



THE VINE

ST. DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH, 57 BROWN STREET, WESTON, MA 02493

FR. NICK'S MESSAGE

Humility

"Humility is a grace in the soul and with a name known only to those who have experience of it." ~St John of the Ladder

Dear Parishioners,

Our efforts during the Lenten season is to draw closer to God and control the many impulses that dominate our passions. Pride, for instance, does not allow us the ability to truly see ourselves as we really are and usually presents a distorted image of ourselves. Any effort to obtain some spiritual objectivity needs to have a correct view of oneself. In the world we usually obtain such a view from those around us, our culture and the various **secular** models of what we deem to be **desirable** and successful. Measuring ourselves against these often leads to places that do not fulfill our dreams, fill our hearts or bring us closer to Him that is the Way, the Truth and Life.

In our spiritual effort the goal is to have an accurate **image** of who we really are. To have this honest reading we must be interested in knowing the truth. This applies to everything in life but especially to truly knowing oneself. Humility is that virtue that can help us get there. Those who have attained this level of humility before God are called saints. They do not see themselves as saints because they compare themselves only to God and not to other human beings. They see how imperfect and **sinful** they are in comparison to God's Holiness, Righteousness and Grace. They acknowledge how unworthy they are compared to God's infinite love, are grateful that the Lord has bestowed upon them so many blessings and how He invites them to dwell within Him. Further, they would say, that anything they may have attained is not of their own doing but because of God's love, compassion, and holiness that has allowed them to accomplish. The result is not what the world teaches but what the Lord has said will be the result: joy, peace, gentleness and love.

If we wish to be close to God and to discern His will in our life then humility is a virtue we must strive to attain. Pride poisons every good action and, as St John of the Ladder reminds us in his great spiritual work of the same name, that *"where there is no humility, all is rotten"*. This is not easy to do especially in a world that seeks its own. A good beginning is to recognize that we need God in our lives, to repent and to be grateful for all we have. If such an attitude is present, our prayer will reflect the humility we seek. Rather than feeling we deserve the things we are constantly asking God for, we can begin by asking for His Mercy, His Forgiveness and His Holiness. Is this not, after all, the effort we are asked to make during this Holy season?

Let us deepen this desire that is before us to attain **true humility** by attending and listening to the prayers of the many services during this Lent. You will see that it is the spirit of humility that permeates the heart of this great virtue and that will make all other virtues possible.

Wishing you a fruitful remainder of the Lenten period as we anticipate a glorious Resurrection,

Fr Nick

Jesus said,
"I am the vine;
you are the
branches.

If a man remains
in me and I in him,
he will bear
much fruit."
(John 15:5)

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LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

SCHEDULE OF CHURCH SERVICES

SUNDAY SERVICES

ORTHOS, 8:30; DIVINE LITURGY, 9:30

April 3, Sunday of the Holy Cross

April 10, Sunday of St. John Climacus

April 17, Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt

April 24, Palm Sunday

May 1, Great and Holy Pascha, Divine Liturgy at Midnight

Agape Vespers, 11 am

MIDWEEK SERVICES (OUTSIDE OF HOLY WEEK SERVICES)

