

THE BEACON

FEBRUARY 2012

**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

February 2012

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

February brings us to the time of year we call the Triodion. Although this period includes the whole of the preparatory period, Great Lent and Holy Week, we generally use the term to refer to the 4 Sundays preceding the beginning of Lent. These four Sundays give us important tools to prepare us for the journey of Great Lent. The first two Sundays present us with two important parables, the Publican and the Pharisee and the Prodigal Son. These parables introduce us to the concepts of prayer, humility and forgiveness. The last two Sundays gradually bring us into the spirit of the fast: the Sunday of the Last Judgment and the Sunday of Forgiveness give us the cosmic view of our relationships with others.

As a time of preparation, these four Sundays offer us a time of reflection on the upcoming journey of the Great Fast of Lent. What is our plan for this vital time of the year? Fasting is a vital part of Lent, but the essence of fasting is not so much restricting what we eat as using fasting as a means to self-discipline and opening ourselves up to humility and obedience before God. So, the important aspect of Fasting is consistency; decide, in prayer together with your family and in consultation with your priest or

spiritual father, what will be your fasting “schedule”. Make it challenging, but make it possible, and commit yourself to following it consistently.

The other aspect of the fast to keep in mind is that, without prayer and good works, fasting is just a diet. If we find ourselves focused on the details of our fast and we are lacking love for others and neglecting prayers and reading Scripture, then we need to reevaluate our plan. There is a story told about Abba Moses the Ethiopian. “Once the order was given at Scetis (the place where the desert monks lived), ‘Fast this wee.’ Now it happened that some brothers came from Egypt to visit Abba Moses and he cooked something for them. Seeing some smoke, the neighbors said to the ministers, ‘Look, Moses has broken the commandment and has cooked something in his cell.’ The ministers said, ‘When he comes, we will speak to him ourselves.’ When the Saturday came, since they knew Abba Moses’ remarkable way of life, the ministers said to him in front of everyone, ‘O Abba Moses, you did not keep the commandment of men, but it was so that you might keep the commandment of God.’” Our Lord gives us one commandment, to love one another. Our fast must support our obedience to this commandment and facilitate us in carrying it out. If it doesn’t, then it is not true fasting.

But, before we come to the period of repentance and asceticism, the Church offers us a time of rejoicing. You are invited to enjoy our “farewell to meat” at our Apokreatiko Party on Saturday, February 18. The theme is “Un Ballo in Maschera—The Masked Ball”; you will enjoy a wonderful Italian meat dish buffet amidst masks inspired by Greece, Venice, and Mardi Gras. You will even have chance to make your own mask! And enjoy dancing to the music of DJ Meleti, one of the best DJs in the Boston area.

May God guide us along our daily path to grow in love for Him and for one another!

Fr. Constantine Newman

IN THIS ISSUE

Parish Directories	02
Liturgical Schedule	03, 04
Prosforo Schedule	05
Stewardship Report	06-09
Parish News & Notes	11, 12
Ladies Aid, Letter from President	13
General Assembly Notice	14
Sponsors	20
February Calendar	21
March Calendar	22

THE BEACON

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Deadline for material is the 15th of each month.

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Choir Director

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John Housianitis • <JCHdagreek@aol.com>

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Joanne Housianitis • <nicholsonhall@gmail.com> • (978) 857-7700

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Presbytera Anna Newman • (603) 692-7603

Jr. GOYA (Greek Orthodox Youth of America)

Don and Jill Argyrople • <jillargyrople@verizon.net> • (978) 363-5377

Sr. GOYA (Greek Orthodox Youth of America)

Don and Jill Argyrople • <jillargyrople@verizon.net> • (978) 363-5377

St. Basil's Ministries

Don Argyrople • <donargyrople@verizon.net> • (978) 363-5377

Liturgical

Schedule



SUNDAY SERVICES

No Orthros

Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

Thursday, February 2

Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ to the Temple

Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

Sunday, February 5

Sunday of the Pharisee and the Publican

Beginning of the Triodion

1st Tone

Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15

Gospel: Luke 18:10-14

Fast free week

Sunday, February 12

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

2nd Tone

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Gospel: Luke 15:11-32

Saturday, February 18

1st Saturday of Souls (Psychosabbaton)

Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Sunday, February 19

Sunday of the Last Judgment (Meat Fare Sunday)

3rd tone

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-13; 9:1-2

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

Fasting only from meat, not from dairy, this week

Saturday, February 25

2nd Saturday of Souls (Psychosabbaton)

Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Sunday, February 26

Sunday of Forgiveness (Cheese Fare Sunday)

