

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

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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FR. NICK'S MESSAGE

TIME TO DECIDE

Dear Parishioners,

As September arrives- a new Church year- invites us to begin anew. It comes at the end of summer when hopefully we have had some time to rest, to think, and to begin once again a cycle of effort on many fronts.

There is no question of the many demands and responsibilities we will have to assume at work, at home and hopefully within our own selves. What will shape our decisions, our choices, about the direction of our lives?

Our secular society will do its best through words and images to flood our senses and influence our path. Billboards, advertisements, media of all kinds, words in print and screens will say, "do this" and "follow me." We may say these are "just" words but ultimately, they influence us, telling us what to do, how to do it and when.

In the midst of this infusion of influence and stimulation stands God's Word. God's small voice also speaks to us often trailing behind joining the many other voices of the world. Familiar words are said and repeated within a story-God's story- of His love for us. This message can easily be lost in a sea of indifference leaving us to say, "these are just words or a story we have heard before" but ultimately, one that has no impact on our already weary body and soul.

The tragedy is that God's Word and His story loses its true purpose, its sacredness, which means its ability to make God present in our lives. This does not only make it difficult to hear it and apply it but also have its transforming power bring God's living presence into our hearts and mind.

As this new beginning unfolds, may I invite you to "make new" your commitment to listen and to hear how God's Word speaks to us and specifically to you directly. How coming and participating often in the Liturgy and Eucharist can lead to an intimate presence that joins God's story with ours, with yours. It is not easy to begin again, to recover what has been lost or has grown small because of the many worries and anxieties that have crept into our hearts and lives. However, losing the presence and power that comes from God begins with a decision that only you can make for yourself and your family. Make it now and keep it throughout the year and you will see how blessed and grateful your life will be!

With Love in the Lord, Fr. Nick

ITURGICAL SCHEDULE

SCHEDULE OF CHURCH SERVICES

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

September 3, 13th Sunday of Matthew

September 10, Sunday Before the Holy Cross

September 17, Sunday After the Holy Cross

September 24, 1st Sunday of Luke

MIDWEEK SERVICES
ORTHROS 9; DIVINE LITURGY 9:30

September 8, Nativity of the Theotokos

September 13, Paraklesis, 6 pm

September 14, Exaltation of the Holy Cross

"Save, O Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance; grant victory to the faithful over their adversaries. And protect Your commonwealth, by the power of Your Cross."

> — Hymn o<mark>f the</mark> Elevation of the Holy Cross

THE ELEVATION OF THE CROSS SEPT. 14TH



For over 1900 years the cross has been a beloved symbol for the believing Christian. We view the cross in two ways. It is, first of all, a sign of Christ's love for us, for it reveals the extent of his suffering and the stark reality of death for our sakes. St Paul speaks of Jesus humbling himself: "...and (He) became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." This is to say, Christ accepted the most extreme form of suffering and death. Could there be a greater display of love and sacrifice than to live for man and then die for him by Crucifixion?

In the ancient world, crucifixion was the most horrible form of capital punishment; it was used only for the worst criminals. Who can describe the physical pain of hanging on the cross? Who can describe the spiritual pain in those darkest hours? It is no wonder that, upon the cross, He cried out to His Father, "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?"

The Cross is, secondly, intimately connected to our own lives. Orthodox Christians must never associate the cross only with Christ, for there is a cross for every believer in the Lord. "Whosoever will come after Me," Christ said, "let him take up his cross, and deny himself and follow Me." So, there is a cross for each of us.

Now it is one thing to glorify and praise the cross as a symbol of Christ's great love and devotion, but it is another thing to accept the cross as central to our daily lives. This is precisely what the cross must be for us — a way of life. For us, to come into the world and be baptized is to become a cross-bearer.

ECCLESIASTICAL NEW YEAR

THE NEW ECCLESIASTICAL YEAR

The following is taken from, A Year of the Lord, Vol. 1, by Rev. F. Theodore Stylianopoulos

We are accustomed to think of January 1st as the beginning of the new year. However, the tradition of the start of the New Year with the fall season was common to the lands of the Bible and the lands around the Mediterranean. The summer harvest was at an end, the crops were stored and the people prepared for a new agricultural cycle. It was an appropriate time to begin a new year.