Great Compline, 6 pm

Monday's- April 4, 11, 18

Pre-Sanctified Liturgies, 6 pm

Wednesday, April 6 at Cathedral Chapel in Brookline

Wednesday, April 13 at St. Demetrios, Weston

Wednesday, April 20 at Taxiarchae in Watertown

Salutations to the Theotokos, 7 pm

Friday's- April 1, 8, 15

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE APRIL 24-MAY 1

Palm Sunday Evening, April 24

Bridegroom Service, 7 pm

Holy Monday, April 25

Bridegroom Service, 7 pm

Holy Tuesday, April 26

Bridegroom Service & Hymn of Kassiani, 7 pm

Holy Wednesday, April 27

Presanctified Liturgy, 9 am

Holy Unction (Afternoon), 3:30 pm

Holy Unction (Evening), 7 pm

Holy Thursday, April 28

Vesperal Liturgy (The Mystical Supper), 8 am

The Passion of our Lord (Reading of 12 Gospels), 7 pm

Holy Friday, April 29

The Royal Hours, 9 am

Apokathelosis (Taking down of Christ from the Cross), 3:30 pm

Epitaphios (The Lamentations), 7:30 pm

Holy Saturday, April 30

Divine Liturgy, 8 am

Great and Holy Pascha, May 1

The Resurrection of our Lord (Pascha) Vigil begins, 11pm

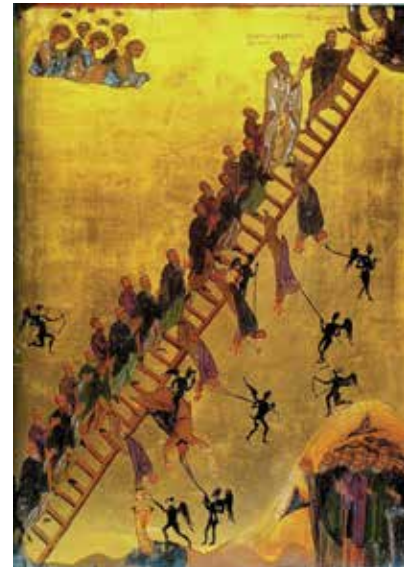
Agape Vespers, 11 am

LENTEN VISITS

If you have a homebound family member who would welcome a visit this Lenten season, please contact Fr. Nick or Fr. Vinnie before Holy Week to make arrangements.

HOLY CONFESSION

Like the Prodigal Son, we have all been away from God on some level, and it is time to "come home" to our Father who is loving, compassionate and forgiving. Holy Confession is a powerful way to examine our lives and reflect on our spiritual progress, especially during this Lenten season. Please make arrangements with Fr. Nick as soon as possible. Father will be hearing confessions until Holy Tuesday.



On March 30 and on the Fourth Sunday of Holy Lent the Orthodox Church commemorates our Righteous Father John Climacus. He is called Climacus due to his authorship of the great spiritual work *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*. His commemoration is designated by the Church on one of the Sundays of Lent as his life and writings affirm him as a supreme bearer and proponent of Christian asceticism. The ascetic example of this great Saint of the Church inspires us in our Lenten journey.



BUILDING ON OUR FAITH

IN YOUR MAIL THIS WEEK

All St. Demetrios parishioners will have received by mail a significant brochure that makes an important appeal to all of us to study carefully the gifts that are still available for donation

to our Building on our Faith project that has brought us our new and beautiful St. Demetrios Church.

Named gifts of important fixtures, both large and small, are

listed as a way for families or even affinity groups to join and make a lasting gift in their name that will be recognized for generations to come, but more importantly will serve our faith by either providing for the creation of items very much needed by our church, or to pay off those items that are in place already but to date uncommitted. Please, in the spirit of sacrificial giving, take some time with your family to review this stunning brochure with an eye towards identifying a gift that is right for you and your group.

In addition to the named gifts St. Demetrios needs your help in paying for the last few chairs that have not yet been committed. There are 54 chairs that have not been donated and for \$500 each. It is our fervent hope that many of the St. Demetrios faithful will either decide to take their first step by funding one or more chairs, or by taking an additional chair if they already have made a contribution.

Finally, some spaces in the building itself are not yet donated. Some are significant, others less costly, but no less important and in search for a caring donor.

For all these gifts, a pledge card and return envelope are included in your mailing. If you need additional materials, do not hesitate to contact Fr. Nick or Peter Bassett at the Church office.