4th Tone

Epistle: Romans 13:11-14; 14:1-4

Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21

Vespers of Forgiveness

12:30 pm

Beginning of the Great Fast

Monday, February 27

Clean Monday (Kathara Deftera) Day of Strict Fast

Great Compline with the first part of the Canon of St. Andrew—
6:15 pm

Tuesday, February 28

Great Compline with the second part of the Canon of
St. Andrew 6:15 pm

Wednesday, February 29

Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts 6:15 pm

Followed by pot luck dinner and presentation

Thursday, March 1

Great Compline with the fourth part of the Canon of
St. Andrew 6:15 pm

Friday, March 2

First Stasis of the Salutations (Chairetismoï) 6:15 pm

Saturday, March 3

3rd Saturday of Souls (Psychosabbaton)

Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Sunday, March 4

First Sunday of the Great Fast

Sunday of the Triumph of Orthodoxy

Plagal 1st tone

Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-40

Gospel: John 1:44-52

Liturgy followed by procession with icons

Monday, March 5—Great Compline

6:15 pm

Wednesday, March 7

Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts

6:15 pm

Followed by pot luck dinner and presentation

Friday, March 9

Second Stasis of the Salutations (Chairetismoï)

6:15 pm

Sunday, March 11

Second Sunday of the Great Fast

**Our Father among the Saints, Gregory Palamas, Archbishop
of Thessalonike**

Plagal 2nd Tone

Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-14; 2, 1-3

Gospel: Mark 2:1-12

Monday, March 12—Great Compline

6:15 pm

Wednesday, March 14

Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts

6:15 pm

Followed by pot luck dinner and presentation

Friday, March 16

Third Stasis of the Salutations (Chairetismoï)

6:15 pm

Sunday, March 18

Third Sunday of the Great Fast

The Veneration of the Honorable and Life-Giving Cross

Our Father among the Saints, Cyril, Patriarch of Jerusalem

Varys Tone

Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:1-6

Gospel: Mark 8:34-38; 9:1



SUNDAY SERVICES

No Orthros

Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

Monday, March 19—Great Compline 6:15 pm

Wednesday, March 21

Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts 6:15 pm
Followed by Pot Luck Dinner and Presentation

Friday, March 23

Fourth Stasis of the Salutations (Chairetismoï) 6:15 pm

Saturday, March 24

Parish Name Day Vespers of the Annunciation
Place and time to be announced

Sunday, March 25

The Annunciation of the Theotokos

Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast

Plagal 4th Tone

Epistle: Hebrews 2:11-18

Gospel: Luke 1:24-38

Monday, March 26— Great Compline 6:15 pm

Wednesday, March 28

Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts 6:15 pm
Followed by Pot Luck Dinner and Presentation

Friday, March 30

Akathist Hymn 6:15 pm

Sunday, April 1

Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast

Our Holy Mother Mary of Egypt

1st Tone

Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14

Gospel: Mark 10:32-45

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

February 5	Anna Chetsas	March 4	Stella Andriotakis
February 12	Vicki Pomerleau	March 11	Tina Klidas
February 19	Andrea Jones	March 18	Anna Chetsas
February 26	Kathy Tsiantas	March 25	Vicki Pomerleau

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 or at connor5@comcast.net.

A Message from the President

February 2012

I am honored to be your 2012 Parish Council President. I pray that God will give me the wisdom, strength and faith to lead the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church throughout the coming year.

The 2012 Parish Council Members are:

Angela Tsopelas, President	Peter Davis	Charlie Neos
Joe Spaulding, Vice President	Peter Ginieres	John Patriakeas
Jim Yavorski, Treasurer	Jenn Gravelle	Christos Patrinos
Jim Sperelakis, Secretary	Arthur Housiantis	Connie Ray

Mark your calendars for the General Assembly Meeting on Sunday, February 26, 2012. Approving the 2012 Budget is an important role each steward should be honored to participate in. We need more participation more everyone! Your voice is important to us! Please make every effort to attend.

If you have not done so already, please pick up and fill out your 2012 Stewardship card. Try to commit whatever you can.

In order to support and keep communication open, the Parish Council will be meeting with the various groups of our Church during the coming year. And remember, the Parish Council meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend. We meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00PM in the conference room.

The Parish Council welcomes your thoughts, comments and concerns regarding our Parish life! Our contact information is on Page 2 of this Beacon and on the church website.

I am reaching out to each and every one of you for someone to come forward and chair the Golf Tournament this year. We need an enthusiastic individual (or individuals) to demonstrate some excitement in planning this important fundraising event. If we start planning now, together we can make the Golf Tournament a huge success! If you are interested in stepping up to the "tee", please see either Joe Spaulding or myself.

Let's make 2012 a banner year!

Wishing God's best for you!

Angela Tsopelas
Angela Tsopelas
Parish Council President

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.

