



# Saint Catherine Greek Orthodox Church Braintree, Massachusetts

Volume 10, Issue 6, November & December 2016

[stcatherinebraintree.org](http://stcatherinebraintree.org)

781-843-0047

## Father's Message

Dear Parishioners:

When we were young, our parents most likely taught us early on to say "please" and "thank-you" when asking for or receiving something. Maybe we were taught to say thank-you upon receiving a gift, or maybe it was saying thank-you in our prayers at night to God. The Thanksgiving and Nativity Season always brings up the question...what are we thankful for?

Saint Paul wrote in his letter to the Thessalonians, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." When the Thessalonians were brought to the Faith, persecutions broke out upon them which made them begin to ask questions. If they were from God, why were they being victimized? Saint Paul tells them that ultimately it is the offering of love towards everyone, particularly those that were persecuting them, all the while giving thanks to God that was truly needed. For Saint Paul, persecution for the sake of Christ Jesus was a gift of salvation, and believing this, He preached it, and spent His life thanking God for calling him to this path. You see my brothers and sisters in Christ, being grateful and giving thanks, glorifies God. As Orthodox Christians thankfulness is a state of being and our way of life.

(continued on pg. 2)



**The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

This icon is more than just a beautiful Christmas piece. It conveys important theological truth as all icons do. Jesus is wrapped in swaddling cloths in such a way that he resembles one wrapped for burial. This indicates that He was born to die for us. The red heifer is present in the cave, which is symbolic of being offered as a sacrifice for the sins of the people. The ass which bore Mary and Him out of town for his birth is there foreshadowing the Triumphal Entry as He goes willingly to the Cross to reconcile us to Himself. The angel in the mountains is shown above the three shepherds. This tells the story of how the angel appeared to the shepherds singing and glorifying the birth of Christ, calling them to join in the praise. One of the shepherds is blowing the shofar, which signifies the coming of the year of jubilee or the year of the Lord's favor as in Isaiah 60 and 61. St. Joseph the Betrothed is shown in a struggle against his temptation. The old man talking to him represents his temptation, when he considered "putting Mary away quietly" not knowing whose child she was to bear. The three men on horseback are the Magi following the star that is being guided by God so they can worship the King, Jesus Christ.

*Thy nativity, O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world;  
For they who did worship the stars did learn from them to worship Thee, O Sun of  
Justice, and to know that thou didst come from the East of the Highest, Glory to Thee,  
O Lord.*

## In this Issue

Father's Message

Stewardship Status

Outreach Programs

Sacraments

Sunday School

President's Message

Saints in the Spotlight

Greek School

HOPE & JOY

Holy Week in Review

Mommy & Me

Good Neighbors

Philoptochos

GOYA

pages 2-3

pages 4-6

pages 7-9

pages 10-13

Father's Message (from Page 1)

Having a thankful spirit sets us apart from the rest of the world. It is not only being thankful for having the needed necessities of life, but rather it is being thankful to God for His unconditional love, and His ultimate sacrifice on the Cross granting each and every one of us eternal life if we so choose.

Let us remember that this sacrifice of love through Jesus Christ, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, who destroyed death by death, granting everlasting life to all, began in a small manger in Bethlehem. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." The Incarnation of Christ intertwines gracefully with that of His Resurrection, for Christ became man in order for us to become like God.

The Nativity is a pivotal point in our history of salvation because it is when God, himself, came to walk amongst us as fully human and fully divine. And on this night, all creation took part in Christ's birth by offering thanksgiving. The angels gave thanks with their song; the heavens gave the star; the Wise Men offered their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh; the shepherds were amazed and gave praise, the earth gave a cave for the birth, and humanity gave the Virgin Mary, the Theotokos, the Mother of God.



So how can we show our thankfulness to God?

- \* We can pray; talk to God often! Say thank-you; He always listens!
- \* We can attend church services.
- \* We can offer our time and talents to others without a cost.
- \* We can do works of charity.
- \* We can be an inspiration and positive model for others.

As Orthodox Christians, our Faith leads us to be thankful because we are living a Christ-centered life walking in His ways as His disciples in the world looking outwards in sharing the Good News of salvation to everyone around us. This brings us to the center of our Faith, to the center of thankfulness, to the center of our road to salvation. A path of salvation that is driven by sacrificial love that was offered by Him in the Highest who grants us every blessing and who we thank, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever, amen.

May you all have a Blessed Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!

May the Good Lord bless us all abundantly,

+Father Dionysios Koulianos

St. Catherine Greek Orthodox Church

.....Parish Council.....

Officers

- John Vemis, President
- Arthur Pappas, Vice President
- Ioannis Demestihias, Treasurer
- George Zygoras, Secretary
- Joyce Radiches, Assistant Secretary
- Theodore Karakostas Assistant Treasurer

Members

- Helen Cobban
- Georgia Gregoriades
- William Kazis
- Kyriakos Petroulas
- George Rozanitis
- Nicholas Seremetis
- George Xixis
- Emanuel Zacharakis
- Andreas Zahopoulos

.....Staff.....

