

THE BEACON

APRIL 2011

**ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS**



S H I N I N G F O R T H T H E G O O D N E W S

A Message from the Priest

April 2011

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The English Poet, T.S. Elliot, wrote that “April is the cruellest month.” For us as Orthodox Christians, it can seem that way, because it brings us, once again, the time to contemplate the Passion and Death of our Lord. It is cruel in this, because it shows us what the real outcome of our sins is. So often we justify our sins, they’re not really that bad; no one gets hurt, I really enjoy doing it. But April inevitably confronts us with the true consequences of our sins, and this can seem pretty cruel. At the same time, April is the most blessed month, because it also shows us that, despite our sins and our excuses for sin, that same consequence of our sins has blossomed into the streams of forgiveness flowing from the empty tomb.

April brings us face to face with life and death. The most fundamental questions of humanity are packaged and presented to us. We are called to leave behind, even if just for a week, the trivialities and banalities of our life in the world and to participate in and experience the struggle of God and Death on the cross, and the ultimate conquest of Death on its own turf. As a hymn from Holy Saturday says,

putting the words into the mouth of Death: It would have been better for me if I had not accepted Mary’s Son, for he has come to me and destroyed my power; he has shattered the gates of brass and as God he has raised up the souls that once I held. April shows us what it’s really all about.

The Services of Holy Week take us, day by day, through the last week of our Lord’s life. Each day presents a new episode, as we accompany our Lord and his disciples from the raising of Lazaros (in which he anticipates his own resurrection) to his triumphal entry into Jerusalem, through his confrontations with his enemies, to the Upper Room and the Last Supper, to the Garden, the court of Pilate, the Cross and the Tomb. Finally we greet the single light that shatters the midnight darkness and sing the ancient yet ever new hymn of victory: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling death by death and to those in the tombs bestowing life. Life, then, is the gift of this week, life is what we experience day by day in the services, life which dispels the darkness of death.

How, then, can we stay away from these incredible services? “Can you not watch one hour with me?” our Lord asked his disciples in the garden; he asks us the same question today. The beautiful services of Friday and Saturday are very popular; so many people have emotional attachments to them. But they make no sense without the services of the previous Saturday through Thursday. Make some time to experience the fullness of Holy Week; the glory and joy of Pascha will be all the more overwhelming in its fullness!

May our Lord, who reigns from the Cross, bless us with the life of Resurrection.

IN THIS ISSUE

Parish Directories	02
Liturgical Schedule	03
Prosforo Schedule	04
Meet the Saints	05, 06
Stewardship Report	10
Parish News & Notes	13, 14
Sponsors	20
April/May Calendar	21, 22

Fr. Constantine Newman

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Liturgical Schedule



SUNDAY SERVICES

No Orthros

Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

Friday, April 1

4th Stasis of the Salutations

6:00 pm

Sunday, April 3

4th Sunday of the Great Fast

Our Holy Father, John, Author of the *Ladder of the Divine Ascent*

Plagal 4th Tone

1st Morning Gospel

Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20

Gospel: Mark 9:17-31

Monday, April 4

Great Compline

6:00 pm

Wednesday, April 6

Presanctified Liturgy

6:00 pm

Friday, April 8

Akathist Hymn

6:00 pm

Sunday, April 10

5th Sunday of the Great Fast

Our Holy Mother, Mary of Egypt

Plagal 1st Tone

2nd Morning Gospel

Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14

Gospel: Mark 10:32-45

Monday, April 11

Great Compline

6:00 pm

Wednesday, April 13

Presanctified Liturgy

6:00 pm

Saturday, April 16

Saturday of Lazaros

Divine Liturgy

9:00 am

Sunday, April 17

Palm Sunday

Festal Hymns

Festal Morning Gospel

Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9

Gospel: John 12:1-18

Sunday, April 17

Bridegroom Service

7:00 pm

Monday, April 18

Great and Holy Monday

Bridegroom Service

7:00 pm

Tuesday, April 19

Great and Holy Tuesday

Bridegroom Service

7:00 pm

Hymn of Kassiani

Wednesday, April 20

Great and Holy Wednesday

Presanctified Liturgy

9:00 am

Holy Unction

3:30 pm

Washing of the Feet

7:00 pm

Thursday, April 21

Great and Holy Thursday

Vesperal Liturgy

7:00 am

12 Gospels

7:00 pm

Friday, April 22

Great and Holy Friday

Royal Hours

7:30 am

Sunday School Retreat

10-3

Service of the Unnailing

3:00 pm

Service of the Lamentations

7:00 pm

Saturday, April 23

Great and Holy Saturday

Vigil of Pascha

9:00 am

Pannychis

11:15 pm

Sunday, April 24

Great and Holy Sunday of Pascha

Anastasis, Orthros and Liturgy

12:00 am (midnight)

Agape Vespers

11:00 am

Prosforo: An Offering of Faith

Of the many ways of supporting our Church, there are few which stand out as uniquely personal offerings of faith. The offering of Prosforo bread for the Divine Liturgy is one of them. We are thankful to all who have faithfully fulfilled this responsibility and invite more of our faithful to make this a part of their lives as well.

Prosforo Schedule

April 3	Stella Andriotakis	May 1	Kathy Tsiantas
April 10	Anna Chetsas	May 8	Lisa Housianitis
April 17	Tina Klidas	May 15	Stella Andriotakis
April 24 (Easter)	Andrea Jones	May 22	Anna Chetsas
		May 29	Tina Klidas

Joanna Tsiantas is responsible for the Prosforo Schedule. If you have any scheduling conflicts or requests, need to have the Prosforo brought to the church early Sunday morning or wish to add your name to the schedule, please contact Joanna at (978) 465-1405.