2011 Report

Status as of January 15, 2012

Total pledges for 2011 thus far	\$82,201
Offerings received to date	\$70,125
Due towards pledged amount	\$12,076
Average pledge	\$609
Maximum pledge thus far	\$3,600
Minimum pledge thus far	\$25

If there are any omissions or errors in the 2011 Report, please contact John Gogolos, Stewardship Committee Chairman

Recent Stewardship Committee Activities:

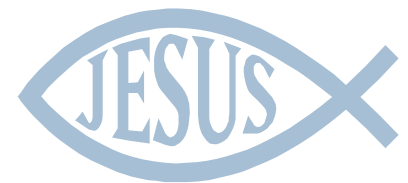
Stewardship Meeting held Jan 15th.

Fr. Continues to follow up with stewards who have left the parish in last 4 yrs

Follow up collection of outstanding 2011 pledge amounts from parishioners.

Current Stewardship Statistics:

\$0— \$400.00	64
\$400.00— \$750.00	39
\$750.00- \$1,000.00	12
\$1,000.00—\$5,000.00	<u>20</u>
TOTAL	135



Stewardship Comparison with Past 3 Years

	2011	2010	2009	2009
Pledged Amount	\$82,201	\$83,114	\$83,757	\$87,049
Actual Paid	\$70,125	\$72,839	\$69,904	\$75,801
Amount to be Collected	\$12,076	\$10,275	\$13,854	\$11,248
Number of Stewards	135	133	147	161
Average Pledge Amount	\$609	\$625	\$570	\$541
Maximum Amount Pledged	\$3,600	\$3,600	\$3,300	\$3,180
Minimum Amount Pledged	\$25	\$25	\$50	\$0

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.

2012 Report

Status as of January 15, 2012

Total pledges for 2012 thus far	\$43,145
Offerings received to date	\$7,250
Due towards pledged amount	\$35,895
Average pledge	\$707
Maximum pledge thus far	\$3,600
Minimum pledge thus far	\$25

If there are any omissions or errors in the 2012 Report, please contact John Gogolos, Stewardship Committee Chairman

Recent Stewardship Committee Activities:

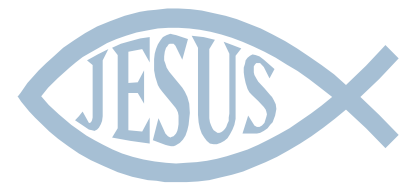
Stewardship Meeting held Jan 15th.

Fr. Continues to follow up with stewards who have left the parish in last 4 yrs

Follow up collection of outstanding 2011 pledge amounts from parishioners.

Current Stewardship Statistics:

\$0— \$400.00	28
\$400.00— \$750.00	12
\$750.00- \$1,000.00	6
\$1,000.00—\$5,000.00	<u>15</u>
TOTAL	61



Stewardship Comparison with Past 3 Years

	Jan 2012	Jan 2011	Jan 2010	Jan 2009
Pledged Amount	\$43,145	\$52,530	\$51,272	\$62,844
Actual Paid	\$7,250	\$9,080	\$7,022	\$14,306
Amount to be Collected	\$35,895	\$43,450	\$44,250	\$48,539
Number of Stewards	61	64	67	100
Average Pledge Amount	\$707	\$820	\$765	\$628
Maximum Amount Pledged	\$3,600	\$3,600	\$3,600	\$3,300
Minimum Amount Pledged	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$50

