

THE VINE

ST. 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)

CONTENTS

Liturgical Schedule.....	2
Ministry Highlight.....	3
Youth.....	4-5
Photos.....	6
Fr. Nick's Message.....	7
Calendar.....	8
Philoptochos & Stewardship.....	9
News & Events.....	10-11
Announcements.....	12

FR. NICK'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

My hope is that you have had an enjoyable family summer. Soon another school and church year will begin and a new rhythm and schedule will once again take hold over our life.

Every year we hear the same cry of concern from parents, teachers, youth advisors and others, **"Where are our children?"** We notice at least for a month or so that many of our young people are here at the beginning of the church year, but as time goes by and especially when our children graduate, **"Why aren't they in church?"** is the refrain that seems to come up in many of our discussions. Although our response here at the church is to offer more programs to hopefully engage our youth, the simple and more direct answer is because their parents were not or are not in church.

Parents and not the church alone are responsible for the faithful upbringing of their children. **"Where are our children?"** They are in sports, music and dance lessons, school and school projects, scouting and "fun times." Some are traveling, relaxing at the movies or concerts. **"Where are our children?"** The short answer is not at church and parents are at the heart of making this change possible. But first parents must believe that their Orthodox Christian faith is a priority and a most important one to instill and plant in their children's hearts and lives. Do we not realize that we as parents and grandparents will someday give an accounting to God as to how we are raising them in the faith?

One of the saints of the church gives parents the following advice: **"When the children are young talk to them about God; when they grow up, talk to God about them."** Raising children is not an easy task and given the emphasis the world and the pressures of society puts on families many of our children will rebel or even fall away. If we nurture them in the faith during their formative years then do not despair but continue to pray for them. Pray also for strength to remain and retain a faithful Christian home and family. Again, it is not easy and depends on the church and home working together to make your home a place where Christ is welcomed and honored.

St. John Chrysostom advises Christian parents:

"If you raise children well, they will do the same with their children and they with theirs, and so on, we will then have a holy community." He continues, "Parents must see to it that their children become rich, not in silver and gold and the likes of them, but in piety, understanding and virtue."

Are we practicing what we preach? We do so many things for our children, we give them whatever money can buy. Bringing them to activities, even church activities, is not the

Continued on page 7

SCHEDULE OF CHURCH SERVICES

SUNDAY SERVICES

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

September 2- 14th Sunday of Matthew

September 9- Sunday Before Holy Cross

September 16- Sunday After Holy Cross

September 23- 1st Sunday of Luke

September 30- 2nd Sunday of Luke

MIDWEEK SERVICES

Saturday, September 8- Nativity of the
Theotokos

Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 9 am

Friday, September 14- Exaltation of the
Holy Cross

Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 9 am

Wednesday, September 26- Falling Asleep of
St. John the Theologian

Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 9 am

EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

SEPTEMBER 14



In the twentieth year of his reign (326), the Emperor Constantine sent his mother Saint Helen to Jerusalem to venerate the holy places and to find the site of the Holy Sepulchre and of the Cross. Relying upon the oral tradition of the faithful, Saint Helen found the precious Cross together with the crosses of the two thieves crucified with our Lord. However, Helen had no way of determining which was the Cross of Christ.

With the healing of a dying woman who touched one of the crosses, Patriarch Macarius of Jerusalem identified the True Cross of Christ. Saint Helen and her court venerated the Precious and Life-Giving Cross along with many others who came to see this great instrument of Redemption.

The Patriarch mounted the ambo (pulpit) and lifted the Cross with both hands so that all of the people gathered could see it. The crowd responded with "Lord have mercy".

This became the occasion of the institution in all of the Churches of the Exaltation of the Precious Cross, not only in memory of the event of the finding of the Cross, but also to celebrate how an instrument of shame was used to overcome death and bring salvation and eternal life.