- Secretary: Diane P. Seremetis
- Chanter: Emilio Karakostas,
- Sexton: Koco Dhimongjini

.....Philoptochos.....

- President: Kathy Leneweaver

.....Sunday School.....

- Directors: Kathy Leneweaver
- Eleni Kalioras

.....Greek School.....

- Director: Maria Lappas

.....Greek School PTA.....

- President: Dena Manning
- Vice-President: Georgia Gregoriades

.....GOYA.....

- Advisors:
- Lena Deaibes

.....HOPE & JOY.....

- Advisors:
- Eleni Kalioras

.....Altar Boys.....

- Nick Carroll

### Sacraments



#### Baptisms:

#### **October:**

Maria Eleni, the daughter of Michalaki & Asimina Pano  
Summer Charley, the daughter of Steven & Amy McGonagle  
Navid Konstantinos, the son of Ali John & Angela Mehedian  
Luca, the son of Kalani & Joanna Kia

#### Weddings:

#### **October:**

Konstantinos Jupe & Zacharenia Varsamis  
Joseph Fernandes & Andrianna Orphanos  
Tucker John Matheson & Cassandra Efrosine Moskovis



**To all our Parishioners and Friends**

When arriving at Church on Sundays, or any other day, would you kindly park in the main parking lots.

Please leave the area directly in the front of the Church and the administration building clear of cars. This area is designated for drop off & pick up only.

Handicapped spots are for people who have a handicap identification. Please show **respect** for the parishioners who depend on these spots.

### Saint Catherine Bookstore

*"The greatest gift is a passion for reading"*



Please visit our Bookstore during the Fellowship Hour.

You will find an interesting selection of books and various other items.

The bookstore features a Children's section.

## Save the Date

**General Assembly**

**Sunday, November 6**

*(Following the Divine Liturgy)*

**Parish Council Elections**

**Sunday, December 11**

## SAVE THE DATE

*Saint Catherine's Community New Year's Eve Celebration*

*Saturday, December 31, 2016 8pm—2am*

*DJ — The Salonica Boys*

*More Information to Follow!*





## Sunday School

Dear Sunday School Parents,

We ask that the children arrive on time for Divine Liturgy at 9:30 am. We encourage them to sit in the reserved Sunday School pews on the left side of the church. Sunday school will start following the Divine Liturgy. After receiving Holy Communion, the children will report directly to their classrooms.

We look forward to another year of great fellowship and growing in faith.

If anyone is interested in teaching, co-teaching or being a substitute teacher please contact:

Kathy Leneweaver

kleneweaver@gmail.com



### Event Schedule

**Friday, November 18, 6:30-8:30**

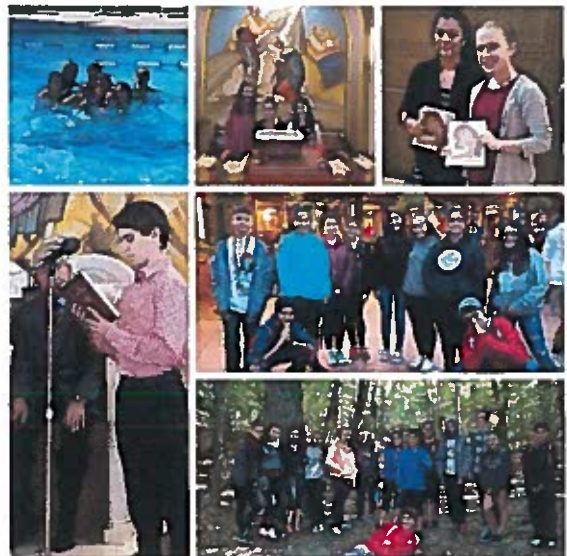
**Friday, December 16, 6:30-8:30  
(Gingerbread House Making)**



The GOYA has been off to a great start ending the summer with a pool party at the South Shore Country Club and dinner at the 99 Restaurant; inviting the Arlington GOYA and Fr. Aaron Walker for a hike up the Blue Hills, an inspirational Vespers Service on top of Big Blue and dinner at Bertucis; a fun-filled night of laughter at Canobie Lake's Screampfest; celebrating GOYA Sunday every last Sunday of the month and instituted a new program of GOYAns acting as Greeters every Sunday during Liturgy. Most importantly, the GOYAns welcomed Fr. Dionysios and Presbytera Maria with some good humor gifts and lots of love during his Installation service at St. Catherine. The GOYAns are looking forward to a long and loving relationship with Father Dionysios and Presbytera Maria!