2011 Stewards as of 01/15/12

Alexander, Richard
Anderson, George and Sharon
Andriotakis, James and Lisa
Andriotakis, Louis and Stella
Angelos, William
Annas, Agnes
Argyrople, Don and Jill
Argyrople, Nicholas and Anita
Atkinson, Theodore and Gabriel
Beck, Bruce and
 Kimberley Patton
Booras, Chris
Boucher, Bonnie and Al
Bruno, Mark and Roseanne
Chadwick, Cathleen
Chetsas, Leon and Anna
Chetsas, Peter and Susan
Christo, Julia
Christopher, Faye
Connor, Edmund J. III and
 Joanna Tsiantas
Connor, Kevin and Maria
Cooper, Brendon and Jennifer
Cusack, Michael and Dawn
Davis, Peter and Dorothy
Desses, John and Agnes
Dollas, Christopher and Mary
Dollas, Mary
Dubus III, Andre and Fontaine
Dunn, Steven and Karin
Dussi, John and Gina
Falite, Irene
Faskianos, Dr. James and Maria
Fiasconaro, George and Elaine
Fotos, Soterios H.
Gentile, Amy
George, Barbara
George, Emery and Susan
Gigis, Stella
Gikas, Dennis and Melina
Ginieres, Peter and Mary
Gogolos, John and Patricia
Gravel, Elaine
Gravelle, Nathan and Jennifer
Halkiotis, Penelope
Hansen, Eric and Diane
Haraktsis, Anastasios and
 Aikaterini
Heath, Warren and Patricia
Hight, Stephen and Joanne
Hill, Dick and Donna
Housianitis, Arthur and Lisa
Housianitis, John
Janos, Louis and Chryst
Janos, Mark and MaryAnn
Jansen, Ryan and Jennifer
Kacher, Bill and Andrea Jones
Kafalas, Andrew
Kafalas, Anne
Katsoulis, Nicholas and Irene
Keefe, Zachary and Elizabeth
Kevorkian, Jeff and Stacey
Klidaras, Steven and Laura
Klidaras, Tina
Knapp, Jennie
Kopoulos, Harry
Koukkos, Gabriel
Ladies Aid Society, AGOC
Lagasse, Michael and Niki
Lagoulis, James
Machiros, Chrysanthe
Maistrellis-Ryng, Elisa and David
Malonis, Christos and Mary
Maloof, Michael and Ann
Mamakos, Cathryn
Mamakos, Peter and Anna
Mansour, Kristina
Mansour, Louis and Eugenia
Mansour, Nicole
Mansour, Stephanie
Markos, Frank and Suzanne
Markos, T. Sammy
Mathieu, Cornelia
Mattheos, Steve and Regina
Matthews, Byron J. and Helen
Matthews, John and Christina
Matthews, Paul and Christine
Matthews, Peter and Teri
Maynard, John and Ellen Nester
McGrath, Thomas and
 Rose Papanickolas
Micu, Marius and Ileana
Monoxelos, Milton and Catherine
Nabhan, Amin and Sarah
Nabhan, Jamile
Nakis, Connie
Nakis, Paul
Neos, Charles
Newman, Rev. Fr. Constantine
 and Presbyteria
Novack, Jason and Melissa
Panas, Ann
Panas, Peter
Panas, Stephen and Joanna
Pantelakis, Ted and Gayle
Papoulias, Charles
Pappas, Perry
Patriakeas, John and Joan
Patrick, James and Melinda
Patrinios, Christos
Pavlik, Kristyne
Peralta, John and Ann
Perreault, Joanne and Chris
Pomerleau, Bruce and Viki
Rallis, Elaine V.
Rallis, Mary S.
Rallis, Pauline
Ray, Julie M.
Reilly, Michael and Nicole
Robertson, Stephen and
 Faye Nabhan
Sawyer, Tepsie
Scaramozza, Joseph and
 Catherine
Schaeffer, Frank and Genie
Short, Ian and Jackie
Smith, Don and Gladys
Solbo Jr., Steven and Alaina
Spaneas, Mary F.
Spangler, Robert and Stella
Spaulding, Joe and Dale
Sperelakis, James and
 Diana Flaherty
Stanton, Sophia
Stickney, Raymond and Kalliope
Tikellis, Daphne
Triandafilou, Dorothy
Tsiantas, Kathy
Tsiplakis, Ioannis and Rhonda
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.

2012 Stewards as of 01/15/12

Anderson, George and Sharon
Andriotakis, Louis and Stella
Annas, Agnes
Argyrople, Don and Jill
Bruno, Mark and Roseanne
Chadwick, Cathleen
Chetsas, Leon and Anna
Chetsas, Peter and Susan
Christo, Julia
Connor, Edmund J. III and
 Joanna Tsiantas
Connor, Kevin and Maria
Davis, Peter and Dorothy
Desses, John and Agnes
Dollas, Christopher and Mary
Dollas, Mary
Donabedian, Juan and Elizabeth
Dubus III, Andre and Fontaine
Dussi, John and Gina
Falite, Irene
Fiasconaro, George and Elaine
George, Emery and Susan
Ginieres, Peter and Mary
Gogolos, John and Patricia
Haraktsis, Anastasios and
 Aikaterini
Hill, Dick and Donna
Housianitis, Arthur and Lisa
Kacher, Bill and Andrea Jones
Mamakos, Michael and Kara
Mamakos, Peter and Anna
Mathieu, Cornelia
Matthews, Byron J. and Helen
Matthews, John and Christina
Matthews, Peter and Teri
McGrath, Thomas and
 Rose Papanickolas
Monoxelos, Milton and Catherine
Nabhan, Amin and Sarah
Neos, Charles
Newman, Rev. Fr. Constantine
and Presbyteria

Nichols, Elizabeth
Panas, Ann
Panas, Peter
Panas, Stephen and Joanna
Papadakis, Emmanuel and Bertha
Patriakeas, John and Joan
Patrinos, Christos
Perreault, Joanne and Chris
Pomerleau, Bruce and Viki
Ray, Connie
Robertson, Stephen and
 Faye Nabhan
Schaeffer, Frank and Genie
Smith, Don and Gladys
Spaneas, Mary F.
Spaulding, Joe and Dale
Sperelakis, James and
 Diana Flaherty
Triandafilou, Dorothy
Tsiantas, Kathy
Tsopeles, Angela
Uttley, William and Diana
Varoudakis, Joanne
Yanakakis, Nicholas
Yavorski, James and Stacey
Yeroshkina, Maryna and Oleg