A Message from the President

March 18, 2011

Dear Parishioners of Annunciation Church,

Spring is nearly here!

Along with Spring come many changes and we are experiencing many right here in our church. In order to present our church in a more pleasant view to the public and to our many guests which we have often at the church, we have contracted for the painting of Nicholson Hall as well as for the services of a weekly professional cleaning service. It is my hope along with many others that these 2 initiatives will shed a brighter light on our wonderful home.

Spring always brings with it a need for clean-up outside as well. Grounds clean-up is scheduled for the near future and I encourage everyone to volunteer and assist with the much needed sprucing up of the outside of the Church. I thank everyone who has already volunteered their assistance and support. This effort will surely prepare us for the annual festival this Summer. The Festival Committee will be meeting soon and again I encourage everyone to support the festival with "2 Hours" of commitment. Please watch the bulletin for announcements of Festival Committee meetings.

Thank you to the Ladies Aide and to all who attended the wonderful reception shown to our Bishop Methodios on March 9. His Eminence was very complimentary of the evening, specifically the meal that was provided, and it was a great pleasure to see some of our old friends who also attended.

As we approach Holy Week and the celebration of Pascha my prayers and best wishes are with you all and your families.

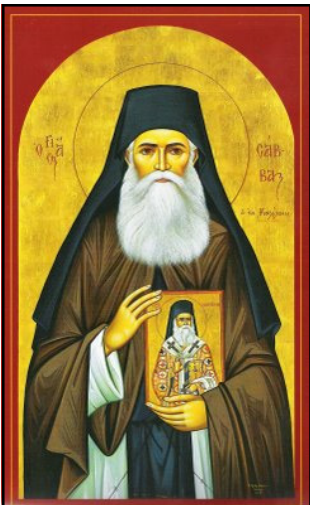
Sincerely,

Joe Spaulding

Council President

Meet the Saints of April

April 7 — *Saint Savvas the New of Kalymnos (1948)*



He was born in Thrace to a poor family. Early in life he desired to become a monk and, failing to get his parents' consent, left secretly for Mt Athos. After several years there, he traveled to Palestine, where he entered the Monastery of St George the Chozebite. In 1903 he was ordained to the priesthood. From 1907–1916 he lived in severe asceticism as a hermit on the banks of the Jordan. After living in

several monasteries in Greece, he served with St Nektarios of Aegina for the last year of the Saint's life (he reposed in 1920). After six more years on Aegina, Fr Savvas moved to the island of Kalymnos, where he spent the remainder of his life. He lived in quietness and asceticism, acquiring a reputation throughout the island as a confessor and spiritual father. He slept only a few hours each night, and gave away any money that came to him the same day, since he believed that it was wrong for a monk to have money in his cell after nightfall.

Saint Savvas reposed on the Old Calendar feast of the Annunciation in 1948. Innumerable miracles and healings have been wrought through his intercession. A striking example occurred in 1957: A group of young islanders were talking about the Saint, and one of them, who doubted his sanctity, said 'If this lamp breaks I'll believe. At that moment the lamp shattered spontaneously.

The following account is from Mother Nectaria McLees Evlogeite! A pilgrim's guide to Greece: 'His last words of counsel to his nuns were, "...love... is the bond of perfection," and to the abbess he said, "Love, love, love (Agapa, agapa, agapa)." Then he clapped his hands six times, saying "The Lord, the Lord, the Lord..."

In 1957 his relics were uncovered in the presence of Metropolitan Isidoros of Kalymnos, who described them as "the bones being perfectly joined, and the vestments intact." When the sepulchre was opened a divine and otherworldly fragrance covered the area, even to the outskirts of town far below. In 1961, an iconographer of the Skete of Kapsokalyvia on Mount Athos painted an icon

of St. Savvas at Abbess Philothei's request. The icon arrived by ferry, and as it was being transferred from the post office to the customs house where the nuns would pick it up, the convent bell began ringing by itself and continued until the icon was brought to the monastery.

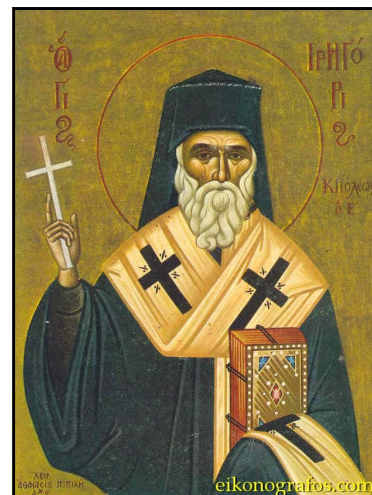


April 10 — *New Hieromartyr Gregory, Patriarch of Constantinople (1821)*

He was born on the Peloponnese, and became Archbishop of Smyrna in 1785. He served at a time when revolutionary feeling and activity was increasing among the Greek people, and witnessed the cruel retribution that the Ottoman Turks visited on any evidence of rebellion among their subject people.

Once in Smyrna, seeing that an action he had taken was causing discord in his dioceses, he came down from the hierarchical throne during a service, prostrated himself before the faithful and asked their forgiveness.

He was elected Patriarch of Constantinople in 1797. Under the Turkokratia, the Patriarch was not only the head of the Greek churches but the secular ruler of the Greek people, bound by oath to respect the authority of the Sultan. This, combined with Gregory's personal experience of the treatment of Greek rebels, made him a staunch opponent of revolutionary activity among his people.