The Feast is an opportunity outside of the observances of Holy Week to celebrate the full significance of the victory of the Cross over the powers of the world, and the triumph of the wisdom of God through the Cross over the wisdom of this world. This Feast also gives the Church an opportunity to relish the full glory of the Cross as a source of light, hope and victory for Christ's people. It is also a time to celebrate the universality of the work of redemption accomplished through the Cross: the entire universe is seen through the light of the Cross, the new Tree of Life which provides nourishment for those who have been redeemed in Christ.



BYZANTINE MUSIC MINISTRY

“IS ANY AMONG YOU AFFLICTED? LET HIM PRAY. IS ANY MERRY? LET HIM SING PSALMS.”

(JAMES 5:13 KJV)

The Byzantine Music Ministry, headed by our chanter, Demetri Constantine, is excited to announce that it will be offering byzantine music classes beginning this fall. The main goal of these classes will be to learn how to chant the liturgical services according to the byzantine musical tradition. In this class, students will learn how to read byzantine notation, as well as develop and maintain an understanding



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Thomas Gatzunis, Parish Council President
Nikki Stounaras, 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
YOCAMA, Jill Kovatsis
Peace Ministry, Peter Panagopoulos
IOCC, Andrea Katsenes
Habitat for Humanity, David Newkirk, Gina Pagonis

Hospitality/Fellowship Hour, St. Demetrios Philoptochos
Library, Cindi Dabrowski
Orthodox Life Series, James Skedros
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, Tom Camp
YOUTH

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

GOYA, Fr. Vinnie and Jill Kovatsis
Jr. GOYA, Fr. Vinnie, Renee Vekiarides, Kelly Marks
JOY, Fr. Vinnie, Anastasia Smith
HOPE, Fr. Vinnie
Family First Friday, Pres. Nadia Minucci
Greek Folk Dancing, Margaret Talmers
Greek Language School, Avra Parpos
Young Professionals, Samuel Johnson



of how to properly execute and intone the divine hymns of the liturgical services. The class will meet once every two weeks and will accept students of all music levels. We hope to see as many participants as possible! Be sure to stop by during the ministry fair and sign up with Demetri for more information! Meeting dates and times will be forthcoming.



Demetri Constantine is a recent M.Div. graduate of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology and has been the chanter here at Saint Demetrios for the last few years. He is excited to offer this service to the church and hopes to share his love and passion for byzantine music with all those interested.

GREEK LANGUAGE & CULTURAL SCHOOL



"Let's join together as the new year begins ... We'll share and be kind as we work and play, and our friendships will grow with each passing day."

What a wonderful feeling, the first day of school is just around the corner! Father Nick, Father Vincent, and the staff of the St. Demetrios Greek Language & Cultural School are excited to welcome you back to school and to an academic year full of exciting and enriching lessons and activities.

Please mark your calendar with these important dates:

Sunday, 9/9- Registration, following Liturgy in the Church Hall

Tuesday, 9/11- Registration, Agiasmos Service, Open House, and Social, 4 – 6 pm

In addition, registration will be held the remaining Sundays in September following Liturgy.

All are welcome. Please note, we welcome 4-year-old children to participate in the Pre-Kindergarten program. For additional information about our Greek School program, please call the Church Office at 781-237-5561 or Avra Parpos at 508-875-2103.

CALLING HS SENIORS AND COLLEGE STUDENTS FOR 60TH ANNIVERSARY RESEARCH PROJECT

In celebration of its 60th anniversary, St. Demetrios is preparing an online, multi-media version of its history. In the next few months we'll be seeking historical information from parishioners and we'll be conducting interviews with long-time church members. We are looking for five HS seniors and/or college students with a serious interest in history or journalism to do interviews and collect materials. The selected students will receive training and equipment. Students will earn a stipend for each assignment completed. Send a brief resume and letter to Dr. Manny Paraschos at the church office by Sept. 28. Access to transportation is essential. For more information contact manoparas@gmail.com.