Please Note: If your name doesn't appear on this list that means that we have not received a stewardship pledge form for 2012

Donations Report

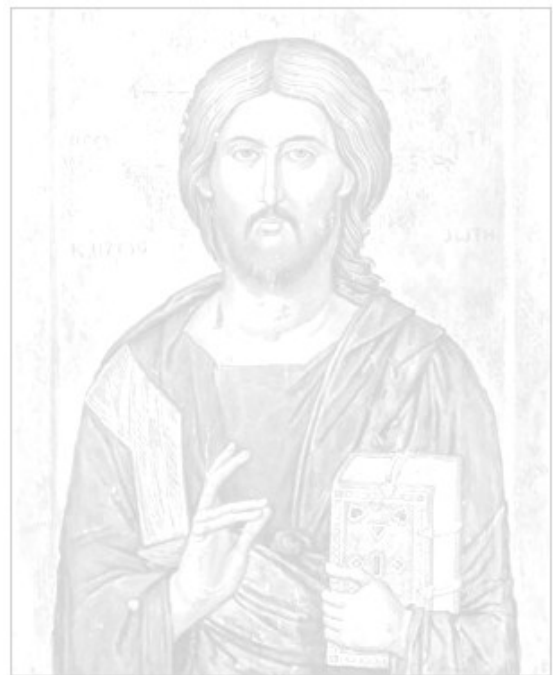
**"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not
reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver"**

(II Corinthians 9:7)

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

Choir Robe Donations

Anna and Peter Mamakos
Angela Tsopelas
Stacey Kevorkian
Elaine Rallis
The Perrault Family
Mary Dollas
The Kacher Family
Nick and Dido Argyrople
Fontaine Dubus
Melinda Patrick
Amy Gentile
Dimitri Newman
Charlie and Patricia Neos
Cathleen Chadwick
The Dussi Family
Don and Jill Argyrople
Kathy Tsiantas



In Loving Memory of Agnes Annas

Gina & John Dussi
Effie, Carol Ann & Michael Gregorios
Anna & Peter Mamakos
Charlie Neos
Greek Ladies Aid Society

Recent Christmas Offerings

Gina & John Dussi
Melinda & Jim Patrick

In Loving Memory

Stella Gigis to Altar Fund in memory of Emmanuel Gigis, Efstratios & Evangelia Condruves, Efstratios, Steliane, Demitrios & Prokopios Tragellis
Jean & John Jesensky in loving memory of Ann Kafalas
Sally & Mark Knapp in loving memory of Jennie Knapp
Charlie Neos in loving memory of Nicholas Frangos
Joanna Panas in loving memory of Helen Hanscom

Parish News & Notes



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

FEBRUARY 26th is MISSION SUNDAY. Our Sunday School students have been great supporters of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center. (OCMC) We gave over \$200 to the OCMC last year. Fr. Constantine will give out coin boxes on that day. He will also explain how the collection works. The money collected will help "the growth of the ministries that support the reach of Christ's Church around the world." The boxes should be returned on **Palm Sunday April 8th.** It would be great to have 100% participation of all the families in our Sunday School. We have had former and present members of our parish participate on an OCMC mission teams. Please see Jill or Fr. if you would like to learn more.

— Jill Argyrople

New Choir Robes

Are you a fan of the Annunciation Choir? If so, please consider making a donation to the purchase of new robes for our group. The choir has ordered and will soon be sporting new choir robes and stoles and we are soliciting donations from parishioners. If anyone would like to make a donation towards the new robe/stole purchase, both the choir and board would be much appreciative. Please see Stacey Kevorkian in person or send an email to skevorkian@hotmail.com if you are interested in contributing.

NARTHEX TEAMS & Schedule

TEAMS

- Team 1 Joe Spaulding, Jim Sperelakis, Peter Mamakos, Jenn Gravelle
Team 2 Peter Davis, Charlie Neos, John Patriakeas
Team 3 Christos Patrinos, Connie Ray, Jim Yavorski
Team 4 Angela Tsopelas, Louis Andriotakis, Peter Giniere

FEBRUARY

- February 5 – Team 2
February 12 – Team 3
February 19 – Team 4
February 26 – Team 1

MARCH

- March 4 – Team 2
March 11 – Team 3
March 18 – Team 4
March 25 – Team 1

Coffee Hour Hosts Needed

We all enjoy the fellowship and delicious snacks we share at Coffee Hour every Sunday. It's nice to have time to catch up with friend and take a breath before we begin the busy week ahead. Hosting Coffee Hour is a small way to contribute to parish life by bringing a little bit of yourself to the table. Hosting doesn't require much time and certainly doesn't have to be a fancy affair. Here are some suggestions on what you can provide: fruit, bagels, cheese and crackers, pastries of any kind, some cream for the coffee, and juice or punch for those who don't drink coffee. The coffee, paper goods, and utensils are provided by the church. We just need a friendly face each Sunday to put it all together!