Meet the Saints of April

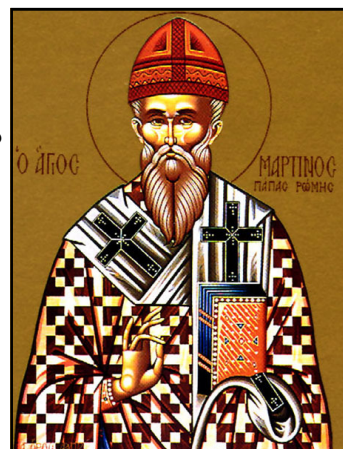
April 10 — *New Hieromartyr Gregory, Patriarch of Constantinople (1821) cont*

Still, when revolutionaries on the Peloponnese declared Greek independence from Turkey on March 25, 1821, Turkish retribution was harsh: On Pascha, April 10, after serving the Paschal Liturgy, the aged Patriarch was arrested by the Turkish authorities. He was tortured in an effort to have him reveal the names of those heading the revolution, then was offered his freedom if he would convert to Islam. Gregory answered, 'You ask in vain: the Patriarch of Christians dies a Christian.' He (along with other clergy and hierarchs) was hanged as a traitor on the gate of the patriarchal compound. An eyewitness, a British clergyman visiting Constantinople, wrote: 'His body, attenuated by abstinence and emaciated by age, had not sufficient weight to cause immediate death. He continued for a long time in pain which no friendly hand dared abridge, and the darkness of night came on before his final convulsions were over.' His body was left hanging for three days, then sold by the Turkish authorities to a Jewish mob, who mutilated the body, then weighted it about the neck with a stone and threw it into the sea. Despite this, the body was found floating at sea by a Greek merchant ship captain. When the body was identified as that of the martyred Patriarch, it was secretly taken to Odessa, where Orthodox church leaders took it under their care. Tsar Alexander I ordered a state funeral for the holy hierarch, which was celebrated on June 17 1821 in Odessa.

In 1871 the relics were returned to Greece by Tsar Alexander III. They were incorrupt, though fifty years had passed since his death. Saint Gregory was officially glorified in 1921. His relics may be venerated at the Metropolitan Cathedral in Athens.

April 13 — *St Martin the Confessor, pope of Rome (655)*

Martin became Pope on July 5th, 649, at the time of a furious quarrel between the Orthodox and the Monothelite heretics. Constans the Second, Heraclius' grandson, was on the throne at the time, and Paul was Patriarch of Constantinople. To restore peace in the Church, the Emperor himself wrote a dogmatic decree, the Typos, which leaned heavily towards heresy. Pope Martin summoned a Council of 105 bishops, at which the Emperor's statement was condemned. At the same time, the Pope wrote a letter to Patriarch Paul, begging him to uphold the purity of the Orthodox faith and to counsel the Emperor to reject the theories of the heretics. This letter infuriated both the Patriarch and the Emperor. The Emperor sent one of his generals, Olympius, to take the Pope to Constantinople in bonds. The general did not dare to bind the Pope with his own hands, but instructed one of his soldiers to kill him with the sword in church. But, when the soldier entered the church with his sword concealed, he was instantly blinded. So, by the providence of God, Martin escaped death. At that time, the Saracens fell upon Sicily, and Olympius went off there, where he died. Then, by the intrigues of the heretic Patriarch Paul, the Emperor sent a second general, Theodore, to bind and take the Pope on the charge that he, the Pope, was in collusion with the Saracens and that he did not reverence the most holy Mother of God. [!!] When the general arrived in Rome and read the accusation against the Pope, he replied that it was a libel; that he had no contact of any sort with the Saracens, the opponents of Christianity, and whoever does not confess the most holy Mother of God and do her reverence, let him be damned in this age and in that which is to come. But this did not affect the general's decision. The Pope was bound and taken to Constantinople, where he lay long in prison in great sickness, tortured by both anxiety and hunger, until he was finally sentenced to exile in Cherson, where he lived for two years before his death. He gave his soul into the hands of the Lord, for whom he had suffered so greatly, in 655. The evil Patriarch, Paul, died two years before him and, when the Emperor visited him on his deathbed, he smote his head against the wall, confessing with tears that he had greatly sinned against Pope Martin and asking the Emperor to set Martin free.(Prologue)



SERVICES OF HOLY WEEK

The services of Holy Week are meant to take us day by day through the last week of our Lord's life, to put us in the Upper Room at the Last Supper, in the Garden, at the foot of the Cross, at the tomb and to experience the light of the Resurrection. Without experiencing these services and the events the present, what meaning do the lamb dinner or the red eggs have? Come and see the great love that God has for you! And try going to one service which you normally do not go to. You will be glad you did!

Saturday of Lazaros—Saturday, April 16, 9:00 am

The Liturgy of this day remembers the death of our Lord's friend Lazaros; how he came to the tomb and called Lazaros out of the underworld. Already a week before we anticipate the Resurrection of our Lord himself. Traditionally after this Liturgy we get together to make the Palm Crosses for Palm Sunday. If you don't know how, don't worry—there is always an expert there who can give instructions.

Palm Sunday—Sunday, April 17, 9:30 am

This Sunday we commemorate the triumphal entry of our Lord into Jerusalem. This entry inaugurates the week which will lead to the cross, but it is also a victory procession proclaiming the ultimate victory of the King over sin and death in the Resurrection. At the end of Liturgy, the children, carrying palm branches, take part in a procession reenacting the first procession.

Bridegroom Service—Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, April 17-19, 7:00 pm

The three services which introduce Holy Week are called the Bridegroom Services after the icon used for these service, the icon of Christ wearing the crown of thorns and the red robe; this icon expresses the profound love that our Lord has for us and for his Church. The Gospels of these services take us through the events taking place early in the week leading up to the events of Holy Friday. The Bridegroom Service of Tuesday features the beautiful hymn by the nun Kassiane meditating on the actions and thoughts of the sinful woman who washed our Lord's feet.