According to the Orthodox liturgical tradition, Christ came to Nazareth to preach the good news of His mission on September 1st. This is spiritually significant that the Church in its worship as joined the first day of the liturgical year with the first day of Christ's public preaching.

Many hymns for the first day of the Church year declare that the coming year is God's to give and God's to bless. These hymns take their theme from Psalm 65, a psalm of praise to God, specifically, verse 11, "you crown the year with Your goodness."



ST. DEMETRIOS

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

St. Demetrios Inner-City Outreach, Peter Mitsakos St. Nicholas Angel Tree, Nancy Savage Hospitality/Fellowship Hour, St. Demetrios Philoptochos

Library, Ćindi 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

Brown Bag Sunday, Alex Santangelo **Prosfora Ministry**, Christina Booth Senior Guild, Artemis Martakis Stewardship, Tom Camp **IOCC**, Andrea Katsenes

YOUTH

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

GOYA, Fr. Vincent Minucci

Greek Folk Dancing, Margaret Talmers **Greek Language School**, Avra Parpos

HOPE, Diana Katsikaris & Mina Johnson

JOY, Fr. Vincent Minucci

Young Professionals, Samuel Johnson

It is the Church's prayer that the coming year will be a year of grace, a year blessed by God. The prayers and hymns of the Church set 3 principles necessary to make the coming year of the Lord, a year of grace:
The teachings of Christ are the source of truth for our lives.

Our Father in heaven is a personal God who provides for all our material and spiritual needs as we ask Him

Daily prayer is the way of ongoing communication and a vital relationship with God.

The good news preached then is the good news preached today, to each and every one of us. The news of salvation requires our faithful response of mind, heart, soul, and body. This is a time of new beginnings and a fresh start to recommit our lives to our Lord and Savior.

APOLYTIKION OF THE NEW ECCLESIASTICAL YEAR

Creator of the universe, setting times and season by Your sole authority, bless the cycle of the year of Your grace, O Lord, guarding our rulers and Your nation in peach, at the intercessions of the Theotokos, and save us.

KONTAKION FOR THE NEW ECCLESIASTICAL YEAR

You who created all things in Your infinite wisdom, and set the times by Your own authority, grant Your Christian people victories. Blessing our comings and goings throughout this year, guide our works according to Your divine will.



A Prayer for the Start of School

O Lord our God and Creator, who has honored men with Your own image; who has taught Your elect, so that most wise are they who listen to Your teachings; who reveals wisdom to children; who imparted Your teaching to Solomon and to all who seek Your wisdom: may You open the heart, the mind, and the lips of this Your servant, (Name), that he/she may receive the power of Your law and understand the knowledge which shall be taught him/her, to the glory of Your all-holy Name, to the profit and building up of Your holy Church, and that he/she may



comprehend Your good and perfect will. Deliver him/her from every hostile oppression; preserve him/her in the Orthodox faith, and in holiness all the days of his/her life, that he/she may increase in wisdom and in the fulfilling of Your commandments, that being thus prepared he/she may glorify Your all-holy Name and become an heir of Your kingdom. For You are God, mighty in mercy, and gracious in strength, and unto You is due glory: To the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

We look forward to the upcoming Church School year. Classes begin on Sunday, September 10th at 9:30 a.m. with the start of the Divine Liturgy. A productive Church School program must incorporate the Divine Liturgy and so we pray and ask that all our students make every effort to arrive by the start of the Liturgy.

During the Ministry Fair, there will be an opportunity to register any new student(s) and/or update parent/student contact information. Please stop by so we can meet. There will be a calendar of events and information to take home.

We would like to thank our teachers for their devotion and commitment to our youth and to the parents for their continued support. We look forward to a wonderful academic year together.

Upcoming Dates:

September 10 First Day of Church School September 17 Church School Classes September 24 Church School Classes

GREEK LANGUAGE & CULTURAL SCHOOL



The first day of school is just around the corner! Father Nick, Father Vinnie, and the Greek School staff are enthusiastic about welcoming



students and parents back to another school year full of educational lessons and enriching activities for children in grades PreK - 6.