Thank you! ~Peter Bassett



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Fr. Nicholas Krommydas, Presbyter
Fr. Vincent Minucci, Presbyter
Nicholas Korderas, Sexton
Gina Pagonis, Parish Council President
Athena Kalyvas, Philoptochos President

Bookstore, Carol Loridas
Choir, Genie Leussis, Chris Tzellas, Athena Kalyvas
Faith and Works Ministries

St. Demetrios Inner-City Outreach, Peter Mitsakos
St. Nicholas Angel Tree, Nancy Agris Savage

Hospitality/Fellowship Hour, St. Demetrios Philoptochos
Library, Cindi Dabrowski
Orthodox Life Series, James Skedros
Outreach and Evangelism, Stacey Kalivas
Philoptochos Care Ministries

Hellenic Nursing Home, Pam Brody
Prayer-Shawl, Elaine Ward
Quiltathon, Debbie Morakis
Visitations, Valerie Wiegel

Prosfora Ministry, Christina Booth
Senior Guild, Artemis Martakis
Stewardship, John McVey

YOUTH

Altar Service, Chris Kourlos
Basketball, Jack Markis
Church School, Stavroula Gurguliatos
Church School Music Director, Jane Kourtis

GOYA, Fr. Vincent Minucci
JR. GOYA, Jill Kovatsis
Greek Folk Dancing, Margaret Talmers
Greek Language School, Avra Parpos
HOPE, Diana Katsikaris
JOY, Fr. Vincent Minucci
OCF, Fr. Vincent Minucci
Young Professionals, Samuel Johnson



"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young..."

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

April	Second Grade Bulletin Board Display
April 3	Church School Classes; Church School Staff Mtg.
April 10	Church School Classes
April 17	Church School Classes
April 24	Palm Sunday – Family Worship
April 27	Holy Wednesday – Afternoon Epistle Readers
April 29	Holy Friday – Retreat; Flower Girls (2nd gr. in afternoon, 5th gr. in evening)
May 1	Pascha – Agape Service Readers-Family Worship

HOLY WEEK CHURCH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Saturday, April 23th- SATURDAY OF LAZARUS 9:00 am –Liturgy. Family Pancake Breakfast and Palm Making following. All Church School students and families are invited to prepare Palms for Palm Sunday Service.

Sunday, April 24th- PALM SUNDAY – Family Worship/No Classes

Middle and High School girls are invited to participate in the Mirofora procession. Please encourage your daughters to participate.

Wednesday, April 27th- HOLY WEDNESDAY

We need students to read the Epistle (4th grade and up) for the afternoon service.

Friday, April 29th- HOLY FRIDAY

- There will be a Church School student retreat 11:30-3:00 p.m. – Sign up by the Church entrance
- Second grade girls will participate in the afternoon procession.
- Fifth grade girls will participate in the evening procession.

Sunday, May 1st- PASCHA – AGAPE SERVICE – Family Worship/No Classes

We need foreign language readers (students and adults) to help read the Agape Service Gospel. Last year we were fortunate to have the Gospel read in Latin, Spanish, French, Arabic, German, and Chinese. If you are interested in reading a portion of the Gospel in a foreign language, please contact the Church School director, via email at stdemetrioschurchschool@verizon.net.

Oratorical Festival - The Junior/Senior Oratorical Festival was held on Sunday, March 13th. Thank you to the Oratorical Chairperson, Stacey Kourtis, for organizing the event. Congratulations to John Markis and Faith Cardozza (Senior Division) and Paul Vekiarides and James Markis (Junior Division) who took top place at the Parish level and will represent St. Demetrios at the District Level Festival on Saturday, April 16th.



YOUTH BASKETBALL



The Metropolis Basketball season concluded over the weekend of March 12th. Each of our Teams played very well, but overall victory escaped us this year.

The division champions this season were as follows:

JOY (Middle School) division - Arlington , Boys

GOYA (High School) – Lynn, Girls GOYA – Watertown.

Our boys GOYA division also recently participated in an Invitational Tournament hosted by Peabody. The competition included Parishes from as far away as Springfield. Our Boys lost a close semifinal game to Brockton, coming in 4th place overall. After the game, our boys and their families enjoyed a Team dinner at Brother's Kouzina in Peabody.

