the campers were overtaken by emotion, as you could literally feel the Panayia and the Holy Spirit reaching out and touching the hearts of everyone. The Paraklesis service began and finished with beautiful hymns honoring the Blessed Mother of God. What an incredible scene to witness!

As the service concluded, Fr. Mark Leisure of St. George brought the senior campers to the front of the chapel and opened the casing of the icon. Fr. Mark allowed the myrrh to drip from the icon onto the palms of each camper, as everyone stood in complete awe and humility. The faces of these campers is something I’ll never forget. Their lives were changed instantly… forever! The Panayia showed herself to them, and touched their futures, as she did with me 26 years ago!

At this point, Fr. Mark began to answer questions, and share stories revealing the miracles that have taken place with the Panayia and this icon. He shared stories of people healed from cancer, disabled being made whole, doubters coming to faith, even of a Muslim man who heard about the icon and came to his Church to prove that the miracle was a fraud, yet instead left the church in tears, confessing faith in Jesus Christ!

There was love in the air as the campers, one by one, triumphantly sang “Rejoice O Unwedded Bride” and venerated the icon. I have never heard such enthusiasm while singing. The voices soared as the last camper approached. Each and every camper, counselor, staff and clergy had the opportunity to open their hearts and embrace her. The candles flickered wildly, fire flies flew around the flames, and the banner representing the Panayia and her child flapped and billowed as if a gust of wind were traversing the room.

You could literally feel the Panayia’s presence, as she reached out to every one of her children, touching their hearts. As I approached her, knowing I needed her guidance, I wept uncontrollably as I was cleansed by her love.

I spotted my nephew crying, and we embraced and hugged in a way I had never hugged my nephew before. Whatever block that had been there before had been lifted and we were bonded by the miracle of the Panayia’s love. He looked at me and said, “I saw Djedo,” describing my deceased father, singing with the Panayia. I broke into tears as I remembered my father’s last words to me - “Remember son, I can do more for you from up there than I could ever do for you down here.”

There were tears everywhere, but not tears of sadness, but tears of joy, love, hope and faith. My shirt was drenched with the tears of my brothers and sisters in Christ. It didn’t matter the age, the status in the church or in life, everyone felt the same overpowering love that the Panayia blessed us with. As the evening came to a close, everyone was touched in one way or another.

Experiencing something this beautiful is quite extraordinary, and has impacted my life forever, as I’m sure it has done for everyone blessed to have been there. The heavenly experience is similar to the experience that I had 26 years ago, and which still inspires me today!

Our Church will be taking a trip to see this “Crying Icon” on Oct 4-5. See Fr. Luke for details.
THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS

The one who forgives always wins. Whatever the occasion may be, if you forgive, you immediately cleanse your soul and become fit for paradise. If you have forgiven those who plotted to murder you, you have become equal to the martyrs. If you have forgiven an insult, you have gained peace and won the Kingdom of Heaven. If you have generously overlooked the rumors and slanders against you, you have dulled the sting of your foe. If you have returned good for evil, you have shamed your enemy. If you have swallowed a sarcastic insult to your honor, you have become worthy of heavenly honors. If you have asked the pardon of a lesser man, you have not only NOT disgraced yourself, but you have furthered your spiritual maturity. If you are not to blame but ask the offender to forgive you, you have thus helped his soul to be delivered from the hell of hatred and have covered many of your own sins too. If you have abased your pride, you have exalted your humility.

Archimandrite Seraphim Aleksiev

THE ONION THAT COULD SAVE

Fyodor Dostoyevski

‘Once upon a time there was a peasant woman and a very wicked woman she was. And she died and did not leave a single good deed behind. The devils caught her and plunged her into the lake of fire. So her Guardian Angel stood and wondered what good deed of hers he could remember to tell to God so that he could help her.

‘She once pulled up an onion in her garden,’ said the Angel, ‘and gave it to a woman begging for help.’ Thus God answered, ‘Take that onion then, give it to her in the lake of fire, and let her take hold and be pulled out. And if you can pull her out of the lake, let her come to Paradise, but if the onion breaks, then the woman must stay where she is.’