### Upcoming Events:

- Oct. 29 – Babysitting Fundraiser
- Nov. 2 – Celtics Game
- Nov. 8 – GOYA Meeting (Preparation of Dinner for the Needy)
- Nov. 9 – Dinner for the Needy at the Braintree Food Pantry  
(Coats will given out also)
- Nov. 19 – Babysitting Fundraiser
- Nov. 27 – GOYA Sunday
- Dec. 3 – Quincy Market/Boston Common Ice Skating
- Dec. 10 – Babysitting Fundraiser
- Dec. 13 – GOYA Meeting
- Dec. 17 – Blessing Bag Distribution
- Dec. 18 – GOYA Sunday
- Dec. 21 – Braintree Food Pantry Christmas Program



### Saint Nicholas

the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra

This Saint lived during the reign of Saint Constantine the Great, and reposed in 330, As a young man, he desired to espouse the solitary life. He made a pilgrimage to the holy city Jerusalem, where he found a place to withdraw to devote himself to prayer. It was made known to him, however, that this was not the will of God for him, but that he should return to his homeland to be a cause of salvation for many. He returned to Myra, and was ordained bishop. He became known for his abundant mercy, providing for the poor and needy, and delivering those who had been unjustly accused. No less was he known for his zeal for the truth. He was present at the First Ecumenical Council of the 318 Fathers at Nicaea in 325; upon hearing the blasphemies that Arius brazenly uttered against the Son of God, Saint Nicholas struck him on the face. Since the canons of the Church forbid the clergy to strike any man at all, his fellow bishops were in perplexity what disciplinary action was to be taken against this hierarch whom all revered. In the night our Lord Jesus Christ and our Lady Theotokos appeared to certain of the bishops, informing them that no action was to be taken against him, since he had acted not out of passion, but extreme love and piety. The Dismissal Hymn for holy hierarchs, The truth of things hath revealed thee to thy flock ... was written originally for Saint Nicholas. He is the patron of all travelers, and of sea-farers in particular; he is one of the best known and best loved Saints of all time.

#### Apolytikion of Nicholas the Wonderworker in the Fourth Tone

A model of faith and the image of gentleness, the example of your life has shown you forth to your sheep-fold to be a master of temperance. You obtained thus through being lowly, gifts from on high, and riches through poverty. Nicholas, our father and priest of priests, intercede with Christ our God that He may save our souls.

#### Kontakion of Nicholas the Wonderworker in the Third Tone

Saintly One, (St. Nicholas) in Myra you proved yourself a priest; for in fulfilling the Gospel of Christ, venerable One, you laid down your life for your people and saved the innocent from death. For this you were sanctified as One learned in divine grace.



The Bible Study classes are on every Wednesday at 10 am

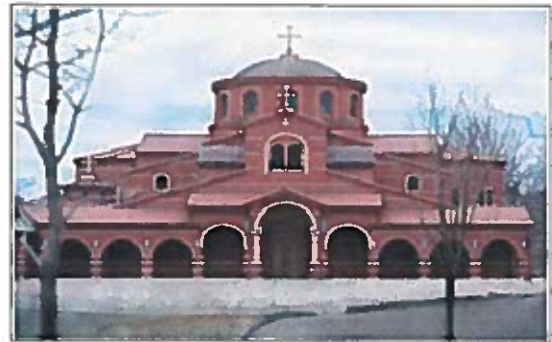
### Notice!

Services on Sunday are as follows:



Orthros 8:30 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.



Jesus said !

"What you do unto the least of my brethren, you do unto me"



## Message from the President

**Dear Parishioners,**

On behalf of the Parish Council and all of our parish ministries I would like to welcome our new priest Fr. Dionysios and Presbytera Maria Koulianos. We are blessed to have them with us as we start this new chapter of our parish.

This month we will be celebrating the name day of our Church with Great Vespers on the 24th (Thanksgiving) and Divine Liturgy on the 25th of November. Join us along with your families and friends to celebrate this magnificent event.

Also on the 6th, of November the semi-annual General Assembly of the Parish will be held. It is very important that everyone participates. There are many important issues on the agenda regarding the life of our Parish that will be discussed.

On Sunday, December 11, the Parish Council Elections will be held immediately following the Divine Liturgy. Please cast your ballot. It is important to be part of the voting process. Make your voice heard!

I am looking forward to seeing each of you at Church.

Sincerely,

John Vemis

President of the Parish Council

## ICONOGRAPHY – SPONSORING OPPORTUNITIES

Did you know that the 2016 *Hemerologion* or *Almanac* of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in its initial pages features in color the interior of our Church with its exquisite iconography? In addition to the comprehensive summary of liturgical rubrics for 2016, the *Almanac* contains general information about the Patriarchate, its dioceses, eparchies, and institutions throughout the world and information about the other Orthodox Churches. As a result, the Patriarchal *Almanac* is distributed to churches, parishes, and institutions in every corner of the world. Consequently, people from every continent have come to know and admire the beauty of St. Catherine's majestic architecture and superb iconography. A wonderful gift, a true blessing!

In the eyes of every Orthodox Christian, holy icons are more than artful objects. They are a vital part of the liturgical life of the Church and the personal devotional life of the believer. Icons reveal in form and color the veritable truths contained in the Bible and the tenets of our faith. The icon of Christ, for example, renders palpable the mystery of the incarnation of the Son and Word of God. Initially, icons are meant to be didactic. Eventually, they become analogical, which is to say, they help us ascend into the realm of higher truths, allowing us to probe the wondrous mysteries of God's plan of salvation. As such, the icon constitutes a visual theology and a medium of grace. The icon is the point at which our soul encounters and unites itself to the depicted saintly persons or events of sacred history.