CHURCH SCHOOL



We look forward to the upcoming Church School year. Classes begin on Sunday, September 9th 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 9	First Day of Church School
September 16	Church School Classes
September 23	Church School Classes
September 30	Church School Classes



ST. DEMETRIOS GOYA AT MBC

SESSION 4 JULY 30TH - AUGUST 5TH

GOYA (GRADES 9-12)

We are so excited for another year at St. Demetrios with our GOYA! We will be having a fun GOYA night on September 21st from 6:30-8:30 pm We will have dinner, games, music and planning for a great year of GOYA. Be sure to RSVP to Fr. Vinnie or to Jill Kovatsis (emails below). Make sure to bring a change of clothes to church on September 23rd for our annual GOYA Car Wash during the Welcome Back BBQ. We have a very exciting year planned for all GOYAns with opportunities for community service, fellowship and time to learn about our faith. If you are interested in being a part of GOYA, be sure to email Fr. Vinnie at frvincent@stdemetriosweston.org or Jill Kovatsis at ja.k@verizon.net.

FAMILY FIRST FRIDAY

Join us for our first Family First Friday on September 7th from 6:30-8:30pm. We will have a fun family activity, games for the kids and a planning meeting with parents to talk about the year. Please RSVP to Presbytera Nadia at presnadia@gmail.com as soon as possible. Family First Friday is open to families of all shapes and sizes, all ages, children or no children. We seek to unite all families through fellowship, discussion, crafts and Christ! Please join us!



JR. GOYA (GRADES 6-8)

We are excited to announce the reformation of Jr. GOYA! Grades 6-8 will now be a part of Jr. GOYA. An opportunity for middle school students to come together for fellowship, faith and fun! If you or your child are of the middle school age, be sure to email Fr. Vinnie (frvincent@stdemetriosweston.org) or Renee Vekiarides (rvekiarides@321foundation.org) if you are interested in joining. We will be having our first meeting at the Vekiarides home on September 22nd from 6-8 pm. Join us for dinner and a discussion with Fr. Vinnie! Also, be sure to bring a change of clothes on September 23rd for the GOYA Car Wash during our annual Welcome Back BBQ!



ST. DEMETRIOS YOCAMA GROUP

SERVICE PROJECT IN MONTANA

A STUDENT'S PRAYER

Christ my Lord, the Giver of light and wisdom, who opened the eyes of the blind man and transformed the fishermen into wise heralds and teachers of the gospel through the coming of the Holy Spirit, shine also in my mind the light of the grace of the Holy Spirit. Grant me discernment, understanding and wisdom in learning. Enable me to complete my assignments and to abound in every good work, for to You I give honor and glory.
Amen.



PHOTOS

MBC Summer Camp—
Session 4



Congratulations to the Resmini Family on the Chrismation of JJ and the baptism of Hayden, and, to Alex Kurkuvelos and Stacey Kourtis on their marriage!



FR. NICK'S MESSAGE



same as bringing them to the Liturgy and hearing the message of Christ and the Gospel. Truth be told, the majority of parents arrive late to church, sometimes just before Holy Communion. What message are we sending to our children about the Liturgy, Worship and the Sacraments? Often we spend more time in the car or at fellowship hour than in God's house. We say we went to church but does this mean the physical building or the experience of prayer, worship and faithful attentiveness as we commune with Almighty God?

Sunday, the Lord's Day, ought to begin with the family, and our children, at church. We are called to continue the Liturgy after the Liturgy by keeping the Spirit of the **"Lord's Day"** alive throughout the week. Our children may hear about God in church and in church school but in order to experience and see Him as a real presence, their presence and participation in the sacraments are paramount. Our children will imitate us, our actions, our words and our example. Does our example, yours and mine, honor our Christian faith? Does it honor Christ, His Gospel, His truths? If not then His absence from our homes, prayers and hearts will be filled by other things less important than His love for us.