Although our season has come to a conclusion, we already look forward to next year. If your son, daughter, grandchild, niece or nephew wasn't able to participate this year, we hope they will sign up this September. This ministry is a great way for our youth to connect and build friendships with other Orthodox Christians that will last a lifetime.

Oratorical Festival



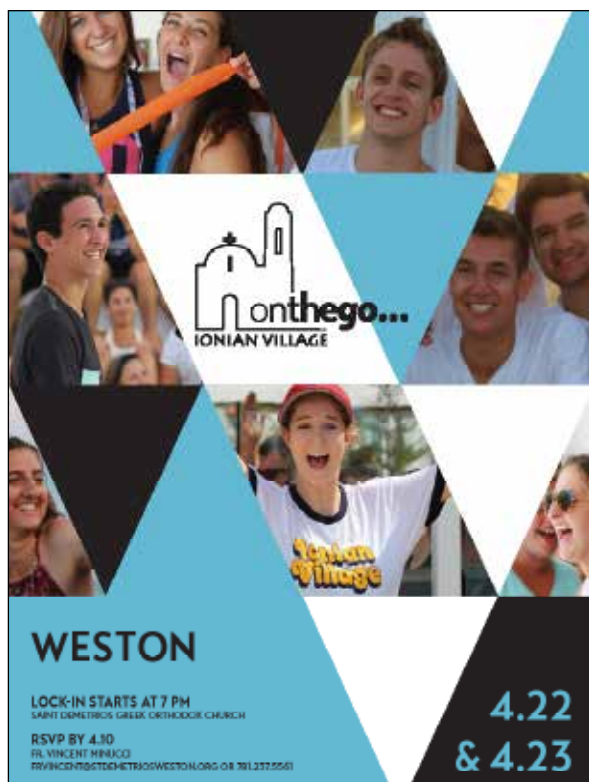
...but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity”
(1 Timothy 4:12)

YOUTH

GOYA

This month, GOYA started off the Lenten season with a movie night. We watched the Peanuts movie and had a great discussion afterward on Integrity, Holy Icons and the Sunday of Orthodoxy. Looking ahead into April, the youth choir will sing the Salutations to the Theotokos on April 8 and we will have the AMAZING opportunity of being a part of Ionian Village On the Go retreat! They will be coming to Weston to lead our annual lock-in on April 22nd. We will play games, have dinner, and have a discussion on Holy Week! We'll then sleep here at St. Demetrios and wake up for Divine Liturgy. Following Liturgy we will have our annual Communion Breakfast and Palm Cross making.

This is a great opportunity to learn more about Ionian Village and meet some of the staff members! Please RSVP to Fr. Vinnie (frvincent@stdemetriosweston.org) by April 13 if you will be attending!



HOPE

Monday, March 14th was the first official meeting of HOPE! The meeting was a great success as the children who attended did an excellent job completing their icon craft regarding the Sunday of Orthodoxy, held a discussion about icons with Father Vinnie and Miss Diana, as well as played some “get to know you games” and had a yummy snack together. Both Father Vinnie and Miss Diana were thrilled with the enthusiasm and participation that the children had to offer to the group. It is with great excitement that the next HOPE meeting will be held Monday April 11th, 4-5:15pm. The plan is to continue furthering the conversation about Pascha with the children and completing a Palm Making activity for Palm Sunday. All children ages 2-7 are welcome! We hope to see you there!



SUMMER 2016 PROGRAMS



Summer Camp : Ionian Village

Summer Camp: Ionian Village
Session One: June 19 – July 8, 2016
Session Two: July 17 – August 5, 2016
Please call (212) 570-3536 or email ionianvillage@goarch.org to be put on the waiting list.

Summer Camp :



MBC 2016

Family Camp: June 29-July 3
Session 2: July 4-10
Session 3: July 11-17
Session 4: July 18-24

Session 5: July 25-31
Session 6: August 1-7

Get excited for another amazing summer at MBC! MBC offers three different types of ministry through one camp! One to youth (ages 8-18), one to families (all ages) and the third to campers with special needs through our Embracing Children Program. More information to follow! To register and for more information, go to www.mbcamp.org!



