

September / ΣΕΠΤΕΜΒΡΙΟΣ 2020

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The *Η* ARK - ΚΙΒΩΤΟΣ

MONTHLY BULLETIN OF THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
ΜΗΝΙΑΙΟ ΔΕΛΤΙΟ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗΣ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΗΣ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑΣ ΤΗΣ ΚΟΙΜΗΣΕΩΣ ΤΗΣ ΘΕΟΤΟΚΟΥ

Assumption

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Links and Resources

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese
of America

www.goarch.org

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese
of Boston

www.boston.goarch.org

Ecumenical Patriarchate of
Constantinople

www.patriarchate.org



The Elevation of the Holy Cross – September 14th
Η ΥΨΩΣΙΣ ΤΟΥ ΤΙΜΙΟΥ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΥ – 14 ΣΕΠΤΕΜΒΡΙΟΥ

Reverend Father Gregory Trakas

Office Hours

Tuesday & Thursday 1:00 - 4:00 PM

or by appointment

Parish Council 2020

President..... Costa Georgopoulos
Vice President..... James Folopoulos
Treasurer..... Peter Xintaras
Secretary..... TBA

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Harold Guidicelli	Penny Papastathis
Stathis Kapellakis	Helen Rainey
Nick Karagianis	Anthony Tsekrekas

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Treasurer.....Helen Rainey
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Chanter.....Vasilios Rokas

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Directors

GOYA & Jr. GOYA.....Stavroula Bakolas
Julie Karagianis
JOY.....Tiffany Farmakis-Day
Altar Boys.....Jeanne Tsekrekas

Assistant

Nicole Condodemetraky

PARISH SCHOOLS

Sunday School

Co-Directors..... Theohare Kapellakis
Ranya Karatzoulidis

Greek School

Director Alexandra Bruttaniti
Teachers Alexandra Bruttaniti
Ranya Karatzoulidis
Dance Instructor..... Angela Bourassa

Newsletter Editors

Fr. Gregory Trakas	Janet Malin
Sophia Annas	Nancy Mardanes
James Folopoulos	Kathy Papakostas
Ellen Healy	Helen Rainey
Nick Karagianis	

Address Changes

Please notify the Church Office if you are moving, so that we may update our database.

Thank you!

Pastoral Visitation

If a loved one is in a hospital, nursing home, hospice, home-bound, or in any other difficulty, please contact Fr. Gregory at the Church Office to arrange a visit!

Parish Priest

My beloved parishioners, I pray you had a safe and as normal as possible summer! As we are still dealing with the pandemic, we are required to exercise caution and apply all safety measures as we return back to our normal fall activities, such as the reopening of our schools and becoming more frequent to our church.

September 1st is the beginning of the **New Ecclesiastical Year!** The last big feast of the old Ecclesiastical Year was the **Dormition and Assumption of Theotokos** on August 15th. The first big feast of the new Ecclesiastical Year is the **Birth of Theotokos** on September 8th. It is very appropriate to begin and end each year with the All-Holy Mother of God (Panagia Theotokos), the one who joined heaven and earth and the one who merged the created world with the uncreated divine nature. Her own miraculous birth from two aged and barren parents, Joachim and Anna, shows how the Creator of natural laws can override them as He pleases. This because He is the God who “**can raise up descendants of Abraham from stones**” (Matthew 3:9), the God who “**unfolds the heavens like a curtain**” and “**makes the mountains smoke at His touch**” (Psalm 103). The same way He overrides the laws of nature with Panagia’s birth (and later with His own birth), He can also override them by keeping His Holy Communion cup safe during a pandemic and every other time!

September is also the month of the **Holy Cross! September 14th**, the feast of the Holy Cross, is one of the four strictest fasting days of the year, during which our body and soul kneels before the biggest symbol of our faith! It is through the Cross that Resurrection was made possible! It is “**through the Cross, salvation came to mankind**” (Galatians 5:11). It is often with a Cross that we must follow our Lord (Matthew 16:24), like the one we are now carrying due to this pandemic.

Finally, September is the beginning of the **New School Year**. As our young return to their classes, we also remember our own childhood. The leaves turn brown and fall from the trees, the seasons change and so do the generations. Yet, youth is our future, and they are also the future of our Church! It is up to us to teach them well, not only with words but with our example. Parents give the good example when they are leading the prayer at home at the beginning and the end of each day and each meal. Parents raise good Christians when they are talking and reading to their children about the Lord. Parents teach children how to worship when they are cheerfully leading the way to church and its ministries on Sunday mornings. Parents cultivate virtues into children when they are showing love and kindness to all people and living creatures, and when they are keeping the environment clean as God created it, by recycling at home. Our children are watching us and emulate our behavior. From spiritual parents and grandparents come (in most cases) spiritual kids and grandkids. The proof is in the list of Saints of our Church – they all had virtuous parents and grandparents. Finally, there is one thing grownups need to emulate children, that is, **their pure heart!** This is why our Lord invites us to become like children, because “**to the children belongs the Kingdom of Heaven**” (Matthew 19:14).