Presanctified Liturgy—Wednesday, April 20, 9:00 am

The Church prescribes three Presanctified Liturgies for the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week. Because of the lack of attendance, parishes normally celebrate only the one on Wednesday. At the Gospel we hear about the sinful woman who washed our Lord's feet and hear once again the hymn of Kassiane. The Presanctified Liturgy gives us the opportunity to receive Holy Communion to strengthen us for the struggles of the end of the week.

Holy Unction (Efchelion)—Wednesday, April 20, 3:30 pm

Why we celebrate the Holy Mystery of Unction or Anointing during Holy Week is not clear. It may be connected with the reception of penitents back into the Church by anointing. This Holy Mystery is one which brings healing of soul and body, helps reorient our lives toward God, and brings forgiveness of sins. Anointing is available also after the evening service.

The Washing of the Feet (Holy Niptir)—Wednesday, April 20, 7:00 pm

The Service of the Washing of the Feet had fallen out of use over the centuries except in monasteries and cathedrals. In recent years the service has been revived in parish use. Normally the service would take place before the Solemn Evening Liturgy of Holy Thursday. Since this Liturgy has moved to Thursday morning, it seemed pastorally appropriate to move the Foot Washing Service to the previous evening to allow more participation.

In this Service twelve people represent the disciples at the Last Supper. After the water is blessed, the priest reads the Gospel from the Last Supper during which our Lord washed the feet of his disciples. The priest removes his phelonion (outer garment) and wraps himself in a towel, and then takes a pitcher of water to wash the feet of the chosen people. The last person and the priest take the dialogue between Peter and Christ. After the washing, the priest reads a second Gospel continuing the narration and giving our Lord's explanation of what he had just done. Because it was originally attached to another, the Washing of the Feet is a short service, and because of its dramatic nature is an especially good one to bring younger children to. The anointing with Efchelion is available after the service.

Vesperal Liturgy of the Mystical Supper—Thursday, April 21, 7:00 am

The solemn Liturgy was originally celebrated the evening of Holy Thursday, but, because it was followed by the lengthy Vigil of the Passion, it gradually moved up in the day until it settled sometime in the morning of Holy Thursday. This Liturgy brings us to the Upper Room and makes us participants at that first Mystical Supper when our Lord gave us his holy Body and precious Blood to be our food and drink. Many people make a special point of receiving Holy Communion at this Liturgy, but it is important not to make a superstition of this as well. We should receive Holy Communion at every Liturgy, and Communion on Holy Thursday is no different from Communion at other times. It is a wonderful custom, however, to join the disciples at the table of the Mystical Supper!

SERVICES OF HOLY WEEK continued

The Vigil of the Passion (Service of the Twelve Gospels)—Thursday, April 21, 7:00 pm

This Service developed out of the all-night Vigil in Jerusalem which would move from place to place associated with the Passion and Death of our Lord. Our present service centers around the reading of 12 Gospel passages which narrate the events from the Last Supper to the Burial. These readings are accompanied in the beginning of the service by 15 Antiphons—verses from the Psalms interspersed with hymns contemplating these events. After the reading of the 5th Gospel which tells how our Lord carried his cross to Golgotha and was crucified, the priest takes the large icon of the Crucified One (Estavromenos) in procession and places it in the middle of the Church. Although this is a long service (our Lord actually hung on the cross longer than the service lasts—keep that in mind!) it is a very intense participation in the Passion and Death of our Lord.

The Vigil before the Cross—Thursday night to Friday morning

It has become a tradition in our parish to keep an all-night Vigil before our crucified Savior. Can you watch one hour with our Lord to express your love and gratitude for all he has done for you? Sign up for an hour to pray and meditate before the cross. The hours in the middle of the night are especially needed to be covered. Books with prayers and prayer ropes are available, or simply pray with your own words.

Royal Hours—Friday, April 22, 7:30 am

In monasteries, the monks gather together during specific times during the day for prayers. On the solemn vigils of the year, Holy Friday, and the vigils of Christmas and Theophany, these four hours of prayer are gathered together into one service, and expanded with special hymns and readings from the Old Testament, the Epistles and the four Passion narratives from the Gospels. The service is called the “royal” hours because the emperor and his family traditionally attended this service. Following this service, the kouvouklion is decorated as a reminder of Paradise, and the children of the Sunday School have their retreat.

The Service of the Unnailing (Apokathelosis)—Friday, April 22, 3:00 pm

The Vespers Service of Holy Friday is celebrated at the time when our Lord was taken down from the cross. During the Vespers, the Gospel of the Passion and Death of our Lord is read and at the end the priest goes to the Icon of the Crucified One and removes the body from the cross. He then gives it to the young girls who take the role of the Myrrh-bearing women who cover it in a new linen cloth. The priest then takes the body and places it on the altar (which is a symbol of the tomb). At the end of the service the priest and the Myrrh-bearing women take the cloth symbolizing the burial cloth of Christ (the Epitaphios) in procession and places it in the symbolic tomb (kouvouklion), sprinkled with rose water and rose petals. At the end of the service the faithful come to venerate the Epitaphios; children often crawl under the kouvouklion in the form of a cross, symbolizing our “passing through” our Lord’s death to the Resurrection and freedom.