ALTAR SERVERS

Our servers are encouraged to attend the services during Holy Week and to arrive on time in order to vest appropriately. Please note assignments and details below. Contact Chris Kourlos with questions: kourkat@comcast.net.





PHOTOS

Youth Basketball



Senior Guild



Prayer Shawl Ministry



PHOTOS

Apokriatiko Glendi



Philoptochos Gen. Assembly



Greek School



Sunday of Orthodoxy



Peter James Condakes Memorial
Golf Tournament

Saint Demetrios Church



**Monday
May 23, 2016
12:30 PM**



Woodland Golf Club

1597 Washington Street
Auburn, MA 01501
Registration Lunch & Practice
10:30 am-12:15 pm
Box Ball/Scramble
12:30 pm
Dinner/Traffic & Auction
6:00-7:30 pm

For more information visit our **NEW** online registration and
Auction site at:

BidPal.net/pjcgolf

Anthony Markes at
ajmarkes@jcgolf.net



CALENDAR



APRIL 2016



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Philoptochos Retreat Salutations to the Theotokos, 7 pm	2 Philoptochos Retreat Learning Program
3 Sunday of the Holy Cross Boston Greek Independence Day Parade	4 Great Compline, 6 pm	5 Greek School, 4-6 pm	6 Prayer Shawl Knitting Ministry, 1-3 pm Presanctified Liturgy AT Cathedral Chapel in Brookline, 6, pm	7 Choir Rehearsal, 7 pm	8 Salutations to the Theotokos, 7 pm	9
10 Sunday of St. John Climacus Greek Dance Performance	11 HOPE (ages 2-7), 4-5:15 pm Great Compline, 6 pm	12 Greek School, 4-6 pm	13 Presanctified Liturgy AT St. Demetrios, Weston, 10 am Senior Guild Luncheon Parish Council, 7 pm Philoptochos, 7 pm	14 Choir Rehearsal, 7 pm	15 MBC Spring Camp Akathist Hymn, 7 pm	16 MBC Spring Camp Nursing Home, 2 pm
17 Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt MBC Spring Camp	18 Great Compline, 6 pm	19 Greek School, 4-6 pm	20 Presanctified Liturgy AT Taxiarchae, Watertown, 6 pm	21 Choir Rehearsal, 7 pm	22 GOYA IV On the Go Lock-In	23 Lazarus Saturday Orthros and Divine Liturgy, 9 am Breakfast and Palm Cross Making
24 Palm Sunday Bridegroom Service, 7 pm	25 Holy Monday Bridegroom Service, 7 pm	26 Holy Tuesday Greek School, 4-6 pm Bridegroom Service, 7 pm	27 Holy Wednesday Presanctified Liturgy, 9 am Holy Unction, 3:30 and 7 pm	28 Holy Thursday Vespers Liturgy, 8 am The Passion, 7 pm	29 Good Friday Royal Hours, 9 am Youth Retreat Descent from the Cross, 3:30 pm Lamentations, 7:30 pm	30 Holy Saturday First Resurrection, 8 am Resurrection, 11 pm May 1- Pascha Agape Vespers, 11 am

STEWARDSHIP & PHILOPTOCHOS



Dear Philoptochos Members,

During this Lenten Season, the Saint Demetrios Philoptochos was very honored to have Father Christopher Metropoulos serve during the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy and address the Philoptochos General Assembly and Parishioners on the exciting developments at Hellenic College/Holy Cross.

Also, many thanks to all of the Parishioners who attended the Apokriatiko Glendi event in March. A very special thank you to Matina Pappas for organizing a successful evening of family fellowship and fun!

Upcoming Events:

Women's Lenten Retreat, Friday, April 1 – Saturday, April 2 at the Saint Methodios Faith and Heritage Center. “The Lord is My Shepherd – Understanding, Praying and Receiving Christ as our Shepherd.” Father Nicholas Krommydas - Retreat Leader. Chairpersons: Presbyteria Elaine Krommydas and Nikki Stournaras. All women of the Parish are invited to attend a spiritual overnight gathering. For more information contact Nikki Stournaras at nstournaras@hchc.edu and/or Evangeline Calivas at ecalivas@gmail.com or (508) 446-6698.