The superb iconographic scheme of our Church summarizes visually the whole plan of the divine economy – the sanctification of the human being and the entire cosmos brought about by the Word becoming flesh and dwelling among us. Standing in our beautiful church, surrounded by the holy icons, we are reminded to lift up our hearts and appropriate to ourselves the grace that flows from the saving work of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ.

Thanks to the generosity of many parishioners, supporters, and friends of St. Catherine, phase three of our Parish Building Program (the interior decoration of the church) was hugely successful. **However, several icons and furnishings await a sponsor. We appeal to your generosity, individually or jointly with others, asking respectfully that you consider donating one of the remaining items.**

As previously announced, the names of the donors will be placed on a special *Donors Plaque* in the narthex of the Church. Should you be interested, please contact the church office at 781-843-0047. The secretary will make arrangements for you to meet with the chairman or a member of the Decoration Committee to discuss your donation.

### Available Items

**Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane**

**Epitaphios—the Burial of Christ**

**St. John of Damascus—Hymnographer**

**St. Kosmas the Poet-Hymnographer**

**The Deisis—Intersession**

**Synthronon—in the sanctuary**

**Pulpit—Ambo**

**Holy Table**



## Focus on the Family

**"He who does not have Christ in his heart will never find Christmas under a tree."- Unknown.**

**Here is an article to share with the parents in your community. Putting Christ Back Into "Christ"mas By Doria Saros**

**You mean it's not "X-mas" or "gift-mas" or "rush-around-and-go-crazy-mas?" Wow, you could have fooled me! Every year I start the Christmas countdown with the best intentions, and each year I find it more and more difficult to keep my focus on the reason for the season? Christ. As a forty something youth minister and mother of three, I am especially concerned about my own behavior during the Christmas season. According to Group magazine parents are the unequivocal single most important influence on their child's spiritual growth.**



**If I struggle to keep my focus on Christ during the madness of the shopping season, what am I demonstrating to my own children? The world is a very seductive place in which commercial marketing is frequently challenging our God-given spiritual discernment. How many times have we found ourselves so consumed by the material aspect of gift giving that we completely lose focus of the Nativity and our greatest gift, the newborn Jesus?**

**We need to change our worldly thinking to a more Christian attitude of gratitude. For example in this country, it is traditional to celebrate birthdays by showering the birthday boy or girl with accolades and gifts. So why don't we apply that same tradition for our Lord and Savior? After all, whose birthday is it anyway?! So, what are we going to give Jesus for His birthday this year? I'm not saying that we should stop exchanging gifts. What I am suggesting is that we remember Jesus above all on our Christmas lists. Obviously, the gifts we give to Christ deserve greater effort than the gifts we give to one another. Therefore our "shopping" for Jesus will be more creative than in the usual sense. But here is a tremendous opportunity for us to work with our children in expressing our love for God with a truly giving heart. Here are some gift suggestions for our Lord and Savior: How about giving a donation to a local food-shelf in someone's name for Christmas (adult friends love this)? How about taking the money that we save on groceries during our fasting and donating it to a food-shelf? How about making homemade cards or cookies for someone who is sick or shut-in? How about inviting someone into our home for the holiday meal who doesn't have family nearby? How about giving an elderly member of the community a ride to and from church for Christmas services? How about dedicating more of our prayers to being thankful? How about having the courage to declare "Merry Christmas" or "Christ Is Born," instead of the more 'politically correct' "Happy Holidays."**

**These are just a few ways to give the gift of glory to Jesus Christ. By keeping our perspective on who Christmas is all about we help put the holiness back in holiday. God willing with each act of kindness we will help spread the news to our children and to our community. Christ is Born! Glorify Him!**



\*\*\*\*\*

**Doria is the Youth Director at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota.**

## December 4



**Saint Barbara** was from Heliopolis of Phoenicia and lived during the reign of Maximian.

She was the daughter of a certain idolater named Dioscorus. When Barbara came of age, she was enlightened in her pure heart and secretly believed in the Holy Trinity. About this time Dioscorus began building a bath-house; before it was finished he was required to go away to attend to certain matters, and in his absence Barbara directed the workmen to build a third window in addition to the two her Father had commanded. She also inscribed the sign of the Cross with her finger upon the marble of the bath-house, leaving the saving sign cut as deeply into the marble as if it had been done with an iron too. (When the Synaxarion of Saint Barbara was written, the marble of the bath-house and the cross inscribed by Saint Barbara were still preserved, and many healings were worked there.)

When Dioscorus returned, he asked why the third window had been added; Barbara began to declare to him the mystery of the Trinity. Because she refused to renounce her faith, Dioscorus tortured Barbara inhumanely, and after subjecting her to many sufferings he beheaded her with his own hands, in the year 290.