The angel flew to the woman and held out the onion to her. ‘Come,’ said he, ‘Take hold and I’ll pull you out.’ And he began cautiously pulling her out of her misery. He had just pulled her right out, when the other sinners in the lake, seeing how she was being drawn out, began holding onto her leg so as to be pulled out with her. But when she saw the others benefiting from her good fortune, she began kicking at them, saying, ‘This is MY onion! I’m to be pulled out, not you! It’s MY onion, not yours! Get away from me!’

As soon as she said these words, the onion broke. And the woman fell back into the lake and she is burning there to this day. So the angel wept and went away.
**PARISH COUNCIL**

**PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

"Do you hear what I hear?"

Last night my husband and I were talking…which for us and our busy lives, is a blessing to find the time for a conversation that is more than just hello and good bye. Our conversation focused on the Church and mainly on the lesson from the Gospel readings and sermons.

How many of us walk out of Church and forget everything we hear? It’s easy to do this in today’s world. There are a million things that come charging our way. I’ve been trying to keep the Gospel lessons in the front of my mind, and remind myself throughout the week. Sometimes, I’ll reread the Sunday bulletin or Fr Luke’s email with his sermon attached.

When an opportunity comes, I try to share those lessons with others. At times, it’s accepted and appreciated. Other times, it’s not accepted and an awkward feeling comes over me because I don’t understand why people reject the teachings of our Lord. I realize it’s their choice, but I feel sorry that they are missing that “something extra special” in their life.

What I find even harder is making our children realize the value of our faith. When they are young, it’s easy, as teenagers and young adults, it’s much harder. Outside influences play a huge role in taking away what parents have taught. As my sons get older, I discuss this with them more often than not. Although they go to Church (not nearly as often as I want), I hope and pray they are listening and taking with them the lesson of the day.

At the end of the conversation with my husband, the Christmas carol, “Do you hear what I hear” came into my mind. I thought of the last line of the song, “He will bring us goodness and light.” This says it all!

On another note, thank you all for helping with the festival preparations. I realize the hard work and amount of time that goes into these preparations. Without you, our festivals would not be a success. Please know you are appreciated! Many Blessings to all those that are celebrating a special event this month.

Let all you do be done in Love,

Lisa Healy
Parish Council President
Opa!!!
Greek Festival 2014!
11am-9pm Sat, Sept 6th & 11am-6pm Sun 7th

BUY A FESTIVAL BANNER
Buy a $100 Banner that will be hung up inside the Festival Tent.
You can buy a banner to greet the community from your family, or put it in memory of a loved one.

SEND IN YOUR GIFT RAFFLE TICKETS
($5 each or Book of 5 for $20)

PRIZES:
1st – 50’ Flat Screen TV
2nd – Bose Radio and CD
3rd – 7” Galaxy Tablet
4th—$300 Gift Certificate

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!
Please volunteer for as many hours as you can on the weekend of the Festival!
We also need people to help in the preparations and the clean up afterwards. Don’t wait to be asked, but contact Mary Papageorge (508-272-8763)

PASTRY DROP-OFF
Friday, Sept 5 BEFORE 2pm

THEMATIC BASKETS
Contact Evelyn Pappas (508-259-5453) or Sandi Kunkel (508-943-7227) about making a thematic basket or donating towards a basket.

CENTER TABLE
Please bring in items for the Center Table. A basket is in the Narthex and Church Hall for food items and non-perishable goods. Contact Dhimitra Adamopoulos or Celia Milios with any questions.
OUR GREEK DANCERS

Our youth Greek Dance Troupe will perform traditional dances on Saturday, 2:30 and 5:30 and Sunday at 2:30

LIVE GREEK MUSIC with “ARION”
Saturday 2:00 - 9:00pm
Sunday 12:00-5:00pm

Festival Times:
11am - 9pm
Saturday, Sept 6
11am - 6pm
Sunday, Sept 7

MOUTH-WATERING LOUKOUMADES AND PASTRIES!!!

 Invite your Neighbors and Friends to come!!!

GIFT SHOP & BOOK STORE
Traditional Greek Items, Jewelry, Religious Books, and more!!!

GREEK “KAFENEIO” COFFEE SHOP
Try our “Baklava Sundays”, Greek Delicious Souvlaki, Gyros and Greek Food!