Come Grow with Us!

Please mark your calendars with these important dates:

Sunday, September 10
Registration following Divine Liturgy
Church Hall

Tuesday, September 12
4:00 – 6:00 pm
Registration, Agiasmos Service, Open House
For additional information, please contact Avra Parpos
at 508-875-2013





GOYA

We are so excited to start another year of GOYA! Mark your calendars and bring a change of clothes for our annual GOYA Car Wash Fundraiser on September 24. This year, we are hoping to focus on service projects and helping our community at large. Through projects like Habitat for Humanity, IOCC and volunteering at local outreach opportunities, we feel that we can make a difference.

If you are interested in being a part of GOYA, be sure to sign up at the ministry fair or email Fr. Vinnie at frvincent@stdemetriosweston.org

Additionally, we are looking for parent volunteers to help with coordinating events, set up, and general communication. If you are interested in helping, please email Fr. Vinnie.



OFF TO COLLEGE? LET US KNOW!



Are you or someone you know heading off to college? Be sure to let us know so we can stay in touch! Email the office at office@stdemetriosweston.org with your mailing address and contact information. All college students, whether you're commuting or living away from home, are encouraged to send your information to the office. May God bless you and grant you strength. We pray that you have a successful and blessed year!

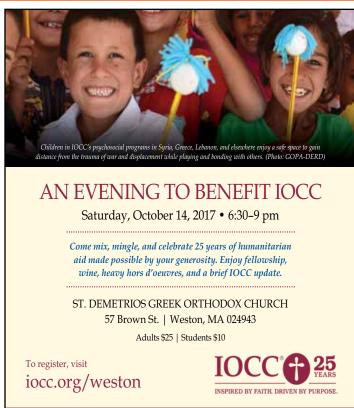
FAMILY FIRST FRIDAY

Family First Friday is back for another blessed year of family, fellowship, and faith! Our first Family First Friday will be October 6th from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Families of all shapes and sizes are welcome! For more information please email Presbytera Nadia at presnadia@gmail.com or stop by the ministry fair to sign up and learn more!



EVENTSANDMORE





INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS

The birth and early life of the Virgin Mary is not recorded in the Gospels or other books of the New Testament, however this information can be found in a work dating from the second century known as the Book of James or Protevangelion.

According to the story found in this book, Mary's parents, Joachim and Anna, were childless for many years. They remained faithful to God, but their prayers for a child were unanswered. One day, when Joachim came to the temple to make an offering, he was turned away by the High Priest who chastised him for his lack of children. To hide his shame, Joachim retreated to the hill country to live among the shepherds and their flocks.

As Joachim was praying, his wife Anna was praying at the same time at their house in Jerusalem. An angel appeared to both of them and announced that Anna would have a child whose name would be known throughout the world. Anna promised to offer her child as a gift to the Lord. Joachim returned home, and in due time Anna bore a daughter, Mary.



ICON OF THE FEAST

The icon of the Nativity of the Thetokos presents to us the central figures of Sts. Joachim and Anna, Mary's parents, and the Mother of our Lord as an infant. St. Anna is

in the middle of the icon with her right hand extended toward her daughter Likewise, St. Joachim, Mary's father, is gazing upon the young child with his right hand extended toward her. Anna is surrounded by attendants who have assisted with the birth.

The icon directs attention to Mary as the central figure in this feast. It also acknowledges the joy that was felt by Joachim and Anna as new parents with a child received through a promise from God. The liturgical texts of the feast acknowledge this joy and confirm the special role of Mary as the Mother of the Incarnate God, Jesus Christ. In this event, another step is made in sacred history in preparation for the entrance of Christ into the world.

The icon and the feast also acknowledge a transition from barrenness to life. This was but another foreshadowing of what would be offered through Christ, the transformation from death to eternal life.