The Service of the Lamentations—Friday, April 22, 7:00 pm

This Service, Morning Prayer of Holy Saturday, brings us to the tomb of Christ. There are two very striking parts of this Service. The first is the singing of the Lamentations, short poetic verses lamenting the death and burial of Christ, but still looking forward to the victory of the Resurrection. Toward the end of the service we take the kouvouklion in procession through the streets of the city while singing the processional hymn, *Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us*. The service ends with scripture readings heralding the promise of the Resurrection.

The Great Vigil of Pascha—Saturday, April 23, 9:00 am

Originally the Vigil of Pascha began in the evening of Holy Saturday and focused on the Baptism of the catechumens who had preparing for the previous three years to become Christians. The Vigil lasted through the night and came to a conclusion with the morning Liturgy. Throughout the centuries the time for this service crept up through the day until it settled in the morning of Holy Saturday. Some aspects of the original Baptismal character remain, especially the number of Old Testament Prophecies which were originally read for the faithful while the bishop and clergy went to the baptistery for the baptism of the catechumens. A striking ceremony of this service is instead of singing the usual Alleluia with its psalm verses, we sing *Arise, O God, and judge the earth...* During the singing of this hymn with its verses, the priest goes around the church scattering laurel leaves as a sign of victory.

SERVICES OF HOLY WEEK *continued*

The Anastasis and Liturgy of Pascha—beginning about 11:15 pm Saturday, April 23

As the Vigil service moved up to Holy Saturday morning, the Sunday morning Liturgy of Pascha moved to midnight. The faithful begin gathering before midnight while a short service, called the Pannychnis or all-night vigil, is chanted. At midnight, the lights of the church are extinguished; the priest lights a candle from the “unsleeping” light on the Holy Table. The doors of the altar are opened and the priest brings the light out to the faithful to light their own candles. This ceremony is a representation of our Lord emerging from the tomb in the Resurrection. The priest then goes to the back of the church and chants the story of the Resurrection from the Gospel of Mark. After the Gospel reading, the Orthros (Morning Prayer) begins with the chanting of the triumphal Resurrection hymn: *Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and to those in the tomb bestowing life.* The church bells ring and the faithful raise their candles as a sign of triumph. At the end of the Orthros the faithful exchange the Paschal Kiss of Peace and liturgy begins. At the end of Liturgy the faithful come together for the traditional Easter lamb soup and a lamb dinner to celebrate our Lord’s Resurrection.

The Vespers of Agape—Sunday, April 24, 11:00 am

After the intense services of Holy Week and Pascha, the Vespers of Agape seems like a quiet afterthought. Nevertheless, it is a beautiful conclusion to these services; it is such a shame that more people cannot take an hour out of their Pascha preparations to bring the week’s celebrations to a conclusion. The service is a simple Vespers Service with the singing of the *Christos anesti!* and the special hymns of Pascha. The special feature of this service is the reading of the Gospel of the appearance of the risen Christ to the disciples in the Upper Room when Thomas was not present. This Gospel is read in as many languages as possible to represent the universality of the Gospel and the Resurrection. Our parish usually averages about 15 languages!



Stewardship Report

Let us commit ourselves and our whole life to Christ our God!

Our stewardship commitments (time, money, and talent) are tangible evidence of our love and devotion to God and His Church.

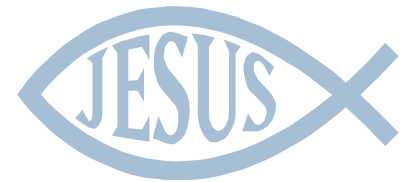
March 2011 Report

Status as of March 13, 2011

Total pledges for 2011 thus far	\$58,420	Current # of Pledges	Yearly Amount Range
Offerings received to date	\$15,345	tbd	\$2,000+
Due towards pledged amount	\$43,075	tbd	\$1,000–\$1,999
Average pledge	\$687	tbd	\$700–\$999
Maximum pledge thus far	\$3,600	tbd	\$500–\$699
Minimum pledge thus far	\$50	tbd	\$300–\$499
Number of stewards pledged thus far	85	tbd	\$101–\$299
Pledge forms received, no payments	tbd	tbd	≤\$100
Pledge form received, payment current	tbd	0	=\$0
Pledge form received, payment complete	na		
Payment made, no pledge form received	na		

Note: Average stewardship pledge is \$687 if the pledges greater than \$3,000 are not included when calculating the average.

If there are any omissions or errors in the March 2011 Report, please contact John Gogolos, Stewardship Committee Chairman (978) 465–3274 <j.gogolos@comcast.net>



Stewardship Comparison with Past 3 Years

	March 2011	March 2010	March 2009
Pledged Amount	\$58,420	\$59,152	\$53,032
Actual Paid	\$15,345	\$17,837	\$12,499
Amount to be Collected	\$43,075	\$41,315	\$40,543
Number of Stewards	85	87	88
Average Pledge Amount	\$687	\$680	\$603
Maximum Amount Pledged	\$3,600	\$3,600	\$3,180
Minimum Amount Pledged	\$50	\$5	\$0