CHILDREN’S BOOTH & BOUNCING HOUSE
All Day Saturday and Sunday

TENT SET-UP
Come Tue, Wed, Thur, or Fri Before the Festival to Help!!!

CLEAN UP
We need help on Monday AFTER the Festival!
Tubing on the Lake
Metropolis of Boston Camp

This year we had 17 youth from our Church, from among the 650 throughout the Metropolis who participated in this camp!

4TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Thank You to the Tournament Organizers - Arthur Bilis, Victor Apostolou, Cindy Johnson, Sandi Kunkel and Lisa Healy - and to the 62 golfers and 21 sponsors. This tournament raised around $3500 for our Church.
UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS
Mark Your Calendar!

OCT 4-5: VISIT TO THE “CRYING ICON” in Taylor, PA and Holy Protection Monastery

Oct 25 - PROJECT MEXICO NIGHT
Fr. Nicholas and Pres. Merilynn Andruchow, the Associate Director of Project Mexico and St. Innocent Orphanage, will give a presentation at our church at 6:30pm

Nov 1st
“PARENTS NIGHT OUT” DINNER DANCE

Nov 22 - CHRISTMAS RETREAT with best selling author and U Maine Prof. DR. KYRIAKOS MARKIDIS, the author of the books Mountain of Silence, Gifts of the Desert, and Inner River

WEEKDAY SERVICES

DIVINE LITURGIES (9:30am)
Sept 8 - Nativity of Theotokos
Sept 17 - St Sophia
Sept 26 - St John Evangelist

PARACLESIS SERVICE & HOLY OIL for HEALING
6:30pm Wednesdays
Sept 10, 17, 24 Oct 1

SATURDAY VESPERS (5:30pm)
Sept 13, 20, Oct 4

Come to our New “AGAPE” Fellowship Group
Everyone Is Invited to this gathering of Friends Sharing in Fellowship, Study and Learning.
We will discuss relevant topics connected to our everyday lives.
6:30pm Friday, Sept 26
At the Home of Lisa and Dan Healy
USHERS & GREETERS SCHEDULE

Sept 7
Marie McNally, Eric Beland, Matt Benoit, Zach Gianaris, Lisa Healy, Nick Seferi

Sept 14
Neal Neslusan, Betty Vriga, Leah Didonato, Gus Koulax, Cindy Johnson, Jared Quill

Sept 21
Chris Constantine, Barbara Gianaris, Deb Raymond, Dan Rivelli, Alex Seferi

Sept 28
Arthur Bilis, Del Monroe, Chris Geotis, Thomai Gatzogianis, Trish Laurea

YOUTH EPISTLE READERS

Sept 7- Panayiota Veronis
(Galatians 6:11–18 - page 147)

Sept 14 - Lily Mueller
(1 Corinthians 1:18-24 - page 148-49)

Sept 21 - Hanna Kunkel
(Galatians 2:16-20 - page 151)

Sept 28 - Theodora Veronis
(2 Corinthians 9:6-11 - page 93)

Oct 5 - Maria Mironidis
(2 Corinthians 11:31–12:9 - page 95)

Oct 12 - Olivia Neslusan
(Galatians 2:16–20 - page 98)

Oct 19 - Smaranda Cojocaru
(Galatians 1:11-19 page 97)

Oct 26 - Maia Beaudry
(Ephesians 2:4-10 page 102)

EARLY RISERS BIBLE STUDY

6:30 am - 7:30 am
Saturday (Sept 13, 20, 27)
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
Wednesdays (Sept 10, 17, 24)
We will be Studying the book “Mountain of Silence” and connected Bible Studies.
All Are Welcome!

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:

Sept 14 - Thomai Gatsogiannis, Stephanie Quill, Betty Tonna, Kiku Andersen

Sept 21 - Marie McNally, Christa Benoit, Sandi Kunkel, Mary Seferi

Sept 28 - Donna Cooney, Athena Cooney, Leah DiDonato, Bill Anthopoulos, Jaime Ross

Oct 5 - Kathy Bilis, Marie Monroe, Carolyn Niemeck, Deb Raymond, Charlotte Neslusan
Remembering Our Church Family