## December 12

**St. Spyridon**, the God-bearing Father of the Church, the great defender of Corfu and the boast of all the Orthodox, had Cyprus as his homeland. He was simple in manner and humble of heart, and was a shepherd of sheep. When he was joined to a wife, he begat of her a daughter whom they named Irene. After his wife's departure from this life, he was appointed Bishop of Trimythus, and thus he became also a shepherd of rational sheep. When the First Ecumenical Council was assembled in Nicaea, he also was present, and by means of his most simple words stopped the mouths of the Arians who were wise in their own conceit. By the divine grace which dwelt in him, he wrought such great wonders that he received the surname "Wonderworker." So it is that, having tended his flock piously and in a manner pleasing to God, he reposed in

the Lord about the year 350, leaving to his country his sacred relics as a consolation and source of healing for the faithful.

## December 22



**Reading: Saint Anastasia**, who was from Rome, was a most comely, wealthy, and virtuous maiden, the daughter of Praepextatus and Fausta. It was her mother who instructed her in the Faith of Christ. The Saint was joined to a man named Publius Patricius, who was prodigal in life and impious in disposition, but she was widowed after a short time. Henceforth, she went about secretly to the dwellings of the poor and the prisons where the Martyrs of Christ were, and brought them whatever was needed for their daily subsistence. She washed their wounds and loosed them from their fetters, and consoled them in their anguish. Also, because the Saint, through her intercessions, has healed many from the ill effects of spells, potions, poisons, and other harmful substances, she has received the name "Deliverer from Potions." Since the fame of her deeds had spread about, she was arrested by Diocletian's minions, and after enduring many torments she was put to death by fire in the year 290.



## Community Outreach Opportunities

The goal for every Christian is to accept the command by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ when He says... "Love your neighbor as yourself." It is imperative that every believer of the Gospel message must strive not only to have faith but also to continuously attempt to help his or her neighbor. Below you will find some outreach programs found within our Metropolis or some within the local area. Please view them carefully and hopefully each of us can commit some time to these worthy ministries.

**Philoxenia House:** The Metropolis of Boston Philoxenia House, established by Metropolitan Methodios in 1986, continues to offer hospitality to those who come to Boston for medical treatment. Whether they stay for a few days, or a few weeks or months, the guests develop a bond with the Greek Orthodox Community of New England which continues to strengthen them through correspondence with Metropolitan Methodios and the volunteers and visitors to the Philoxenia House. **More information can be obtained at [www.boston.goarch.org](http://www.boston.goarch.org) or calling 617.277.4742 and asking for Eleni Kalioras.**

**Hellenic Nursing Home:** The Hellenic Women's Benevolent Association (HWBA) is a volunteer organization whose charter mission is to sponsor and oversee the Hellenic Nursing

and Rehabilitation Center. The Hellenic is an independent, non-profit health care facility dedicated and committed to our elderly who require skilled, restorative and long-term care within a secure and caring environment. The HWBA also engages and commits itself to fund-raising activities which serve to promote and enhance the quality of life of the resident entrusted to its care.

**More information at [www.hellenichome.com](http://www.hellenichome.com) or calling 1.781.828.7450.**

**Allegiance Hospice and Palliative Care:** At Allegiance Hospice our mission is to provide compassionate, quality care to individuals with advanced illnesses. You are invited to join our team of trained volunteers. We guarantee that the personal benefits will be life changing. Volunteers are needed for the Braintree and Weymouth area. More information can be obtained by contacting [kspagler@allegiancehospice.com](mailto:kspagler@allegiancehospice.com) or calling 1.877.255.4623.

**Pine Street Inn:** Learn & Serve Program for Faith Communities: This program is an engaging forum designed to inform participants about homelessness and poverty, integrating a service project, tour, and educational workshop. The goal of the program is to provide faith-based groups with an opportunity to gain a new perspective on the concepts of mission, out-

reach and social action. **More information can be obtained at [www.pinestreetinn.org](http://www.pinestreetinn.org) or by calling 617.521.7178.**

**The Women's Center:** This ministry provides free and confidential 24-hour easily accessible services to those in need. We provide counseling, education, outreach, referrals and resources. We may be called the Women's center, but we serve men and children as well. With over 30 years of experience, The Women's Center is the pre-eminent organization in the region offering comprehensive FREE and confidential services to ALL survivors and victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child trauma. **More information can be obtained at [www.thewomenscenter.com](http://www.thewomenscenter.com) or by calling 1.508.996.3343.**



WHEN WE PUT  
OUR PROBLEMS IN  
GOD'S HANDS,  
HE PUTS HIS PEACE IN  
OUR HEARTS.



# Thanksgiving



The first recorded observance of Thanksgiving in America was a religious occasion that did not include the feast now associated with the holiday. On December 4, 1619, a small group of English settlers arrived at Berkley Plantation on the James River in Virginia. In accordance with their charter, the group observed this day by giving thanks to God.