A poster for sign-ups is located in the hall every Sunday. You can host alone or team up with others. **Please do not cross out or change entries on the poster without first checking with Joanne Perreault at 978-388-8353.** If you need to change your date or would like to swap with another person, please let Joanne know so that she may keep the schedule updated. Please sponsor a Coffee Hour so we can continue this lovely tradition after Liturgy!



Coffee Hour Hosts:

- Feb 5 - Open
Feb 12 - Social Committee
Feb 19 - Patrick/Mathews/Hicks Families
Feb 26 - Sunday School
Mar 4 - Open
Mar 11 - Open
Mar 18 - Open
Mar 25 - Parish Council

Parish News & Notes



The Greek Ladies Aid Society

2012 GLAS members to date:

Chadwick, Cathy
Connor, Maria
Davis, Dorothy
Dubus, Fontaine
Fiasconaro, Elaine
Gearhardt, Sandy
Hansen, Diane
Haraktsis, Aikaterini
Housianitis, Joanne
Housianitis, Lisa
Mamakos, Kara
Mamakos, Anna
Newman, Presbyteria Anna
Panas, Joanna
Perreault, Joanne
Tsiantas, Joanna
Tsiantas, Kathy
Tsopelas, Angela
Wescott, Bunny
Yanakakis, Trisha

Our goal is to have every adult female of our parish as a member of GLAS. Your token dues of \$15.00 helps fund many of the philanthropic endeavors we are involved in. Some of these areas follows:

St. Basil's Academy
MBC scholarships for campers from our parish,
Scholarships to graduating seniors from our parish, Easter and Christmas baskets to shut-ins from our parish, Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center, Opportunity Works Hellenic Cardiac Fund.

Plus many more... See GLAS letter from our president Dorothy Davis on the following page.

If you would like to be a part of this wonderful organization, please consider joining by becoming a member. You can join by sending a check to Annunciation Church, Attn: Diane Hansen. Please make your check payable to GLAS.

Meetings are always the first Tuesday of the month in Nicholson Hall at 7:00. We would love to have you come to our next meeting, Tuesday, February 7th at 7:00PM.

Toiletries Needed

Winter is here. We have started getting toiletry bags together for distribution by our GOYA on the Lazarus House Soup Truck and at other times.

We need:

- 1) Fabric or small cloth bags (these need to be able to hold something the size of a regular shampoo bottle).
- 2) Toothpaste, deodorant, body wash or soap, combs or hair brushes.

Please bring regular size items. They are actually not more expensive than the sample size items, and last much longer!

Thank you for your generosity.



Beacon Sponsors Wanted!

- ◆ Contact Gina Dussi @ gdussi@aol.com
- ◆ Space available
- ◆ \$125 annually Tax deductible
- ◆ Distribution—200 + loyal readers
- ◆ Please submit your business card or other artwork

Can you "Drive" our next Golf Tournament?

If you are interested in stepping up to the "tee", please "address" Joe Spaulding or Angela Tsopelas, so that together we can "ace" this one in the hole!



GENERAL ASSEMBLY —

Sunday, February 26th—during Coffee Hour

(please see notice on Page 14)

Greek Ladies Aid Society

As President of the Greek Ladies Aid Society, I am honored to represent the ladies of this parish.

Many of you have asked, "What does the Ladies Aid Society really do and what do they represent?" Well, our main objective is to promote charitable, benevolent and philanthropic purposes, to preserve the sacredness of the Orthodox family, to formulate plans and methods to volunteer aid to the poor, and to promote participation in the activities of the community with the Priest and the Parish Council.

During the past years, we have been fortunate to contribute financially on many levels to our church. We donate \$3,000 per year for Stewardship. When Father Constantine requested to refurbish the icons damaged in the devastating fire that burned the original church, the Ladies Aid donated approximately \$1,000 to refurbish the icon of Philip, which you will find at the 3rd icon from the end on the right side. A scholarship of \$100 for each graduating high school senior is given yearly. We sponsor children from our parish to the Metropolis Camp in New Hampshire each year.

Donations to St. Basil's Academy in Garrison, NY, Holy Cross Seminary, Philoxenia House, Hellenic Cardiac Fund, St. Basil's Kitchen, recent devastating storm in Western Massachusetts, Boy's and Girl's Club, Thanksgiving food basket and gift certificates for needy families, Community Services Red Stocking Christmas Program, Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center in Newburyport, visitations to shut-ins during Christmas and Easter season, Father's Day gift certificates, sponsorship of Golf Tournament, sponsorship of monthly Beacon, Project Mexico, Opportunity Works, Breast Cancer and Tsunami catastrophe represent the many charities we contribute to.