Palm Sunday Bake Sale – Sunday, April 24

Buy your Easter breads and pastries for your family and friends at the Annual Bake Sale. Contact Jane Kourtis if you are available to prepare baked goods at (781) 363-6636 or jkourtis@comcast.net.

Lamb Raffle

The drawing of seven legs of lamb will be held on Palm Sunday, April 24 after the Liturgy. See Pam Brody during the coffee hour to purchase your chances to win.

Annual Membership Drive – Renew your 2016 membership and join the largest Christian women's organization - the Philoptochos. For more information on joining the Saint Christine Chapter, please contact Eugenia Kourlos at ekourlos@comcast.net or Athena Kalyvas at adkalyvas@gmail.com.

Hosting Fellowship Coffee Hour – Please contact Pam Brody at 781-864-5327 - Brodster52@yahoo.com or Eugenia Kourlos at 508-735-8866 or ekourlos@comcast.net if you would like to host coffee hour. What a great opportunity to meet and greet other Parishioners and assist with this very important Fellowship Hour!

Philoptochos Supports the Mission Projects

Please remember that the Philoptochos is here to help the Saint Demetrios Community members participating in any mission or service trip. Contact Jenn Brody at Brody.Jenn@gmail.com or 781-864-5032 with any questions or inquiries.

Hellenic Nursing Home Visits

Pam Brody visits the Hellenic Nursing Home the third Saturday of every month. Contact Pam for more information. (781) 864-5327 or brodster52@yahoo.com.

Thank you for your continued support of the Philoptochos charities. We wish you and your families a blessed Lenten season and a joyous Pascha.

With Love in Christ,

Athena Kalyvas

President

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Now that we have entered the Holy Season of Lent, I find myself reflecting on the Spiritual goals I had set for myself over the past year. During this time, I look honestly and diligently to see if I have made any of the Spiritual progress I had hoped to make. More often than not, I find that I have fallen short of my goals; but I am always grateful to our Lord and Savior that he is giving me another chance to live up to His call.

We are all called. Each of us, to the best of our abilities especially during Lent. I know you all join with me in resolving to become closer to God and to following His teachings more fervently. For me, becoming closer to God always involves prayer, reading scripture, meditation, service and sacrifice. Each of these acts of Faith reminds me of how we are called to share our Time, our Talent, and our Treasure freely as God shares His boundless Love with us.

I have often found that great joy comes into my heart of its own accord when I know that I have given thanks to God by acting in these areas of Faith. This joy gives me strength to forgive myself for the times that I fell short and to recommit to seeking the opportunities of service that Christ offers. We are blessed to be alive.

We are more than blessed to have been called to the power of Christ. All that He asks from us is to make Him first place in our lives and to act with humility and gratitude for His gift of Faith.

With Love and Best Wishes in Christ,

John McVey

Stewardship Committee



NEWS & EVENTS

The Senior Guild-

Our next meeting will be on April 13th following the Presanctified Divine Liturgy. We will have a presentation of the husband and wife team John and Constance Inacio, physical therapists. Their presentation is on 'Balance in the Senior Population'. We will also discuss the June Event. Please contact Artemis Martakis at (508) 785-0045 with any questions. The Senior Guild hopes to see you there!

Pascha- Agape Service- Readers Needed-

We need foreign language readers (students and adults) to help read the Agape Service Gospel. Last year we were fortunate to have the Gospel read in Latin, Spanish, French, Romanian, German, and Chinese. If you are interested in reading a portion of the Gospel in a foreign language, please contact the Church School director, via email at stdemetrioschurch-school@verizon.net.