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship Update

Dear Friends and Fellow Parishioners,

As many of you know, our Ecclesiastical New Year begins on September 1, which in earlier days also began the time when harvests were gathered and the faithful gave thanks to God. As we enter our New Year, we too have an opportunity to give thanks to God for the bounty of our own harvest.

<u>Ministries</u>. We are fortunate to share an active and vibrant spiritual community here at St. Demetrios. We have many active ministries, focusing on our youth, seniors, religious education, young adults, community outreach, and more, including the following:

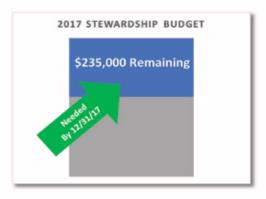
- Altar Servers
- Basketball (boys and girls)
- Bookstore
- Choir
- Church School
- Ladies Philoptochos
- Family First Friday
- GOYA (students in grades 6-12)
- Greek Dance
- Habitat for Humanity
- HOPE (youth) Junior Choir
- Fr. Manikas Library
- OCF (Orthodox Christian Fellowship college/graduate school students)
- Orthodox Life
- Parish Council
- Senior Guild
- St. Demetrios Inner-City Outreach Team
- Stewardship Ministry
- Young Professionals

These ministries bind us together and reinforce our commitment to fulfilling our Mission of preserving, practicing, and proclaiming the Orthodox Christian Faith to (i) glorify God, (ii) sanctify the faithful, (iii) enhance the spiritual life of our parishioners, (iv) grow our parish through Baptism and Chrismation, and (v) support educational and philanthropic activities that foster our Mission.

As we enter our New Year, we are looking for more members of our Parish to join in support of our many ministries. Your time and talents are needed and will be greatly appreciated.

You can join us at one of our *Ministry Fairs* during several coffee hours this Fall, where you can obtain more information about particular ministries and sign up to volunteer. You also can contact our Office Administrator, Marianne (office@stdemetriosweston.org, 781-237-5561), me (contact information below), or one of our other Parish Council members, and we will be happy to introduce you to one of our Ministry Leaders.

Stewardship Donations Update. Our generous Stewards have contributed a total of \$318,000 so far, this year, which represents approximately 58% of the total Stewardship giving that we planned for this year, and approximately 36% of our total budgeted Church expenses.



As we strive to improve and expand what we do in support of our community, your continued financial support is crucial. Our stated goal is to increase over time the portion of our total Church expenses that are covered by your Stewardship giving, thereby freeing up more of the money raised from other fundraising activities to support broader ministry activities.

In the near future, we will be sending out Stewardship Commitment Cards, where you can make your offerings of Time, Talent, and Treasure. We ask you to consider what more you could offer from your own "harvest" as we embark on another New Year.

In Christ Jesus,

Tom Camp Stewardship Chair tcamp63@gmail.com

"Stewardship is the call of the faithful to share willingly the gifts that God has bestowed on them, including sharing these gifts for God's work." Williams and McKibben, Oriented Leadership.

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2017

SUNDAY	Monday	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					New Ecclesiastical Year!	2
3 13th Sunday of Matthew	4 Labor Day Church Offices Closed	5 Normal Church Office hours resume- 8:30 am- 4:30 pm	6	7 Choir Rehersal, 7 pm	8 Nativity of the Theotokos Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 9 am	9
Sunday Before the Holy Cross Ministry Fair	11	12 Greek School, 4 pm	Paraklesis, 6 pm Parish Council Meeting, 7 pm	Exhaltation of the Holy Cross Orthos & Divine Liturgy, 9 am Senior Guild Lun- cheon	15	Hellenic Nursing Home
Sunday After the Holy Cross Ministry Fair Philoptochos Luncheon	18	19 Greek School, 4 pm	20	21 Choir Rehersal, 7 pm	22	23 Habitat for Humanity Home Building Project
24 1st Sunday of Luke Welcome Back BBQ GOYA Car Wash Ministry Fair	Senior Guild Welcome Back Fun Day, 1:30 pm	Greek School, 4 pm	27	28	29	30 Habitat for Humanity Playhouse Building Project AT St. Demetrios

PHILOPTOCHOS

PHILOPTOCHOS

We are so excited as a Philoptochos Board to work as a team and hear the words of the Gospel and put them into action. St. James in his Epistle, Ch.1 Verse 22 "But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers."