We also have paid for ½ of the cost of the dishwasher, walk-in freezer and the convection ovens in the kitchen. The Ladies also found the time to publish a wonderful cookbook!

WOW! Isn't it amazing? All this has been accomplished with a hand-full of ladies. Now we need your help. Our goal is to have every lady of the parish to take pride in becoming a member of the Greek Ladies Aid Society. We realize in this busy world that we live in, not everyone has the time to always attend meetings, but a simple show of faith will encourage the ladies that have the time to continue with our worthwhile endeavors.

If this sounds like a group you would like to be a part of, kindly consider joining today with a \$15 contribution. Membership begins January 1st.

Help us to continue the love and respect we have for our Greek Orthodox faith.

Thank you for your continued support.

Dorothy Davis
President, Greek Ladies Aid Society

Meetings are the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:00PM (next meeting, February 7th) – please join us!



Greek Orthodox
Diocese of Boston

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church

February 1, 2012

RE: NOTIFICATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON SUNDAY FEBRUARY 26TH, 2012

TO: PARISHIONERS/STEWARDS OF ANNUNCIATION CHURCH

Please be advised there will be a **GENERAL ASSEMBLY** of Annunciation Church on **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2012**, immediately following the Divine Liturgy and during the coffee hour in Nicholson Hall.

Your participation and vote will help assure the physical, spiritual and overall progress of the parish, so please make every effort to attend. The agenda items to be discussed will have a direct impact on the future of our church.

AGENDA for the General Assembly:

- Opening Prayer – Father Constantine
- President’s Report – Angela Tsopelas
- Committee Reports -
 - Stewardship – John Gogolos
 - Minimum Pledge Motion made at 11/20/11 General Assembly
 - Updated 2011 & 2012 Stewardship
 - Building – Joe Spaulding, Charlie Neos, Peter Davis
 - St. Basil’s Church Hall Painting
 - Exterior Dome
 - Nicholson Hall Ramp
 - Interior Dome Painting
- Treasurer’s Report – Jim Yavorski
 - Review and Approve 2012 Budget
 - Update on Mortgage
- New Business – Audit Committee
- Closing Prayer – Father Constantine

Please keep in mind that only parishioners who are stewards in good standing may vote at the General Assembly, so please make sure your stewardship pledge/commitment is up-to-date.

We look forward to seeing you at the Divine Liturgy and General Assembly on Sunday, February 26, 2012.

In Christ,

Jim Sperelakis
Parish Council Secretary

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to inform you that once again, applications are being accepted for **Heritage Greece 2012!**

Heritage Greece is a complimentary two-week educational and cultural program designed to connect Greek-American college students with their ancestral heritage. Students will have the opportunity to attend a specially designed Greek language and culture course, travel to the Greek islands, visit traditional villages, take a Greek cooking class, experience an insider's tour of the Acropolis Museum and much more!

They are seeking 25 Greek-American college students who have grade point averages of 3.0 or higher and have never been to Greece or haven't been to Greece in many years.

The Program includes:

- A comprehensive cultural, recreational, and educational itinerary
- A customized, for-credit Greek language and culture course
- Round-trip airfare from Washington DC to Greece and back
- Modern, spacious housing at Deree
- All meals
- Numerous excursions to cultural sites
- International medical insurance
- Classroom materials

A once in a lifetime opportunity to connect to your Greek heritage!

Heritage Greece is made possible by a generous donation from the **National Hellenic Society** (www.nationalhellenicsociety.org) and organized by **Deree-the American College of Greece**.

This is a wonderful opportunity that every Greek-American student should apply for!

****Deadline is FEBRUARY 15, 2012. Program Dates from June 12-24, 2012****

For more information, details and application, please visit their website at www.acg.edu/about-Heritage-Greece. If you have questions, please email heritagegreece@acg.edu or call Jesus Kalergis at 781-816-0795.

Please forward this on to family and friends as well!

Many thanks,

Tina Papadopoulos
(617) 828-7543

HOUSE BLESSING REQUEST

It is traditional for Orthodox Christians to ask the priest to come to bless their houses and places of business after the Great Blessing of Water on Theophany (January 6). Not only is it a time to rededicate ourselves to God as stewards of his creation, and to remind ourselves that all our possessions belong first and foremost to God and are dedicated to His glory, but it is also a wonderful opportunity to visit with your priest, to get to know him better and for him to get to know you better, and to renew your relationship with your parish family. (Just a reminder—please do not feed the priest during these visits! A nice cup of coffee and good company are all that is necessary!)

If you would like Father to come to bless your house and/or your business, please fill out this form and send it to the Church Office or give it to a Council Member. Father will be in touch to make the final arrangements.

What is needed?