St. Demetrios Bookstore-

Now available are beautiful hand-made icons, including silk-screen productions and our St. Demetrios crosses in silver and gold. Also, there are many Lenten books, including "Introduction to St. Gregory Palamas" by Fr. George Papademetriou and St. John Climacus: The Ladder of Divine Ascent.

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE

BOOK OF THE MONTH

As we are in the period of Great Lent, we wish to recommend the following:

John Climacus The Ladder of Divine Ascent translated by Colm Luibheid (B & Q)

The ascetical life is portrayed as a ladder which each aspirant must ascend, each step being a virtue to be acquired, or a vice to be surrendered. Its thirty steps reflect the hidden life of Christ himself.

Annual Resource Companion: The Triodion edited by Rev Dr Frank Marangos (J)

Contains 24 illuminating essays on the Triodion period, the period of preparation for the Great Festival of Pascha. Essay topics include forgiveness, humility, self-sacrifice, divine love, redemption, and more.

We have set aside these books in our Recommendation Shelf. If you need to keep them longer than two weeks, please contact Cindi Dabrowski at 508-881-6598. Other Lenten books are located in section J.

We invite you to come and visit the parish library and see how much we have grown thanks to the recent donations from our parishioners. The library is open every Sunday after Liturgy and Monday through Friday from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm.



On September 11, 2001, the small, Greek Orthodox church of Saint Nicholas, in New York City, was crushed under the collapse of the World Trade Center's South Tower. It had been built in 1916 by Greek immigrants, new to this country. It was the only church destroyed on September 11.

The Holy Eparchial Synod of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America is overseeing the rebuilding of our Saint Nicholas Church. It will, however, be much more than a church. It will be a National Shrine of our Holy Archdiocese. It is estimated fifty million people will see this living embodiment of our Orthodox Christian faith.



We all have an opportunity to become part of history in the rebuilding of Saint Nicholas. His Eminence METHODIOS, Metropolitan of Boston, invites us to contribute to this cause by making a one year commitment of \$100 or more to rebuild this National Shrine.

Donations by Check:

Please make checks payable to:

St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church

Indicate "St. Nicholas Shrine" in the memo portion of your check.

Mail Check to:

St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church

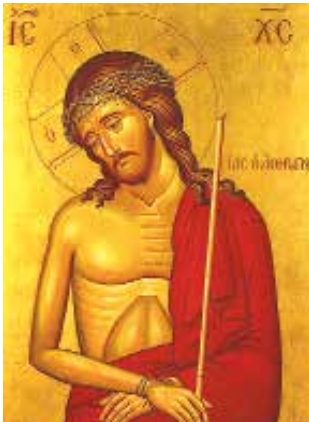
57 Brown Street

Weston, MA 02493

HOLY WEEK



PALM SUNDAY, HOLY MONDAY & HOLY TUESDAY EVENING

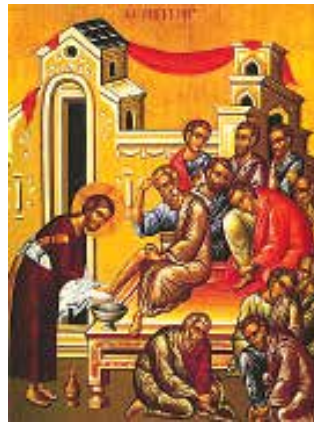


The first three days of Holy Week remind us of Christ's last instructions with his disciples. These teachings are remembered in the celebration of the Great Compline, Matins, Hours, and Liturgy during these days. The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts celebrated these days includes readings from Exodus, Job, and Matthew. The Matins services of the evenings of Palm Sunday, Holy Monday, and Holy Tuesday, anticipating the events of the next day, share a common theme. These Bridegroom Services are derived from the Parable of the Ten Virgins, which calls for preparedness at the Second Coming, for the "thief comes in the middle of the night." (Matt. 26:1-13)

HOLY SATURDAY

Great and Holy Saturday Vespers and a Divine Liturgy of St. Basil are served, marked with readings of Psalms and Resurrection hymns that tell of Christ's descent into Hades, celebrated as the "First Resurrection" of Adam and the conquering of Death. It is appointed by the typikon to be celebrated in the afternoon, though it is served in the morning in many places. This service comes from the ancient liturgical tradition of the Church of Constantinople and was its primary Paschal service. The hymn "Arise O God" from the Psalms was the original primary Paschal hymn before "Christ is risen" came to take its place. Its place as the ancient Constantinopolitan Paschal celebration is what gives the service such a bright and resurrectional character.