Stewards as of 03/13/11

Alexander, Rick
Anderson, George and Sharon
Andriotakis, Louis and Stella
Angelos, William
Annas, Agnes
Argyrole, Don and Jill
Argyrole, Nicholas and Anita
Beck, Bruce and Kimberley
Bruno, Mark and Roseanne
Chadwick, Cathleen
Chetsas, Leon and Anna
Christo, Julia
Christopher, Faye
Connor, Edmund J. III and
 Joanna Tsiantas
Cooper, Brendon and Jennifer
Cusack, Michael and Dawn
Davis, Peter and Dorothy
Dollas, Christopher and Mary
Dollas, Mary
Dubus III, Andre and Fontaine
Dussi, John and Gina
Falite, Irene
Fiasconaro, George and Elaine
Gentile, Amy
George, Emery and Susan
Gigis, Stella
Ginieres, Peter and Mary
Gogolos, John and Patricia
Gravelle, Nathan and Jennifer
Halkiotis, Penelope
Hansen, Eric and Diane
Haraktis, Anastasios and
 Aikaterini
Hight, Stephen and Joanne H
Hill, Dick and Donna
Housianitis, Arthur and Lisa
Housianitis, John
Jansen, Ryan and Jennifer
Kacher, Bill and Andrea Jones
Kafalas, Andrew
Kafalas, Anne
Keefe, Zachary and Elizabeth
Lagasse, Niki
Machiros, Chrysanthe
Malonis, Christos and Mary
Maloof, Michael and Ann
Mamakos, Cathryn
Mamakos, Peter and Anna
Mansour, Louis and Eugenia
Mathieu, Cornelia
Matthews, Byron J. and Helen
Matthews, John and Christina
Matthews, Peter and Teri
McGrath, Thomas and
 Rose Papanickolas
Monoxelos, Milton and Catherine
Nakis, Connie
Neos, Charles
Newman, Rev. Fr. Constantine and
 Presbytera Anna
Pappas, Perry
Patriakeas, John and Joan
Patrinos, Christos
Perreault, Joanne and Chris
Pomerleau, Bruce and Viki
Ray, Julie M.
Reilly, Michael and Nicole
Schaeffer, Frank and Genie
Short, Ian and Jackie
Smith, Don and Gladys
Spalding, Joe and Dale
Spaneas, Mary F.
Sperelakis, James
Tsiantas, Kathy
Tsopelas, Angela
Uttley, William and Diana
Veth, Brian and Teena
Yavorski, James and Stacey

Please Note: If your name doesn't appear on this list that means that we have not received a stewardship pledge form for 2011.

Donations Report

"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver"

(II Corinthians 9:7)

Thank You (Efharisto!) for the following donations:

We wish to thank those who have made recent donations the Greek Church

For the Icon Flowers:

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Ginieres in Memory of Lucy and Plato Ginieres and for the health of the Ginieres and Greco families.

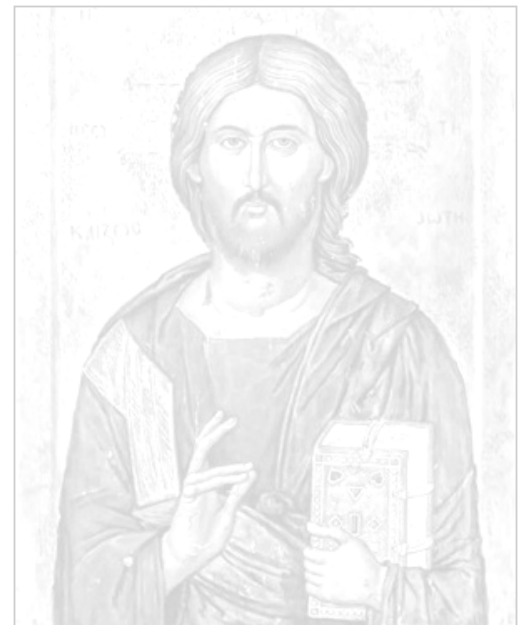
Jamile Nabhan
Irene Falite

In Memory of Helena Matthews

Peter and Anna Mamakos
Mary Dollas
Byron Matthews

In Memory of Nicholas Kacoyanis

Anastasia and George Savramis



Parish News & Notes



Sunday School News

It is time for us to plan our Pascha activities. Most important is our Good Friday Retreat which will take place on April 22 at 9:30 am. Please note the time has changed to 9:30. Our theme will be Body of Christ, come and see what we have planned. This is April School Vacation so I am hoping we have many students join us! Also please let me or Presbyteria know which girls will be our "girls in white." There are many opportunities to participate. Please look for a schedule coming soon! Here are our April activities:

April

3	Class
10	Class
17	PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION/ COIN BOXES RETURNED
22	GOOD FRIDAY RETREAT 9:30– 4 pm.
24	PASCHA

GOYAns Aid Lazarus House

It has become a winter time tradition for the high school GOYAns of Annunciation parish to help with the Lazarus House soup truck. The soup truck is a very old, run-down box truck that goes out into the streets of Lawrence bringing hot soup, sandwiches and good will to the poorest residents of this city. At each stop the GOYAns cheerfully dispensed cups of soup, bags of food and many extra goodies that the kids brought to give away. They had the blankets that the Sunday School collected as well as t-shirts, socks and toiletries donated by many parishioners. Each time the GOYAns went out on the soup truck they ran out of things to give away. One night, they even ran out of soup. Crowds quietly and patiently line up at the truck waiting for the food and gifts the kids will give. You never hear a negative word, you never see anyone acting impatiently -- even on cold, wet nights. Most of the recipients thank the kids and ask for God's blessings upon them. One GOYAn suggested that the people they are serving should be getting God's blessings instead.

As a parish, we can all be proud of these kids. They understand the severe needs that exist in places like Lawrence and are eager to do what they can to help. Thank you to each of the kids who served on the soup truck and a big thank you to all the parishioners of Annunciation Church for the hundreds of blankets and all the other gift items we collected to give out this year.

NEEDS FOR HOLY WEEK AND PASCHA 2011

Palms for Palm Sunday	\$75
Flowers for Icons (3) (Bridegroom, Mystical Supper, Anastasis)	\$45 each
Crown for the Cross	\$75
Arrangement for Cross	\$45
Rose Petals and Laurel Leaves	\$40
Flowers for Resurrection Lavaron	\$45
Garland for the Iconostasis	
For each icon	\$50
For the arch	\$60
Candles for Cross (3)	\$5 each
Candles for 12 Gospels	\$5 each
Candles for Kouvouklion	\$5 each

Please contact Father with your offerings.