We begin our year with a **Welcoming Back Luncheon** for our Philoptochos members and friends. The luncheon will immediately follow the liturgy on Sunday, September 17th.

Save the date October 14th as we will host **An Evening for the IOCC** which is an amazing worldwide emergency relief fund. Please note that Philoptochos in the past has supported this great organization and we will continue to support it. Please visit their website at iocc.org and see what incredible things they have done.

A glimpse of what is to come in November.

In November we will honor our parishioners who have served in our armed forces. What we are looking for are the names of our parishioners who have served. Please send your name and the branch of the service you were in to nstournaras@gmail.com. On November 15th we will honor and pin the veterans followed by a reception. More information will be forthcoming. Please send your names so that we can plan in advance for our evening. Stay posted we will say more in the October Vine.

More information will be forthcoming. Wait and see!

With Love in Christ,

Nikki Stounaras

STS. JOACHIM AND ANNA- SEPTEMBER 9

So much attention is paid by Christians to the Blessed Theotokos that there is a tendency to overlook her parents. Commemorated the day after the commemoration of their daughter, Joachim and Anna were the parents of a flesh-and-blood human being they called Mary and, therefore, the grandparents of a flesh-and-blood human being, in form at least, who died to save the world.

Considered in this light, this couple is appreciated most by the grandfathers and grandmothers of the world.

The spiritual beauty of St Anna is expressed in the Bible, equalled by that of her devoted husband, the too lightly regarded Joachim. Since there is no greater part of the divine plan of the universe than motherhood, it follows that St. Anna is given individual honor with an observance of a feast day in her name on July 26. This in no way diminishes the image of her husband St Joachim.

There is no denying Joachim was favored by God, who answered his prayer that a child be born to the barren Anna. The answer was Mary, of course, and thereafter was set in motion the world's greatest faith, so overwhelming that Joachim fades from view in misty swirls that surround the sweet mysteries of Christianity. It is enough to know that Joachim was the father of Mary, the mother, who bore Jesus Christ, the divine Savior. The fact that God moves in a mysterious ways was evident when Joachim and Anna prayed for a child, they knew not whether they were granted a son or a daughter, so they had no knowledge of what lay in store for them and for the world.

The names Joachim and Anna are integral part of the Greek Orthodox Liturgy, for it always mentions the prayerful conclusion of the services with the words, "May the Risen Christ, our true God, with the prayers of His pure and holy Mother, the power of the precious and life-giving Cross, the protection of the spiritual powers of Heaven... the holy and righteous ancestors Joachim and Anna and all the saints whose memory we, celebrate, have mercy on us and save us..."





EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENIOR GUILD

Dear Senior Guild Members,

The Senior Guild will be attending a Divine Liturgy on September 14th (The Exaltation of The Holy Cross). There will be a Luncheon following Divine Liturgy.

The Senior Guild will be having A Welcome Back Fun and Games Day on September 25th. The activities for the Fun and Games Day are (TBA). Please check the Sunday Bulletins, and the Senior Guild Bulletin Board for more information about the Fun and Games Day. The Senior Guild hopes to see you there! Thank you.

Artemis Martakis

WELCOME BACK BBO

Our Parish Council invites all to this much anticipated yearly event. The BBQ will take place following Divine Liturgy on Sunday, September 24. Bring family, friends and fellow parishioners for terrific food and excellent company. Our children are encouraged to bring frisbees, balls, and other outdoor toys.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Our Community Outreach Ministry has two events scheduled for September and we are looking for volunteers. The days are Saturday Sept. 23rd to assist building a home for a family and Saturday Sept. 30th to build a playhouse at St. Demetrios for the children of a family in need. Please stop by our table during coffee hour each Sunday or contact either David Newkirk, Gina Pagonis or Chris Kourlos. No experience necessary!