This year is different from all others in recent memory. However, please remember whenever our Lord met anyone under stress, He gave them the same advice: “**Have no fear! Only have faith!** (Mark 5:36). As much as this period is difficult, it will also pass! This year, the feast of the Holy Cross is on **Monday, September 14th**. Please honor this great feast of our Orthodox faith with your participation in the Divine Liturgy, and if your health permits, by fasting on that day. **Blessed New Ecclesiastical and School Year!**

With Love in Christ, Your Parish Priest, Fr. Gregory

Parish News

We are looking for **Stewardship Committee Volunteers** to help with a variety of tasks and coordinate the Stewardship Program. Stewardship is the main source of income for our church and one of its most crucial ministries. We would love your insight, input, and assistance.

New Horizons Soup Kitchen

The next New Horizons Soup Kitchen visit will be **Sunday, September 27th**, from **4:00 - 5:30 PM**.

Choir

We are looking for an **organist and choir director**. If anyone is interested in learning the organ, we will pay for their lessons. Please contact the Church Office. We are also looking for volunteers to join our talented choir.

Philoptochos News

The parishioners listed below donated money for Holy Week and Easter flowers, but their names were unintentionally omitted from the previous bulletin. We regret the error and thank them.

Mariana Gasis	Polyxeni Georgopoulos	Evangelia Gregorious
Paroula Grigorakakis	Nola Kalantzis	

We hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable summer in spite of the pandemic. We also pray we will soon be able to safely bring you more events. We will update you as this becomes possible. Our sincere thanks to all who donated money for the flowers for the August services held in honor of Panagia. There will be no Philoptochos Board meeting in September. We expect to meet again in early October.
Lucie Skouteris, President

Youth Ministry News

SUNDAY SCHOOL - GOYA - JOY

We pray that all our families had a healthy summer! Our Sunday School and GOYA/JOY ministry teams are discussing various options regarding our Fall Sunday School classes and other ministry events. Details will be forthcoming in the next few weeks. In the meantime, we hope to see all our families in church. Stay safe everyone!

GREEK SCHOOL

We are thrilled to announce the reopening of our Greek School this fall! Our Greek School team has met several times over the past few months to ensure the safe reopening of our school for the 2020-2021 academic year. You will find all our safety guidelines, registration forms, and class schedule on our Greek School website at: <http://greekschool.assumptionnh.org/registration>

Classes will begin on Wednesday, September 30th for grades 5 & 6, and on Thursday, October 1st for grades 1 through 4.

Student registrations will be accepted from September 1-15 to allow ample time to place book orders.

All forms should be printed from our website, then mailed back or dropped off, with the book fee, to our Church Office Mon-Fri 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM, or to our Church mailbox at any time.

If you would like to register your child/children for Greek School, and have questions or concerns, please contact Mrs. Alexandra at alexbrut1@hotmail.com

We have missed our students dearly and are excited to reunite with them this Fall, and we also look forward to welcoming our new students! We wish all the children a wonderful and safe school year!

Sacraments & Services

When planning a baptism or wedding, please check church availability **BEFORE** booking your reception hall. Thank you!

Baptism

August 29 - George, son of Cassandra & Theodore Boutwell

Sept. 13 – Mariana, daughter of Polyxeni and Brendan Mulcahy

Oct. 11 – Athanasia, daughter of Despina & Hlias Soulios

Wedding

Oct. 4 – Lizzie & Mike Rokas

Funeral

August 21 – Lazaros Kalampalikis

Memorial Services

August 30 – Theodora Tsecaris (1 year)

– George Kitsis (8 years)

– Vasilios Gakis (6 months)

– George Gakis (37 years)

Sept. 20 – Lazaros Kalampalikis (40 days)

– Vasiliki Bakolas (5 years)

Planning Memorials

When planning for a memorial, please contact the Church Office at 603-623-2045. There is a particular altar wine and incense we use. Please call for details!

PLANNED GIVING is a gesture that comes from the heart!

Leave a legacy! As you plan your financial future, please remember your parish. There are several types of planned donations to consider. Here are a few of them to consider. In all cases, please consult your financial advisor for more information.

Charitable Bequests: Once you secure the well-being of your family, you may choose to include in your will a significant donation to your church.

Gifts of Life Insurance: Using a life insurance policy makes it possible to make a major gift while protecting the inheritance of one's heir(s).