St. Basil's Ministries Contest

St. Basil's Ministries needs a logo -- it will soon help identify the good works activities of SBM to the parish and community at large.

We are looking for artists in the parish to submit designs for the logo -- we are offering a \$50 gift certificate that can be used at any Newburyport business. Here are the contest rules.

1. Design a single color logo that identifies St. Basil's Ministries
2. Submit your design either on paper or electronically to Fr. Constantine
3. Submission deadline is April 30, 2011
4. Winner will be announced by May 30, 2011

Any questions about this contest, please contact Don Argyrople.

Parish News & Notes



Fellowship Hour Hosts Needed

We all enjoy having a cup of coffee and some delicious treats following Sunday Liturgy. It's a nice custom that reminds us to catch our breath and spend some time with friends before focusing on the demands of the week ahead. Help us keep the coffee brewing by signing up to host a Coffee Hour! Hosting a Coffee Hour is easier than you think!

Here's what you need to know:

- ◇ Choose an available Sunday on the Coffee Hour Sign-Up Sheet located in Nicholson Hall
- ◇ You can serve whatever you like or bring in these suggested basics: donuts or coffee cake, fruit, cheese & crackers, bagels & cream cheese, a gallon of fruit juice or punch, and cream for the coffee.
- ◇ The coffee and paper goods are provided by the church or you can bring your own.
- ◇ Remember to clean up afterward so the hall will be tidy for the next group or event.

For more information or to sign up for a Sunday, call Joanne Perreault at 978-388-8353 or email The.Perreaults@verizon.net.

Greek Food Festival 2011

First Meeting: MONDAY, MAY 2nd 7 pm, Nicholson Hall

With April upon us, can preparations for our Greek Food Festival be far behind?

Our largest fund raiser requires participation by as many of our Stewards as possible. If you haven't given of your time, talent, or treasure to this community effort in the past, you are missing out on a wonderful experience.

Learn from the "experts" how to make Spanakopita and the pastries that your Mothers and Grandmothers made; learn what goes into the Festival's favorite meal – the Lamb Shank Dinner. Help with getting Ad Book Sponsors, selling Raffle Tickets and so many other tasks that are essential to having a successful Festival.

There is no better time than now to step forward to offer whatever you can contribute to help make Greek Food Festival 2011 another success.

Please feel free to contact me at the following:

Office: 978-739-3940 or 800-343-1291 X 3940

Home: 781-233-2806

Email: charles.neos@mssb.com

Charlie Neos

Greek Food Festival Chairman



Greek Orthodox
Diocese of Boston

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church

St. Basil's Ministries

St. Basil's Ministries is one of the charitable organizations of Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church. Our mission is to emulate the life of St. Basil, an early Christian father who gave his possessions to help those in need. The St. Basil's Ministries runs a weekly hot lunch program serving 40 to 60 hot meals every week, supports local food pantries and charity programs locally, nationally and internationally. 100% of all funds received support these programs.

Meeting Summary – 2nd meeting 2011
March 6, 2011

8 parishioners in attendance

1. Arthur Housianitis reviewed new bank account and presented budget worksheet. Arthur will publish the budget worksheet in the monthly Beacon.
2. Families In Need – Don Argyrople reported that Fr. Constantine has been given Market Basket gift certificates to give to families who need assistance. \$275. Fr. will let Don know when he needs more.
3. Meals Ministry – Diane Hansen reported meals were delivered to a number of parish families in February. Another family was added to the list due to illness and Diane is requesting parishioners please make a meal and put it in the Nicholson Hall kitchen freezer so we have some meals ready to give away.
4. Visitation Ministry – Jim Yavorski reported by email indicating that he is working with Fr. Constantine and Joanna Panas to organize this project. Any parishioner interested in helping, please contact Jim.
5. Veteran's Ministry – Dorothy Davis is assessing veteran's projects that are supported by national Philoptochos. She consulted with Kevin Hunt of Newburyport veteran's services. She is considering organizing a Shoe Box project to send active duty service people goodie packages. She will talk with the teacher at Bresnihan School who does a similar project.
6. Community Service – Ed Connor is looking for suggestions for a spring time project that parishioners can get involved with. It could be service to the church or to some community organization. Give your ideas to Ed.
7. Lazaros Box Project – we raised \$521 in the Christmas Lazaros Box activity. Fr. Constantine recommended that the money be sent to the Orthodox parish in Honduras that provides meals to homeless people on street corners all over their city. After the meeting, the money was sent to Honduras and has been received by a grateful parish.
8. Logo Contest – We discussed the logo contest project. A submission date of April 15th had been selected, but the submission date will be April 30th since we are late in announcing the project. Details will appear in the April Beacon.

Harris & Park Streets, P.O. Box 575, Newburyport, MA 01950, Tel: (978) 465-5757, Fax: (978) 465-1793
Website: www.annunciationgoc.com

Easter Tsourekia

Celebrate the Resurrection with Tsourekia baked fresh by the GLAS King Arthur Baking Crew!



Name _____

Number of Tsourekia _____

Amount Enclosed _____

Please enclose payment of \$8 per Tsoureki with order form and quantity and mail to:

**Joanna Tsiantas
11 Hallisey Drive
Newburyport, MA 01950**

or hand directly to a member of the baking crew:

Chrysante Machiros, Anna Mamakos, Anna Chetsas or Elaine Fiasconaro
no later than April 8th, 2010.