**Important Dates in SEPTEMBER:**

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

**BIRTHDAYS:**

- Sept 1  Kiku Andersen
- Sept 8  Scott McWilliam
- Sept 9  Irene Mountzouris
- Sept 10 Helen Pappas
- Sept 10 Nick Popiak
- Sept 10 Kristina Mironidis
- Sept 11 Zachery Beaudry
- Sept 12 Evelyn Pappas
- Sept 12 Barbara Pappas
- Sept 15 John Neslusan
- Sept 16 Madison McWilliam
- Sept 16 Chuck Pappas
- Sept 18 Bob Mirandola
- Sept 22 Kathy Kunkel
- Sept 24 Jared Quill
- Sept 25 Marie McNally
- Sept 26 Olga Pappas
- Sept 26 Christos Atsales
- Sept 27 Diane Atsales
- Sept 28 Titi Chito
- Sept 28 James George
- Sept 29 Paul Veronis

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:**

- Sept 3  Lorna and Scott McWilliam
- Sept 6  Jared and Stephanie Quill
- Sept 9  Del and Marie Monroe
- Sept 12 Norman & Barbara Desrosiers

**NAMEDAYS:**

- Sept. 1  St. Antigone
  - Ann Chito
- Sept 5  Prophet Zacharias
  - Zach Giananis
  - Zach Giananis
- Sept 7  St Kassiane
  - Lorna Kassiane McWilliam
- Sept 14  Feast of the Cross
  - Laurie Stavroula Manthos
  - Stavros Pappas
  - Stephen Stavros Pappas
- Sept 17  St Sophia
  - Sophie Apostal
  - Sophia Foisy
  - Sophia Koukla
  - Sophia Quill
  - Sophie Talbot

**ORDINATION TO THE DIACONATE**

- Sept. 17  Fr. Luke Veronis

Happy 90th Birthday to Demetra Obrien
YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE

You are My Sunshine, My only Sunshine...’ Like any good mother, when Karen found out that another baby was on the way, she did what she could to help her 3-year-old son, Michael, prepare for a new sibling. They found out that the new baby was going to be a girl, and day after day, night after night, Michael sang to his sister in mommy's tummy. He was building a bond of love with his little sister before he even met her.

The pregnancy progressed normally for Karen. In time, the labor pains came. Soon it was every five minutes, every three, every minute. But serious complications arose during delivery and Karen found herself in hours of labor.

Would a C-section be required? Finally, after a long struggle, Michael's little sister was born. But she was in very serious condition. With a siren howling in the night, the ambulance rushed the infant to the neonatal intensive care unit at St. Mary's Hospital, Knoxville, Tennessee.

The days inched by. The little girl got worse. The pediatrician had to tell the parents there is very little hope. Be prepared for the worst. Karen and her husband contacted a local cemetery about a burial plot. They had fixed up a special room in their house for their new baby but now they found themselves having to plan for a funeral.

Michael however, kept begging his parents to let him see his sister. I want to sing to her, he kept saying. Week two in intensive care looked as if a funeral would come before the week was over. Michael kept nagging about singing to his sister, but kids are never allowed in Intensive Care. Karen decided to take Michael whether they liked it or not. If he didn't see his sister right then, he may never see her alive. She dressed him in an oversized scrub suit and marched him into ICU. He looked like a walking laundry basket.

The head nurse recognized him as a child and bellowed, 'Get that kid out of here now. No children are allowed!' The mother rose up strong in Karen, and the usually mild-mannered lady glared steel-eyed right into the head nurse's face, her lips a firm line. 'He is not leaving until he sings to his sister' she stated. Then Karen towed Michael to his sister's bedside. He gazed at the tiny infant losing the battle to live.

After a moment, he began to sing. In the pure-hearted voice of a 3-year-old, Michael sang:

'You are my sunshine, my only sunshine,
You make me happy when skies are gray.'

Instantly the baby girl seemed to respond. The pulse rate began to calm down and become steady.

'Keep on singing, Michael,' encouraged Karen with tears in her eyes.

'You never know, dear, how much I love you,
please don't take my sunshine away.'

As Michael sang to his sister, the baby's ragged, strained breathing became as smooth as a kitten's purr. 'Keep on singing, sweetheart.'

'The other night, dear, as I lay sleeping,
I dreamed I held you in my arms'

Michael's little sister began to relax as rest, healing rest, seemed to sweep over her. 'Keep on singing, Michael.' Tears had now conquered the face of the bossy head nurse. Karen glowed.