Two years later, the residents of Plymouth rejoiced in an abundant crop and Governor William Bradford proclaimed a three day harvest festival. The colonists and about 90 Indians enjoyed an enormous feast which included ducks, geese, turkey, fish, corn bread and vegetables. It is this particular feast that is usually referred to as the First Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving celebrations were observed irregularly in the years after 1621. However, by 1789, the Thanksgiving custom had spread throughout the colonies and, in that year, George Washington proclaimed November 26 as a "day of public thanksgiving and prayer." Washington's proclamation still did not lead to a regular national observance although many states did celebrate Thanksgiving on an annual basis.

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation which invited Americans to "observe the last Thursday of November as a day of Thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens." Such proclamations were repeated by the President of the United States for the next 75 years. In 1939, President Franklin Roosevelt changed the date to the fourth Thursday in November. His goal was to help merchants by lengthening the Christmas shopping season. Many Kansans were unhappy with Roosevelt's break from tradition but the move was soon made permanent by Congress.

A typical Thanksgiving meal in the United States includes turkey, dressing, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, and rolls.

## Custom of Praying

For centuries, 'Thanksgiving Day' is associated with communal prayers in church and in homes.

People offer various meal time prayers during the day. It is a time, when mankind thanks God for all his blessings and grace. It is also a day to show gratitude to your friends and relatives for

all the good deeds



## Philoptochos

PHILOPTOCHOS



### **THE FELLOWSHIP HOUR** a parish ministry that needs your attention and help

Each Sunday, following the Divine Liturgy, the congregation is invited to participate in the Fellowship Hour, a time for social interaction among the members of our community over a cup of coffee and some pastry. Seeing and greeting one another at this weekly event is one of the joys we look forward to. We see old friends, make new ones, and welcome new families to our parish. The responsibility for organizing and preparing the weekly Fellowship Hour has been falling more and more on a few parishioners. We want to expand the program and the responsibilities. Hence, we are reaching out to all the members of our parish to lend a hand. We invite you respectfully – an individual parishioner or a group of friends, a family or a group of relatives – to sponsor one of the Fellowship Hours during the course of the year. It doesn't take much and your contribution will be greatly appreciated. For many years, the ladies of the Philoptochos have been essentially responsible for maintaining this important ministry. We thank them for their tireless efforts. Now, lets all lend a hand. Please consider hosting/sponsoring a Fellowship Hour. Add your name(s) to the list. For more information, please contact Kathy Leneweaver at [kleneweaver@gmail.com](mailto:kleneweaver@gmail.com) or call her at 781 - 799 - 7755.



## Calling All Altar Boys

**Grades 4-12**

Serving in the Holy Altar allows young men fourth grade and up a unique blessing and perspective on Orthodox liturgical life.

The role of the Altar Boy remains a genuine and vital one in the Eucharistic Assembly of the faithful, as well as in other services. He stands ready to serve God in this capacity. It is a stewardship of young men; a service that they offer to God as their regular Sunday offering of talent and ability. In serving our Lord, Altar Boys are able to build off the true form of teamwork and servitude.





#### November 9

**Saint Nectarios** was born in Selyvria of Thrace on October 1, 1846. After putting himself through school in Constantinople with much hard labour, he became a monk on Chios in 1876, receiving the monastic name of Lazarus; because of his virtue, a year later he was ordained deacon, receiving the new name of Nectarios. Under the patronage of Patriarch Sophronius of Alexandria, Nectarios went to Athens to study in 1882; completing his theological studies in 1885, he went to Alexandria, where Patriarch Sophronius ordained him priest on March 23, 1886 in the Cathedral of Saint Sabbas, and in August of the same year, in the Church of Saint Nicholas in Cairo, made him Archimandrite. Archimandrite

Nectarios showed much zeal both for preaching the word of God, and for the beauty of God's house. He greatly beautified the Church of Saint Nicholas in Cairo, and years later, when Nectarios was in Athens, Saint Nicholas appeared to him in a dream, embracing him and telling him he was going to exalt him very high.



#### November 14

This Apostle, **St. Philip** one of the Twelve, was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and was a compatriot of Andrew and Peter. He was instructed in the teachings of the Law, and devoted himself to the study of the prophetic books. Therefore, when the Lord Jesus called him to the dignity of apostleship, he immediately sought out and found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of Whom Moses in the Law and the Prophets did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph" (John 1.45). Having preached Jesus the God-man throughout many parts of Asia Minor, and having suffered many things for His Name's sake, he was finally crucified upside down in Hierapolis of Phrygia.



#### November 17

**Saint Gregory** was born in Neocaesarea of Pontus to parents who were not Christians. He studied in Athens, in Alexandria, in Beirut, and finally for five years in Caesarea of Palestine under Origen, by whom he was also instructed in the Faith of Christ. Then, in the year 240, he became bishop of his own city, wherein he found only seventeen Christians. By the time the Saint reposed about the year 265, there were only seventeen unbelievers left there. Virtually the whole duration of his episcopacy was a time of continual, marvellous wonders worked by him. Because of this, he received the surname "Wonderworker"; even the enemies of the truth called him a second Moses.



