

September/ ΣΕΠΤΕΜΒΡΙΟΣ 2021

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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 ΥΠΕΡΑΓΙΑΣ ΘΕΟΤΟΚΟΥ

Assumption

Greek Orthodox Church

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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 2021

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

Arthur Bakolas	Kathy Papakostas
Bill Bruttaniti	Penny Papastathis
Harold Guidicelli	Helen Rainey
Stathis Kapellakis	Anthony Tsekrekas
Nick Karagianis	

Philoptochos Board 2021

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Vice President..... Andrea Moutsioulis
Treasurer.....Helen Rainey
Recording Secretary.....Michelle Kapos
Corresponding Secretary.....Georgia Gancarz
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Advisor.....Nancy Mardanes

Maria Chronas	Esther Kerekoglow
Evangelia Gregorious	Artemis Lazos

Staff

Secretary.....Janet Malin

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Directors

GOYA & Jr. GOYA.....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
Nick Karagianis	Helen Rainey

Address Changes

Please notify the Church Office if you are moving, have changed your phone or email, so that we may update our database.
Thank you!

Pastoral Visitation

As soon as a loved one is in a hospital, nursing home, hospice, home-bound, ill, or in any other difficulty, please contact Fr. Gregory at the Church Office to arrange a visit!
Please do not postpone for later!

Parish Priest

My beloved parishioners, I pray that again this year you have had a safe and enjoyable summer! It looks like the pandemic intends to become part of our lives and all of us, as faithful and courageous Christians, should put our trust in God and make the best of these challenging circumstances.

September 1st is the beginning of the **New Ecclesiastical Year!** This is a time we contemplate on the wisdom of God's Creation and we thank Him for allowing us to live yet another 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 is 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 from any disease, during this 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**. Our 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 copy our behavior. From spiritual parents and grandparents come (in most cases) spiritual children and grandchildren. 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 again different from those few years back. 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 **Tuesday, 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 offer our heartfelt condolences to Father Gregory and his family for the loss of his beloved mother. May her soul be at peace with our Heavenly Father. We pray for peace and comfort to Father Gregory and his family at this difficult time.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all who have assisted, participated, and contributed to our **GREEKFEST EXPRESS 2021**. Your support and generosity have made a tremendous impact during these challenging times. Finally, we are looking for **Stewardship Committee Volunteers** to help with a variety of tasks and help 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.

Our next Parish Council meeting will be on **Monday, September 20th at 7:00 PM**

New Horizons Soup Kitchen

Our next New Horizons Soup Kitchen ministry commitment is **Sunday, September 26th, from 4:00 to 5:30 PM.** Please join us to a most rewarding experience!

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

My sincere thanks to all who donated money for the flowers for the August services held in honor of Panagia. Our church was beautifully decorated with flowers because of your generosity. Also, I wish to express my gratefulness for the help received with baking and packing Lenten pastries offered after Vespers. We were blessed to have several priests, visitors from local parishes, and our parishioners all together for Vespers and to celebrate our church's feast day.

I also appreciate the efforts of those who helped make Greekfest Express a success by helping with the cooking, baking, and packaging of orders. Everyone's time and talent helped make this event successful.

With the start of the new ecclesiastical year, we continue our outreach to women in the parish to become involved in Philoptochos. We need new ideas and new members – young and old. Please join us on Sunday, September 26th at 3pm in our church hall for a social event. Keep an eye out for the invitation which will be sent out separately

Reminders: If you are growing fresh basil, please bring it to church for September 14th, the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

The next Philoptochos Board meeting will be held Wednesday, September 8, at 6:30 PM.

Lucie Skouteris, President

Youth Ministry News

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We pray all our Sunday School families are doing well and look forward to once again be able to meet for in-person classes.

As we move forward towards restarting our in-person classes, we will need adult volunteers to teach Sunday School. If you are interested in joining our team, please contact Fr. Gregory, Mrs. Theohare, Mrs. Ranya, or our Church Office at 603-623-2045.

We have missed you and look forward to seeing you all soon!

The Sunday School Team

GREEK SCHOOL

We are thrilled to meet our new students and see our current students again this fall! Registration for the 2021-2022 academic year is now closed. If you missed the deadline, but would still like to register your child/children, please contact Mrs. Alexandra at alexbrut1@hotmail.com. You will find all our safety guidelines, parent/student handbook, registration forms, and class schedule on our website at <http://greeksschool.assumptionnh.org/registration>.

Classes will begin on Wednesday, September 22nd for grades 5 & 6 and on Thursday, September 23rd for grades 1 through 4.

We look forward to another safe, fun, and productive year!

Mrs. Alexandra & Mrs. Ranya



Prayer of Parents for their Children

O Heavenly Father, make me a better parent. Teach me to understand my children, to listen patiently to what they have to say, and to answer all their questions kindly. Keep me from interrupting them or contradicting them. Make me as courteous to them as I would have them be to me.

Forbid that I should ever laugh at their mistakes or resort to shame or ridicule when they displease me. May I never punish them for my own selfish satisfaction or to show my power. Let me not tempt my children to lie or steal. And guide me hour by hour that I may demonstrate by all that I say and do that honesty produces happiness.

When I'm out of sorts, help me, O Lord, to hold my tongue. May I ever be mindful that my children are children and I should not expect of them the judgments of adults. Let me not rob them of the opportunity to wait on themselves and to make decisions.

Bless me with the bigness to grant them all their reasonable requests and the courage to deny them privileges I know will do them harm. Make me fair and just and kind and fit me, O Lord, to be loved and respected and imitated by my children. Amen.

Prayer of a Student

Holy God, please walk with me as the new school year begins. Help me to do my very best in my studies, to gain knowledge and wisdom. Please help me to always be respectful to my teachers and to honor them for their efforts on my behalf. Protect me and my friends and school from any harm or danger.

Holy Mighty, please work through me to be a true friend to others, especially to those who most need a friend. Give me courage to stand up for those who may be bullied or shamed. Help me shine the light of Your love to everyone I meet. Remind me when I feel alone that You are always with me and that my family and parish loves and supports me.

Holy Immortal, please also educate my heart to know you better and to walk in my Orthodox Christian Faith, even when this sets me apart. Help me remember that you work alongside me in all of my efforts which please you. Thank you for the joy of being your child. Help me share that joy with others. Amen.

Sacraments & Services

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

Wedding

August 1st - Katie Straw and Ioanis Kourtis



Funeral

August 19th – Dimitrios Bakolas

Memorial Services

September 12th - Kelly Locke- 5 years

September 19th - Dimitrios Bakolas - 40 days

September 19th- Georgia Bisylla - 40 days



Planning Memorials

When planning for a memorial, please contact our Church Office at 603-623-2045. There is a specific 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 Donations Wanted

Wish List

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

(*) Closet Organizer for Altar: \$500

Needs List

(*) Web Camera to broadcast our church services: \$2,300

(*) Riding Lawn Mower for our extensive green area: \$4,500

Cleaning Supplies: Clorox Wipes, gel sanitizers

(*) Please **do not** purchase these items without consulting with our Church Office first!

July Stewardship

Voula Annas
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Cote
Tiffany Day
Charles Farmakis
Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Farmakis
Venice Farmakis
Demetrios Kamberis
Mr. & Mrs. Stathis Kapellakis
Mr. & Mrs. George Kitsis
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Koromilas
Dorothea Koutsavlis
Mr. & Mrs. Martin Krueger
Mr. Mrs. Bruce Pomerleau
Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Poplin

Memorial Donation

Mary Argeropoulos

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!

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

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