'You are my sunshine, my only sunshine. Please don't take my sunshine away.'

The next day...the very next day...The little girl was well enough to get out of ICU... She went home two weeks later. Woman's Day Magazine called it ‘The Miracle of a Brother's Song.” The medical staff just called it a miracle.

Karen called it a miracle of God's love.
THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS IN LIFE

A philosophy professor stood before his class with some items on the table in front of him. When the class began, wordlessly he picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it ...with rocks, about 2 inches in diameter.

He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

So the professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles, of course, rolled into the open areas between the rocks.

He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The professor picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else.

He then asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous “Yes.”

“Now,” said the professor, “I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The rocks are the important things – your family, your partner, your health, your children – things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full.

The pebbles are the other things that matter – like your job, your house, your car.

The sand is everything else. The small stuff.”

“If you put the sand into the jar first,” he continued “there is no room for the pebbles or the rocks. The same goes for your life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you. Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children, give lots of love and respect to your partner. There will always be time to go to work, clean the house, give a dinner party and fix the disposal.

Take care of the rocks first – the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand.”
SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS
September 14th
With a
“Teaching Divine Liturgy”
&
Our Youth Sunday

Sunday School
Classes Begin
September 21st

SUNDAY SCHOOL Kick-Off Events
HORSEBACK RIDING
following Divine Liturgy
Sunday, Sept. 21st

Canobie Lake Amusement Park
For the Older Classes

Look for our convenient
in the bottom left corner of our
Church webpage
www.schwebster.org

NURSING NEEDS?
If anyone in the parish needs help with taking their Medications, or Blood Pressure checked, please call our Church Nurse Nicoleta Cojocarou (774-452-1049) who can come to your house and help you.

UP TO DATE STEWARDS
We will give thanks to all our up-to-date Stewards of our Church in the October Bulletin.

Please make sure you have offered your stewardship pledge by the end of September so that we can include your name and thank you for supporting our beloved Church.
### HOLY SCRIPTURE

For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

*1 John 5:3-5*

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear.

*1 John 4:18*

We love Him because He first loved us. If someone says, “I love God and hates his brother or sister, he is a liar, for he who does not love his brother or sister whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother and sister also.

*1 John 19:21*

As He who called you is holy, you also must be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.”

*1 Peter 1:15-16*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

**SEPTEMBER**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading 1</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 1</td>
<td>1 Timothy 2:1-7</td>
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<td>2 Corinthians 8:16-9:5</td>
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<td>2 Corinthians 10:7-18</td>
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<td>2 Corinthians 11:5-21</td>
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<td>Galatians 3:23-4:5</td>
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<td>Galatians 4:8-21</td>
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<td>1 Corinthians 1:26-2:5</td>
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<td>Galatians 2:16-20</td>
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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.

Dudley - Auburn - Blackstone
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O God, give me the strength to live another day.
Let me not turn coward before its challenges or prove recreant to its duties.
Let me not lose faith in other people.
Keep me sweet and sound of heart, in spite of ingratitude, treachery, meanness, or insensitivity.
Preserve me from minding little stings, or giving them.
Help me to keep my heart pure and clean, living so honestly and fearlessly that no outward failure can dishearten me or take way the joy of conscious integrity.
Open wide the eyes of my mind and soul that I may see good in all things and in every person I meet.
Help me to bring out the divine beauty which is within each person.
Grant me this day some new understanding of your Truth & Good News.
Inspire me with the spirit of joy and gladness, and make me the cup of strength to suffering souls.
Guide me to live in a simple, sincere, and serene way, repelling every thought of discontent, anxiety, discouragement, impurity, and self-seeking.
Cultivate within me the spirit of love, cheerfulness, generosity, magnanimity, charity, and the habit of holy silence.
Instill in me economy in expenditure, generosity in giving, carefulness in conversation, and diligence in faithful service.
Help me to grow in childlike faith, directing me to be faithful in habits of prayer, work, study, exercise, and service to others.
I know I cannot achieve this with my own strength, or even hope to attempt it with success, so I look to You, O Lord God my Father, in Jesus my Savior, and through the Holy Spirit.
Amen.