Here are a few guidelines to help us focus on what is most important: our faith in God, in His Son Jesus Christ and the Holy and Life Giving Spirit and of course, His Holy Church.

- Talk to them about how to be and act in God's House.
- Be on time as a family for Worship and the Liturgy. Divine Liturgy begins at 9:30 am.
- Disconnect! Turn radio, cell phones, and tablets off. Learn, recite, and sing some of the hymns and prayers of the Liturgy on your way to and from church.
- Minimize social interactions and go directly to your seats. Be aware of the example you are setting for them in prayer and focus.
- Encourage your children not only to attend church school but also to participate. Ask them what they heard and learned.
- Join in the fellowship hour that follows the Liturgy with other families. Avoid idle talk or gossip about others, politics, church weaknesses, or overall criticisms. Your children are listening and take cues from you and others who are there. Make the day a positive one.
- Work for the church to improve it, support it and volunteer in any way you can. Make it the God-centered place where God's presence is felt and honored.
- Parents and grandparents still remain the single most important influence in raising and nurturing our young people to live holy and faithful lives and to later follow the examples we have set for them.

Let's begin here and now towards strengthening our families by emphasizing consistent church attendance by honoring the Lord's Day.

St. Paul in 2 Timothy 1:15, emphasizes the important role of fathers and mothers as he reminds them of the parents that raised them.

"I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and now I am sure, dwells in you."

Let us strive to be people of faith, and then we won't have to raise the question, **"Where are our children?"**

With Love in the Lord,

Fr. Nick



CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1- New Ecclesiastical Year!
2- 14th Sunday of Matthew	3- Labor Day Church Offices Closed	4	5	6	7 Family First Friday, 6:30 pm	8- Nativity of the Theotokos Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 9 am
9- Sunday before Holy Cross Ministry Fair	10	11 Greek School Registration and Agiasmo, 4 pm	12 Parish Council Meeting, 7 pm	13	14- Exaltation of the Holy Cross Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 9 am Senior Guild Luncheon	15 Hellenic Nursing Home, 2 pm
16- Sunday after Holy Cross Ministry Fair	17	18 Greek School, 4 pm	19	20	21 GOYA Night, 6:30 pm	22 Jr. GOYA Launch Event, 6 pm
23- 1st Sunday of Luke Ministry Fair Welcome Back BBQ GOYA Car Wash	24	25 Greek School, 4 pm	26- Falling Asleep of St. John the Theologian Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 9 am	27	28	29 Habitat for Humanity Playhouse Building, 8 am
30- 2nd Sunday of Luke						

STEWARDSHIP & PHILOPTOCHOS

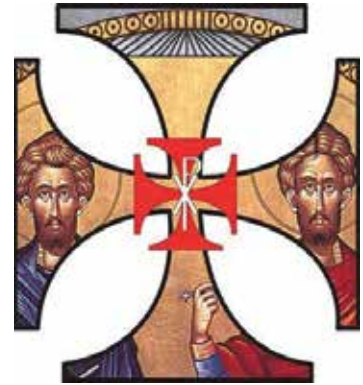
PHILOPTOCHOS

We are busily getting ready to begin our new ecclesiastical year. Please save Sunday, September 30th for a welcome back luncheon following the Divine Liturgy. You will hear many exciting philanthropic endeavors that were shared with us at Clergy-Laity. National Philoptochos has done an outstanding job and we have played an integral role in helping them reach a goal of over 3 million dollars to disburse to charities. We have some exciting news to share with you.

Again, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have given of your talents and treasures. We had a wonderful year giving over \$25,000 to charities and we are very close to reaching our spiritual goal which was funding the icon of Panaghia for the iconostasis.

Don't forget our October 20th evening with Basile. It will be a tremendous evening.

Nikki



STEWARDSHIP

WHY DO I GIVE TO THE CHURCH

People often ask why do we really need to give to our Church. Here are some answers to that question that we should prayerfully ponder:

BECAUSE everything I have comes from GOD, and by giving I thus acknowledge HIS ownership and my stewardship.