Gifts of Listed Securities: The gift of publicly listed securities, bonds, mutual fund units or other similar securities is one of the most fiscally advantageous ways to make a substantial donation to a charitable organization because the donor will avoid paying tax on capital gains. The gift of shares or other securities will give rise to a tax credit. It is more advantageous to transfer the securities directly rather than to donate the proceeds collected from selling the securities. This type of donation is advisable to those who wish to make a substantial donation without encroaching on their liquid assets, or to those who own shares or other securities which have significantly increased in value since their acquisition.

Charitable Annuities: A charitable gift annuity consists of a donation of money or other assets to a charitable organization in exchange for guaranteed earnings for life or for a determined period of time

Church Wish List - Church Donations Wanted

Holy Table & Altar Covers Set (white): **\$1,600**

Holy Table & Altar Covers Set (blue): **\$500**

Wooden Closet for Altar Linen: **\$1,800 (est.)**

Platform for our historic Bell on the rotary: **\$10,000 (est.)**

Eight (8) Wooden Chairs for Holy Altar: **\$800 each (est.)**

One Small Altar Side-Table: **\$470**

February Stewardship

Efthalia Peters

June Stewardship

Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Bakolas
Mr. & Mrs. William Bruttaniti
Raymond Buckley
Mr. & Mrs. John Costes
Tiffany Day
Dr. Jennie & Michael DiBartolomeo
Mr. & Mrs. Dick Dryer
Charles Farmakis
Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Farmakis
Venice Farmakis
Martha Galanis
Georgia Gancarz
Mr. & Mrs. George Gasis
Mr. & Mrs. Costa Georgopoulos
Polixeni Georgopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Aristidis Kalampalikis
Demetrios Kamberis
Mr. & Mrs. Stathi Kapellakis
Mr. & Mrs. John Karagianis
Esther Kereakoglow
Sandra Kereakoglow
Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Kitsis
Mr. & Mrs. Elias Kourtis
Mr. & Mrs. Martin Krueger
Mr. & Mrs. Andreas Matteo
Mr. & Mrs. Efthymios Papakostas
Panagiota Papastathis
Mr. & Mrs. Athanasios Pashos
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Pomerleau
Helen Rainey
Mihail Rokas
Theodore Rokas
Mr. & Mrs. Vasilios Rokas
Mr. & Mrs. William Semos

July Stewardship

Mr. & Mrs. William Bruttaniti
Tiffany Day
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Dryer
Charles Farmakis
Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Farmakis
Venice Farmakis
Demetrios Kamberis
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Kapos
Mr. & Mrs. Martin Krueger
Mr. & Mrs. Dimitrios Meimetus
Mr. & Mrs. Athanasios Moutsioulis
Georgia Palaskas
Panagiota Papastathis
Mr. & Mrs. Athanasios Pashos
Mr. & Mrs. Vasilios Pashos
Mr. & Mrs. Demetrios Pliakos
Maria Pliakos
Mr. & Mr. Bruce Pomerleau
Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Poplin
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Swanson
Mr. & Mrs. Demetrios Yogas

July Donations

Mr. & Mrs. Chris Spirou
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Stroumbos
Fr. Gregory Trakas
Betty Xintaras
Mr. & Mrs. John Xintaras

August Offering

Dr. & Mr. Michael Dibartolomeo
Martha Galanis
Paradigm Plumbing
Mr. & Mrs. Vasilios Peters
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Pomerleau

Easter Offering

Dragan Dragutinovic
Mr. & Mrs. Costa Georgopoulos
Polixeni Georgopoulos
Athena Pliakos
Betty Xintaras

Greekfest Donations

James Camberis
Peter Camberis
Martha Galanis
Souvlaki Pizza
Betty Xintaras

BE GREEN! – SAVE PAPER, PRINTING & MAILING COSTS

This bulletin can be sent “paperless.”

Email us at:

info@Assumptionnh.org

to sign up for bulletin by e-mail!

What is Christian Stewardship? Christian Stewardship is:

- * learning how to be a responsible and concerned caretaker of Christ’s Church
- * learning how to enjoy Church life and be happy in Church work, for in Her dwells the fullness of the Spirit of God
- * our active commitment to use all our **time, talent and treasure** for the benefit of humankind in grateful acknowledgment of Christ’s redeeming love
- * caring for the needs of others
- * offering one’s self to God as He offered Himself to us
- * what a person does after saying “I believe...” as proof of that belief
- * devotion and service to God and His Church as persons, as families, as diocese & metropolis, as national Church and as Church universal.

As Christian Stewards we are called to give back to God from the “**first fruits**” of our labor.

We support our parish and its ministries in a deliberate way and not with only what is left over after everything else has been taken care of!

Karen Brook
James Camberis
Peter Camberis
Fr. Gregory Trakas

Thank you for your love to the House of the Lord and Panagia!

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ASSUMPTION

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Great Vespers of the Dormition & Assumption of the Virgin Mary