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Janet Bristow and Victoria Galo, graduates of the 1997 Women's Leadership Institute at the Hartford Seminary in Hartford CT, initiated a Prayer Shawl Ministry in 1998 and it is weaving its way throughout the country and into many denominations via story, gift, and prayer. The first Greek Orthodox Prayer Shawl Knitting Ministry was established here at St. Demetrios Weston.

Prayer Shawls are given to console in times of grief or stress, to comfort those who are ill, and bring hope to those who are in despair. They are intended to remind the recipient that God's love is with them always and that they are in the hearts and prayers of others as well. They can also be given in celebration of special events, and as gifts of love and caring to special people in our lives and the lives of others.

The knitter begins each shawl with prayers and blessings for the recipient; prayers for God's embracing love to encompass the person. After the shawls are completed they are given a final blessing and then brought to people who are ill, shut in, grieving or in a nursing home. The shawls are wrapped and presented with a card of explanation and a blessing.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry migrated from St. Demetrios Weston to St. Anna Greek Orthodox Church, Roseville, CA. We, in turn, inspired by their dedication and enthusiasm, have adopted their custom of using purple yarn for our shawls.

The purple yarn was selected out of respect, affection and gratitude to the Virgin Mary. According to tradition, when the Virgin Mary was still a young girl, a council of the priests decided to have a new veil made for the temple. When the virgins of the temple cast lots among themselves as to what each virgin would do (spin), the purple

of the veil of the temple fell to the lot of Mary. At the Crucifixion of Christ, it was precisely this veil of the temple that was torn in two from top to bottom exposing the holy of Holies.

Please support our ministry by letting us know who in the community might benefit from our prayers and a shawl.



NEWS & EVENTS



NEWS FROM THE FR. MANIKAS LIBRARY



Book of the Month:

Introduction to Saint Gregory Palamas by Fr George Papademetriou

Welcome addition to the studies on teachings on the Essence and Energies of God and the life of this great 14th theologian. Written by our own Fr George. (B)

Bread and the Liturgy by George Galavaris

Using bread stamps as a point of study and departure, we are given a far-ranging study of the liturgy and religious development of the early Christian Churches. (G)

During the Ministry Fair do not forget to see us in the library.

The library is staffed every Sunday after Liturgy. However, you are invited to visit the library whenever the Church office is opened.

As outlined in the Library Policies and Procedures, please fill out both cards and leave the orange card in the metal box (located in the Recommendation Shelf). This will help us to keep track of these books. If you need any book more than one month please contact Cindi Dabrowski at 508-881-6598.

SAINTLY LIVES

EUPHROSYNOS THE COOK, COMMEMORATED SEPT. 11

St. Euphrosynos lived as an ordinary monk in the 9th century and was very simple and faithful, humbly serving as the cook of the monastery in which he lived. One night the spiritual father of that monastery dreamt that he was in Paradise where he was surprised to see St. Euphrosynos, who gave him three beautiful apples from a tree there. When he awoke, he saw the three apples lying on his pillow much to his amazement. They were very fragrant. Rushing to St. Euphrosynos, he asked him where he had been last night, and the saint said, "where you were, Father." Before this, no one had paid attention or given respect to the cook in that monastery, but often the opposite. When the spiritual father told the other monks about the holiness of St. Euphrosynos, which he had just discovered, St. Euphrosynos fled the monastery into the desert for the rest of his life, fearing the praise of men. May this humble servant of God teach us by his example and by his prayers to seek the Heavenly Kingdom first, and live humbly serving our brothers or sisters gladly, until Heavenly fruit grows in us. St. Euphrosynos is the patron saint



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers were generously donated by the following parishioners:

July 23- For Ian Thomas McVey's 9 year memorial

August 27- The Spiliakos and Hoimes Families in loving memory of Panos D. Spiliakos.



BAPTISMS

The son of Matthew and Christina Kitowski was baptized on Sunday, August 19, and named James. The sponsor were Theodore Christos Metrakas.

The son of Peter and Christine Gavrilles was baptized on Saturday, August 26, and named Evan Peter. The sponsors were Richard and Stacey Gigante.

FUNERALS

George Kapalis of Framingham, July 29 Eugene Stevens of Framingham, August 20

May their memory be eternal!



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