#### November 30

**Saint Andrew** was from Bethsaida of Galilee; he was the son of Jonas and the brother of Peter, the chief of the Apostles. He had first been a disciple of John the Baptist; afterwards, on hearing the Baptist's witness concerning Jesus, when he pointed Him out with his finger and said, "Behold the Lamb of God, Which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1.29,36), he straightway followed Christ, and became His first disciple; wherefore he is called the First-called of the Apostles. After the Ascension of the Saviour, he preached in various lands; and having suffered many things for His Name's sake, he died in Patras of Achaia, where he was crucified on a cross in the shape of an "X," the first letter of "Christ" in Greek; this cross is also the symbol of Saint Andrew.



**ΤΑ ΠΡΟΕΟΡΤΙΑ ΤΩΝ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΩΝ** – Βρισκομαστε ηδη στα προθυρα των Χριστουγεννων. Σε ολιγες ημερες θα εορτασουμε και παλιν την μεγαλη εορτη του Χριστιανικου κοσμου, τα Χριστουγεννα. Το γεγονος της γεννησεως του Κυριου θα ξαναφερει η Εκκλησια μπροστα στα ματια της ψυχης μας την ενανθρωπηση του Θεου της χαρας, της ειρηνης, και της αγαπης και θα μας καλεσει να προσκυνησουμε μαζι με τους ποιμενες και με τους Μαγους τον γεννηθεντα Βασιλεα. Στο νεογεννητο Βρεφος της Βηθλεεμ θα ιδουμε τον τεχθεντα Σωτηρα μας, τον ενανθρωπησαντα Θεον. Σε αυτο το Βρεφος θα αντικρυσουμε την λυτρωση που «απεστειλεν ο Κυριος τω λαω Αυτου.» Μεσα

στο βρεφικο σωμα του Χριστου δεν κρυβεται μονον ο αιωνιος Θεος, αλλα και το πληρωμα της σωτηριας μας. Δηλαδη, μαζι με τον Θεον κρυβεται και η ανακαινηση και η θεωση της φθαρτης μας φυσεως, η καινη κτιση. Οπως το ειπε τοσο ομορφα ο Μεγας Αθανασιος, ο αιωνιος Θεος εγινε ανθρωπος, για να γινουν οι ανθρωποι θεοι – κατα χαριν. Ακριβως δε λογω της θεολογικης αυτης σπουδαιοτητος, η εορτη των Χριστουγεννων αποτελει μαζι με την εορτη του Πασχα τους δυο μεγαλους πολους γυρω απο τους οποιους στρεφεται το λειτουργικο ετος. Το Πασχα ειναι η κορωνιδα των κινητων και τα Χριστουγεννα των ακινητων εορτων. Ειδικα, η εορτη των Χριστουγεννων ειναι η «μητροπολη» των εορτων κατα τον αγιον Ιωαννην τον Χρυσοστομον, γιατι το γεγονος που εορταζουμε κατ' αυτην ειναι η προυποθεση ολων των αλλων σταθμων της σωτηριας μας. Αν δεν εγεννατο ο Χριστος ουτε θα εδιδασκε, ουτε θα εθαυματουργει, ουτε θα επασχε, ουτε θα ανιστατο. Ηδη με την γεννηση του Χριστου η σωτηρια του γενους μας εχει δυναμει συντελεσθει, Η θεια και η ανθρωπινη φυση εχουν ενωθη εν Χριστω. Ο Θεανθρωπος Ιησους αποτελει την ζωσαν εικονα και την εγγυηση της μελλοντικης εν Χριστω ανακεφαλαιωσεως των παντων.



**A television interviewer was walking through the streets of a large city at Christmas time.** He stopped a young woman and asked her, "What is Christmas?" Smiling, she replied, "I don't really know. Is it the day that Jesus died?" In her uninformed response we find a painful truth. Many people have forgotten the meaning of Christmas. The rampant commercialism of our times has sapped Christmas of its sense and import. The emphasis on gift-buying has muddled the waters. The joyous anticipation of the wondrous event of the birth of the Messiah, described simply but powerfully in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, has taken a back-seat. We need to be more attentive to the Gospel story: "Mary bore a Son, and called His name Jesus, for He was to save His people from their sins" (Matthew 2: 21). We need to remember why Christ came into the world. If our greatest need had been knowledge, God would have sent us an educator; if our greatest need had been technology, He would have sent us a scientist; if our greatest need had been money, He would have sent us an economist; if our greatest need had been pleasure, He would have sent us an entertainer. **But our greatest need was to gain forgiveness and freedom from corruption and death. Therefore God, in His infinite love for us, sent us His Son, the sinless and deathless One, to deliver us from the curse of sin and death.** In the profound mystery of Bethlehem we discover the simple truth of God's immeasurable love and power. The Son of God bridged the unbridgeable. The Creator became a creature, to deify our human nature, filling us with joy, peace, and hope.



**ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΣΧΟΛΕΙΟ ΑΓΙΑΣ ΑΙΚΑΤΕΡΙΝΗΣ**  
**GREEK SCHOOL HAPPENINGS**  
**OCTOBER 2016**



**Συγχαρητήρια στα παιδιά μας! Την περασμένη Κυριακή 23 Οκτωβρίου, οι μαθητές της Αγίας Αικατερίνης μας έκαναν περήφανους στην ετήσια γιορτή της 28<sup>ης</sup> Οκτωβρίου στο Μαλλιώτειο Πολιτιστικό Κέντρο στο Brookline. Οι μαθητές της Ε' και ΣΤ' Άννα Μαμουζέλλου, Ουρανία Παραστατίδου, Βασιλική Μπουταλή, Λευτέρης Μαμουζέλλος, και ο Μανώλης Τσιχλής απήγγειλαν ποιήματα και όλα τα παιδιά απ' όλες τις τάξεις τραγούδησαν το «Πήραμε το Αργυρόκαστρο». Ζήτω η 28<sup>η</sup> Οκτωβρίου!**

**Congratulations to our children! Last Sunday October 23<sup>rd</sup>, the students of St. Catherine's Greek School made us very proud at the annual OXI Day celebration at the Maliotis Cultural Center in Brookline. The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students Anna Mamouzelos, Ourania Parastatides, Vasiliki Boutalis, Lefteris Mamouzellos, and Manolis Tsihchlis recited poems and the students from the all the grades sang "Pirame to Argirokastro". Long live OXI Day!**

**THANK YOU TO THE GREEK SCHOOL PTA FOR ORGANIZING THE PUMPKIN HARVEST FESTIVAL!**





# December 2016



	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
							3 GOYA Quincy Market Ice Skating
4	5	6 St. Nicholas Orthros 8:30 Liturgy 9:15	7	8	9	10 GOYA Babysitting 5—9pm	
11 Parish Elections	12 St. Spyridon Orthros 8:30 Liturgy 9:15	13 GOYA Meeting 6:30—7:30pm	14 Parish Council	15	16	17 Philoptochos Bake Sale	
18 Philoptochos Bake Sale Sunday School Greek School Christmas Program	19	20	21 GOYA Food Pantry Christmas Program	22	23 Great Hours of Christmas	24 Orthros 8:30am Liturgy 9:30am Great Vespers	
25 Christmas	26 	27	28	29	30	31 New Years Eve Celebration	

# November 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 St. Anargyroi Orthros 8:30 Liturgy 9:15	2 GOYA Celtics Night	3 New Years Committee Meeting 6pm	4 Veterans Day	5 Greek School Teacher's Conference
6 General Assembly	7 (Vespers Watertown)	8 Archangels Orthros 8:30 Liturgy 9:15 (Vespers Roslindale)	9 St. Nektarios (Roslindale) GOYA Food Pantry Parish Council	10	11	12
13	14	15 Christmas Fast Begins	16	17	18 Philoptochos Make & Paint Night	19 GOYA Babysitting Night 5pm—9pm
20	21 Feast of the Entry (Eisodia) Orthros 8:30 Liturgy 9:30	22	23	24 Thanksgiving <u>Great Vespers</u> 7 pm	25 Feast of St. Catherine Orthros 8:30 Liturgy 9:30	26
27	28	29 Vespers Metropolis	30 Feast of St. Andrew Metropolis			

**YOU ARE INVITED TO**

life expressions™  
*Décor*



COACH ME. CHALLENGE ME.  
BELIEVE IN ME. WIN

Great Minds drink Alike

BOOTS *Bring* THE CASH!  
THING

## **MAKE AND TAKE FUNDRAISER PARTY!**

Please join us in a Make and Take Paint Fundraiser Party and enjoy a night of socializing, crafting, and fun! Fundraiser will benefit the several different charities supported through the Ladies Philoptochos Group. Life Expressions Décor is personalized vinyl home décor with TONS of options sure to fit everyone's style and personality. Fun for both adults and kids and makes a great Holiday Gift!!

**Event details:** Each person attending will have the opportunity to make their own 4x24" or 4x12" sign to take home with them at the end of the party. All supplies are provided! Each person will receive a board, paint their boards (45 paint colors), and apply your vinyl saying (Holiday sayings will be available!) The Life Expressions Creators will walk everyone through each step. Both easy and fun!

**When:** Friday, November 18th at 6:00 PM \*Please arrive in time to select saying/paint options. Painting will begin promptly at 6:30 PM

**Where:** 119 Common Street, Braintree MA (St. Catherine's Greek Orthodox Church)

**Cost:** 4x24" signs are \$30 (\$12 donation per sign)  
4x12" signs (kid sayings) are \$ 20 (\$6 donation per sign)  
Catalog or Custom orders are based on size (20% donation per order total)

**RSVP to:** Kathy Leneweaver (781-799-7755; [kleneweaver@gmail.com](mailto:kleneweaver@gmail.com))

**Can't make it but still want a sign or donate?  
Check out [Lifeexpressionsdecor.com](http://Lifeexpressionsdecor.com) for catalogs!  
Anything can be made to personalize!**





**St. Catherine Greek Orthodox Church**  
**119 Common Street, Braintree, MA 02184**