HOLY WEDNESDAY



Within the past two centuries, Byzantine practice has developed to include the mystery of Holy Unction, which is celebrated on Holy Wednesday, commemorating Christ's anointing with myrrh. The service ends with the priest anointing the faithful with holy oil. The services appointed by the Typikon for the evening of Holy Wednesday recall that on this day Judas betrayed Christ, which led to the tradition from Apostolic times of fasting on Wednesday throughout the year. It also focuses on the Mystical Supper, which is celebrated in the liturgy of the following day.



HOLY THURSDAY

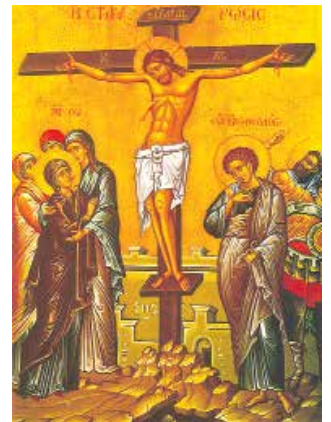


Holy Thursday begins with the celebration of vespers and the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil with a Reserved Eucharist in representation of the earthly presence of Christ realized at the Last Supper. In the evening, anticipating the Matins of Friday morning, the Holy Passion service of the reading of the Twelve Gospels is conducted. In these readings Christ's last instructions to his disciples are presented, as well as the prophecy of the drama of the Cross, Christ's prayer, and his new commandment.

PASCHA

Pascha, the Feast of Feasts, as midnight approaches the priest taking a light from a vigil light within the altar passes the flame to the faithful for their candles while singing "Come ye and receive light from the unwaning life, and, glorify Christ, who arose from the dead." The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the center of the Orthodox Christian faith. To the Orthodox, the celebration of Pascha reveals the mystery of the eighth day. It is not merely an historical reenactment of the event of Christ's Resurrection. It is a way to experience the new creation of the world a taste of the new and unending day of the Kingdom of God. This new day is conveyed to the faithful in the length of the paschal services, in the repetition of the paschal order for all the services of Bright Week, and in the special paschal features retained in the services for the forty days until Ascension. Forty days are, as it were, treated as one day.

HOLY FRIDAY



Great and Holy Friday begins with reading of the Royal Hours leading up to Vespers of Friday afternoon, at which time the removal of the Body of Christ from the Cross is commemorated. The priest removes the Body of Christ, the Epitaphios, from the Cross, wraps it in a white cloth and carries it into the altar. In an evening service, called the Lamentations at the Tomb, the priest carries the Epitaphios, the painted or embroidered cloth representation of Christ, from the altar around the church before placing it in the Sepulcher, a bier symbolizing the Tomb of Christ. This procession, with the faithful carrying lighted candles, represents Christ's descent into Hades.





ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS

*Altar flowers were generously
donated by the following
parishioners:*

March 6

Vivian Kreig in loving memory of
her husband, Lawrence.

March 13

Angelica Giovannes, in loving
memory of her son, Alexios.

The Lelon Family, in loving memo-
ry of their cousin, Anna Dravis.

March 20

Janet Prifti in loving memory of her
mother, Olga

March 27

Chris Tzellas in loving memory of
her husband, Aristides, "Ted"

The Anthony and Camp Family,
in loving memory of Athanasios
Tsamtsouris.



BAPTISMS

The daughter of Bailey Fidler and
Elizabeth Charpie on Saturday,
March 5th and named Joanna. The
sponsor was Pamela Joyce (Charpie).

**May God bless her
with His divine grace!**



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