BECAUSE the Church is the best institution I know of through which my giving can most profitably be used to extend CHRIST'S KINGDOM

BECAUSE when I joined the Church I promised to support it, and I want to make good that promise.

BECAUSE giving regularly reminds me constantly that I have a definite share in extending the Kingdom of Christ.

BECAUSE the educational, missionary and relief efforts of my Church have no other support than the offerings of Church stewards.

BECAUSE I am not willing to accept the benefits of the Church without contributing to its works.

BECAUSE by giving to Christ and HIS CHURCH I am laying up treasure in HEAVEN.

BECAUSE pledging to the Church helps to keep me from growing selfish and indifferent and thinking of only myself.

BECAUSE when I give in faith to God's work, I know that I can count on HIM to see to it that I am able to meet my pledge.

Finally-

BECAUSE Christ spoke of giving generously and cheerfully and I wish to acknowledge my gratitude for all I have from HIS many blessings.

Please continue your support and love of St. Demetrios and the many ministries and ways the Church assists you in living your Christian faith.

- The Stewardship Committee

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENIOR GUILD

Dear Senior Guild Members,

Just a reminder: The Upcoming Senior Guild Meeting will be on September 14th (Exaltation of the Holy Cross). The Senior Guild will discuss the possibility of going on a trip to the Russian Icon Museum to see the exhibit of Greek Orthodox icons during the week of September 17th. Please mark your calendars for this event.

Our October meeting and luncheon will be on October 18th (St. Luke The Evangelist) following the Divine Liturgy. We will discuss the Great Event of December. I hope you all had a good and restful summer.

Please contact Artemis Martakis @ (508) 785-0045 if you have any questions. Thank you.

Artemis Martakis

THE FR. MANIKAS LIBRARY

Book of the month:

Encountering the Mystery
by Ecumenical Patriarch
Bartholomew



This recent acquisition illuminates the rich culture and soul of Orthodox Christianity. Bartholomew traces its roots and explores its spirituality, doctrine, liturgy and art. More especially, in a unique way, he relates Orthodox Christianity to contemporary issues, such as freedom and human rights, social justice and globalization, nationalism and war. You can find this book on our recommendation shelf. Similar books can be found under catalog A.

Thanks to recent donations our library is growing. We invite you to come and visit the parish library. The library is opened every Sunday after Liturgy. However, you are welcomed to visit the library when 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. Date is the month and year when you borrow the book. This will help us to keep track of our books. Remember, this library is for you and your family.

ORTHODOX LIFE

Join us for an Introduction to the Orthodox Faith studying the **“Journey to Fullness”** produced by Ancient Faith Ministries. This is a great opportunity for those who want to learn more about the faith and those who are interested in converting/being Chrismated in the faith. We will look at our Orthodox faith on a basic, elementary level and discuss the aspects of it.

Dates will be forthcoming. If you have any questions, please contact Fr. Vinnie at frvincent@stdemetriosweston.org.



HOW DO WE ELEVATE THE CROSS IN OUR OWN LIVES?

We live at a time when many find it difficult to find the right way to live. Many are lost. The world tells us that money, power, fame, pleasure, and the like are the really important things in life. But the Cross reminds us that this is not so, that such things give a distorted picture of life. Morality, purity, honesty, virtue, faith, trust and love, these are the ingredients that make for a meaningful and truly happy life. And these are the virtues that the Cross stands for.

The Cross is our guide in making decisions. During life's journey, we often come to crossroads and we have to decide which path of life to take. As we ponder life's work, life's partner, and the countless other decisions, it will help to seek light from the Cross of Christ.