The blessing begins at a convenient place in the house. If there are no icons in that place, please have an icon and a candle ready (some people also like to have an incense burner, but it is not necessary). Father will bring the holy water for the blessing. Please be sure to turn off all televisions, radios, etc., and to have a light on in the rooms you want blessed. Someone (usually the children) can lead Father around the house. The adults should come along as well.

I/We would like Father to come to bless our house or place of business.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

BEST TIMES FOR BLESSING:

Monday (daytime only)

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Late Morning

Early Afternoon

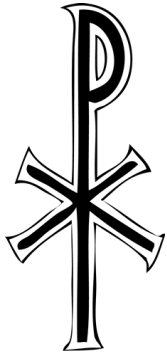
Late Afternoon

Evening



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Meetings in February:

February 1, 8, 15, 22

Fellowship—Discussion—Discovery

Apokreatiko Dinner Dance

Un Ballo in Maschera The Masked Ball

Mezedakia, Meat Buffet

Desserts

Dancing to the sounds of

DJ Meleti



Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church

7 Harris St., Newburyport

Saturday, February 18

6—11 pm

(Snow Date, Sunday Feb 19)

Adults—\$15; Children under 12—\$5

Children under 5—Free

To Reserve Tickets Call: 978-465-5757



Orthodox Book and Discussion Club

*3rd Tuesday of each Month
7:00 pm
Conference Room at
The Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church
7 Harris St., Newburyport*

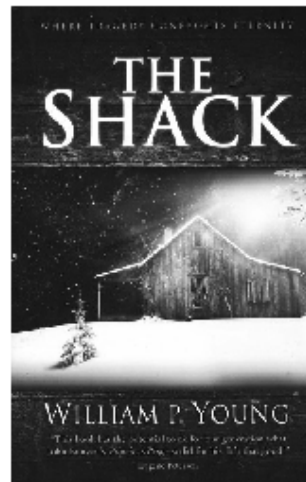
*Our Next Meeting
Tuesday, February 21
7:00 pm*

Our Next Book:

William P. Young

The Shack

*Get your copy at
www.amazon.com*





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other artwork for future Beacons.

You can give it to Gina Dussi or mail it to:

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church
P.O. Box 575
Newburyport, MA 01950
Attn: Joanna Tsiantas, Beacon Editor

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WHY NOT PLACE A BEACON AD...ONLY \$125 for 12 ISSUES

FEBRUARY 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Discover The Way Part II 7-9 pm	2 Presentation of Our Lord to the Temple Divine Liturgy 9:30	3	4
5 Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Beginning of Triodion	6 St. Basil's Kitchen Choir Practice 7 pm	7 Ladies Aid Meeting 7 pm	8 Discover The Way Part II 7-9 pm	9	10	11
12 Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Sunday of the Prodigal Son	13 St. Basil's Kitchen Choir Practice 7 pm	14 Parish Council Meeting 7 pm	15 Discover The Way Part II 7-9 pm	16	17	18 1st Saturday of Souls Divine Liturgy 10 am Apokreatiko Dinner Dance 6-11
19 Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Sunday of the Last Judgement MeatFare Sunday	20 St. Basil's Kitchen Choir Practice 7 pm	21 Book Club 7 pm The Shack	22 Discover The Way Part II 7-9 pm	23	24	25 2nd Saturday of Souls Divine Liturgy 10 am
26 Divine Liturgy 9:30 am GENERAL ASSEMBLY Vespers of Forgiveness 12:30 Cheese Fare Sunday	27 St. Basil's Kitchen Great Compline St. Andrew 6:15 pm CLEAN MONDAY START OF LENT Lenten Fast	28 Great Compline St. Andrew 6:15 pm	29 Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 6:15 pm			

MARCH 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Great Compline 6:15 pm	2 First Stasis of the Salutations 6:15 pm	3 3rd Saturday of Souls Divine Liturgy 10 am
Lenten Fast →						
4 Divine Liturgy 9:30 am SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY Sunday School Retreat Lenten Fast	5 St. Basil's Kitchen Great Compline 6:15 pm	6 Ladies Aid Meeting, 7:30 pm	7 Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 6:15 pm	8	9 Second Stasis of the Salutations 6:15 pm	10
Lenten Fast →						
11 Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Lenten Fast	12 St. Basil's Kitchen Great Compline 6:15 pm	13 Parish Council Meeting, 7 pm	14 Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 6:15 pm	15	16 Third Stasis of the Salutations 6:15 pm	17
Lenten Fast →						
18 Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Lenten Fast	19 St. Basil's Kitchen Great Compline 6:15 pm	20 Mysteries of the Jesus Prayer 7 pm	21 Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 6:15 pm	22	23 Fourth Stasis of the Salutations 6:15 pm	24 Parish Name Day Vespers TBD
Lenten Fast →						
25 Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Annunciation Lenten Fast	26 St. Basil's Kitchen Great Compline 6:15 pm	27	28 Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 6:15 pm	29	30 Akathist Hymn 6:15	31
Lenten Fast →						