*No phone orders please and note that **absolutely no** orders will be accepted after the April 10th deadline.*

Thank you and Kali Anastasi!

***Note:** When placing order please note that **absolutely no** orders will be accepted after the 10th or by phone. Also note that there will be a limited supply of Tsourekia so each order must be limited to **two per order**. Finally please include your date of order as orders will be prioritized by date received.*



Light the Path of the Epitaphios



Remember Your Loved Ones

Living and Deceased

As the Funeral Procession of Christ Passes By

Donation \$5 per bag

Please limit each bag to one person or a couple

Please light a luminary for my loved ones for the Holy Friday Evening Procession

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

NAME(S) FOR THE LUMINARY: living deceased (please circle)



Make this Easter extra special!!!

**Reserve an Easter Lily to be placed in the Church
in memory of or for the health of a loved one.**

Donation is \$13.00 per plant payable to Ladies Aid Society.

Detach and return the bottom half of this form and send no later than April 15th:

**Joanna Tsiantas
11 Hallisey Drive
Newburyport, MA 01950**

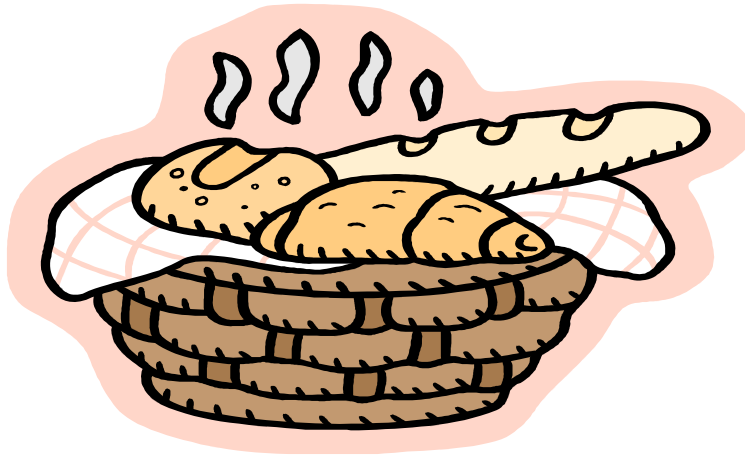
Your Name: _____

Your Telephone number: _____

In memory of:	_____
For the health of:	_____

Number of plants:(\$13 per plant) _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____



**THE LADIES AID SOCIETY IS
HOSTING
Palm Sunday Luncheon**

*featuring fresh baked haddock with crumb topping
green beans in tomato sauce
rice pilaf
salad
coffee and dessert

Sunday, April 17th

Immediately following Divine Liturgy

Nicholson Hall

**Tickets MUST be purchased ahead of time in order
to reserve a meal!**

*******No tickets will be sold at the door*******

\$15.00 Fish Dinner

\$5.00 Children (under 12)*

* Homemade Macaroni and Cheese will be served for the children



Sponsors



Many thanks to our Sponsors for their support!

Please patronize these friends of The Annunciation Church Newburyport;
they help to make *The Beacon* possible.

To become a Sponsor, contact Gina Dussi, e: gdussi@aol.com, t: (978) 887-9702.

The sponsorship rate includes placement in *The Beacon*
for a period of one year. Sponsorships are renewed annually.

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APRIL 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 4 th Stasis of the Salutations 6:00 pm	2
3 Divine Liturgy 9:30 am 4 th Sunday of the Great and Holy Lent <i>Lenten Fast</i>	4 St. Basil's Kitchen Great Compline 6:00 pm Choir 7 pm	5 Ladies Aid Mtg 7 pm	6 Presanctified Liturgy 6 pm	7	8 Akathist Hymn 6 pm	9
10 Divine Liturgy 9:30 am 5 th Sunday of the Great and Holy Lent <i>Lenten Fast</i>	11 St. Basil's Kitchen Great Compline 6:00 pm Choir Practice 7 pm	12 Parish Council Mtg 7 pm	13 Presanctified Liturgy 6 pm	14	15	16 Saturday of Lazaros Divine Liturgy 9am
17 Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Palm Sunday Bridegroom Service 7 pm <i>Lenten Fast</i> Holy Week	18 St. Basil's Kitchen Bridegroom Service 7 pm	19 Bridegroom Service 7 pm Hymn of Kassiani	20 Presanctified Liturgy 9am Holy Unction 3:30 pm Washing Feet 7pm	21 Vespers Liturgy 7:30 am 12 Gospels 7 pm All Night Vigil	22 Holy Friday Royal Hours 7:30 Sunday School Retreat 9:30-3 Service of Unnailing 3 pm Lamentations 7pm	23 Great and Holy Saturday Vigil of Pascha 9am Pannychis 11:15pm
24 Anastasis, Orthros and Liturgy 12:00 midnight Agape Vespers 11 am <i>Bright Week</i>	25 St. Basil's Kitchen	26	27	28	29	30

MAY 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Greek Food Festival 2011 Mgt 7:00 pm Choir 7 pm	3 Ladies Aid Mtg 7:00 pm	4	5	6	7
8 Divine Liturgy 9:30 am	9 Choir 7 pm	10 Parish Council Mtg 7 pm	11	12	13	14
15 Divine Liturgy 9:30 am	16 St. Basil's Kitchen Choir 7 pm	17	18	19	20	21 The Holy, Glorious and God-Crowned Kings and Equals to the Apostles Constantine and Helen Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
22 Divine Liturgy 9:30 am	23 St. Basil's Kitchen Choir 7 pm	24	25	26	27	28
29 Divine Liturgy 9:30 am	30 St. Basil's Kitchen Choir 7 pm	31				