The Cross is our guide in sickness and pain. Remember that no person has suffered as Jesus suffered—He who was very God of very God, and yet bore the agony of rejection and crucifixion. He not only suffered in body but in soul as He took upon Himself the burden of humanity's sin. Believing Christians have always turned to the Cross in times of sickness and pain and they have found strength and help there.

The Cross is our guide in times of sorrow. It is always difficult to bid farewell to a beloved parent, child or friend who has died. But the empty Cross serves to remind us that Christ rose from the dead and is victor over the grave. It is to the Cross that we come, heeding Christ's words: “Come unto Me all you that are burdened and heavy laden and I will give you rest ...” (Matt. 11:28-29).

And so, let the Cross of Christ be our guide in life. Let us elevate it within our hearts, seeking guidance, help and direction as we make our way through the years of our earthly journey.



BASILE
GREEK COMEDY SHOW

Saturday, October 20, 2018
Doors open at 7pm • Show begins at 8pm
Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church
57 Brown Street • Weston, MA
Dance to the music of the Taximi Band • Wine & Mezedes
Tickets: \$75 (Limited Seating)
Contact Pam Brody at
(781) 864-5327 or brodster52@yahoo.com



SAINT DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX
LADIES PHILOPTOKOS SOCIETY
SAINT CHRISTINE CHAPTER

Comedy & Kefi:
*Fresh from his World Tour,
Basile bringing his Emmy Nominated Comedy
To a Special Night at St. Demetrios*

Perhaps one of the most diverse entertainers in America today, Basile has brought laughter to millions of comedy fans across the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia and Africa. On Saturday, October 20, he will be right here at St. Demetrios for what promises to be a sold out evening of comedy and kefi, which will also feature the music of Taximi Band, wine and mezedes.

Basile has brought his unique blend of humor, improvisation and ethnic characters to audiences on HBO, Showtime, Comedy Central, The Jay Leno Show and on Armed Forces Radio/TV and through his critically acclaimed series, Growing Up Greek in America, which has sold over a million copies worldwide.

Performed both in English and in Greek, his “laughs for all ages” material hits all the comic nuances of being Greek and Orthodox in America. From trying to explain an Iphone and “butt call” to his 103 year old Yiayia to why we talk about “fakies” (lentils) in mixed company, audiences around the world support Basile’s decision to leave behind a legal career for the comedy stage.

First-come-first-served seating is limited and only tables of 8 may be reserved. Get your parea together and contact Pam Brody at 781-864-5327 or brodster62@yahoo.com for tickets at \$75.00 per person.

FROM THE CLERGY LAITY CONGRESS IN BOSTON JULY 2018





ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers were generously donated by the following parishioners:

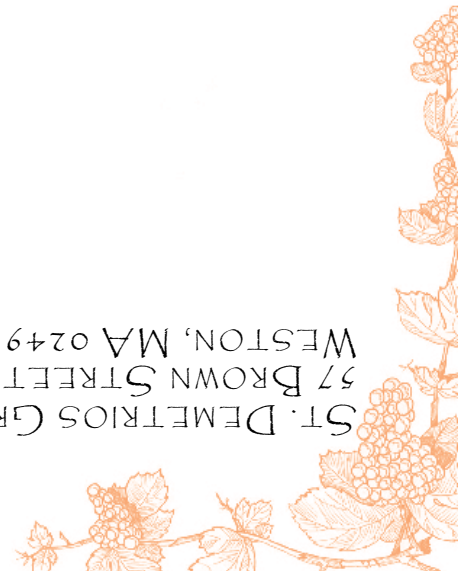

August 5- In loving memory of Peter Souris from his family.

August 19- From the sons of Anita Koulopoulos.

BAPTISMS

The son of Christopher and Nilda Resmini was Chrismated on Sunday, August 19th, and named Janiel Jeovanni Hernandez Romero. His sponsor was Gina Spencer.

The daughter of Christopher and Nilda Resmini was baptized on Sunday, August 19th, and named Hayden Flora Resmini. Her sponsor was Thomas Resmini.



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