

Saint Catherine Greek Orthodox Church

# TRINITY CHRONICLE

2018-2019 Winter Edition



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

## Father's Message

*Christ is Born!*

*Let us Glorify Him!*

Beloved Faithful,

The Feast of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is upon us! It was on this day that God became incarnate in order to come into the world fully human and fully divine, to destroy death by death, bringing salvation to us all! It is on this day God became man so that we may become like Him.

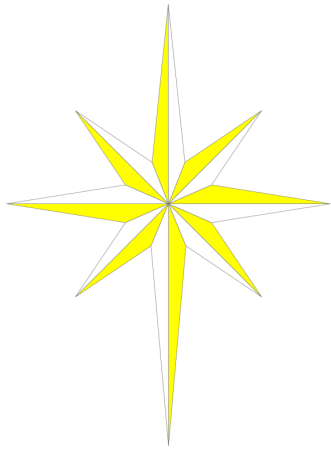
It is written in Matthew 2:1-12:

*Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."*

Three wise men came to Bethlehem to find the King of the Jews—Jesus Christ—God who through His birth “dawned the light of knowledge upon the earth,” as the Apolytikion hymn of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior states.

*Your birth, O Christ our God, dawned the light of knowledge upon the earth. For by Your birth those who adored stars, were taught by a star, to worship You, the Sun of Justice and to know You, Orient from on High. O Lord, glory to You.*





Saint John Chrysostom writes that the three wise men came from the East even with the likelihood of danger, bearing gifts because the star guided them, and only in this way, they would

voyage. God used that which was familiar to them through condescension. Moreover, it wasn't just any star, but one so bright, so large, that in their awe they followed it to Bethlehem.

We see that the wise men began to be transformed by God's grace the moment they spotted the star. As it is written, on their way back to their homeland, they did not return to King Herod as he wanted in order to locate the child born, but instead went home by another route never to return to him. Why did these wise men do this? For what reason? As pilgrims, their hearts had changed; they were transformed by the Nativity of Jesus Christ forever.

So, who is a pilgrim? Aren't we all pilgrims? Do we all not seek? Can we not also, in our hearts, travel to the place of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in awe of God's great love for us? So that we too, like the wise men can be transformed little by little?

Indeed, we can! Little by little, we can all become better people, just like the three wise men who allowed God to transform them from just astrologers of the stars to

wise men in Christ. We can also choose to remain as we are and not allow God to transform us remaining on our path which doesn't serve Him or our neighbors but rather leads us down a destructive path. This choice is ours.

When the star in Bethlehem shined down on the whole world, not only were the wise men transformed by Jesus Christ being born as the Savior of all, but all generations have been transformed to those who seek to know Him.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, God is not far from us. Rather, He is always with us, teaching us, guiding us in ways we are able to understand if we are willing to open our hearts and be pilgrims. Like the three wise men who followed a star, God leads us by the hand in a way only we can understand.

May this star, shine brightly within our hearts. May we always be pilgrims seeking our God. May we be guided by His hand always, to become a better humanity with all honor, glory and worship due to the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever, amen.

Blessed Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to you and your families. May it be filled with love, health, happiness, and abundance in all that is good for salvation!



+Father Dionysios Koulianos

## Orthodox Corner

### Icon of the Nativity

The icon of the Nativity tells the story of Christ's birth from the Scriptures. It also shows that all creation is taking part in Christ's birth. The angels give thanks with their song; the heavens give the star; the Wise Men give their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The poor, humble shepherds give their praise and amazement; the earth gives the cave, and humanity gives the Virgin.



This Holy Icon is an icon with many scenes. First, it stresses the im-

portance of the Theotokos, the Mother of Jesus. She is placed in the center and is the largest figure in the icon. In this icon, she is kneeling with crossed arms, looking at the Christ child. The three stars, denoting her virginity before, during, and after the Nativity, are on her garments.

The Christ Child, in the center of the icon, is in swaddling clothes and is lying in the manger. In the background is the dark cave where He

was born. In the cave are an ox and a donkey guarding the newborn Babe. Even though the Gospels say nothing of the cave, this information is from Holy Tradition. Neither do the



Gospels speak of the ox and the donkey, but all icons of the Nativity include these animals. Including the animals in the icon fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah 1:3, "The ox knows his master, and the donkey his master's crib; but Israel does not know me, and the people have not regarded me." The long ray of light from the star points directly to the cave. This ray comes from the star and travels

to all parts of the world. It teaches that this bright star is an astronomical happening, and is a messenger from heaven announcing the birth of Jesus.



On the left hand side of the icon is another scene. The Wise Men, who were led by the star, are riding horses to bring their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to Jesus. The Wise Men are of various ages. One is without a beard. In those days, young men did not wear beards. The other Wise Man has long hair and a long beard, which indicates that he is much older. These details teach that regardless of age and appearance, the Good News was given to each and everyone.

Opposite the Wise Men is the scene with the humble shepherds. An angel proclaims the glad tidings. A young shepherd plays a reed instrument. This scene reveals that the

music of the humans was added to the hymn of the angels. Across from the shepherd's scene is the heavenly choir of angels. They are giving glory to God. The angels serve two purposes in the Nativity of Christ. They give glory to God and announce the good news to all mankind.

The background shows a very rugged terrain. This is not a true representation of the land in this area. Joseph could not find room in Bethlehem, so they went outside of Bethlehem to a cave. This rocky mountain formation only serves as a background for the event.

In the lower part of the icon are two more scenes. In the right hand corner are the two women Joseph brought to take care of the Christ child. They are bathing Him just as any baby is bathed. The humanity of Jesus is clearly shown in this setting.



Opposite the bathing of Jesus scene sits a sad and worried Joseph. He is not part of the central group the Christ Child and the The-

otokos. Joseph is not the natural father. Joseph is troubled and despondent. There is an old man talking to Joseph. The old man is Satan. Satan can appear in many forms. Here he is as an old man who is tempting Joseph and disturbing him. Satan is telling Joseph that virgin birth is impossible. He's

telling Joseph that he's a fool if he believes this. This story comes to us from Holy Tradition. The sad Joseph shows us not only his personal predicament but the dilemma of all mankind the difficulty of accepting that which is "beyond words or reason."

The tree, which is in the middle of the lower part of the icon, is a symbol of the Tree of Jesse. This tree refers to Isaiah 11:1-2, "But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him." King David was often mentioned as the son of Jesse and Jesus was from the House of David.

The Holy Icon of the Nativity reminds one to praise and glorify the Birth of Christ. The celebration of Christmas each year serves to remind each and everyone of us that Christ came for you and me.

## Upcoming Services

### DECEMBER 2018

**Thursday, December 6**

8:30am Divine Liturgy

St. Nicholas The Wonderworker

**Wednesday, December 12**

8:30am Divine Liturgy

St. Spyridon The Wonderworker

**Sunday, December 16**

8:30am Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, December 23**

8:30am Divine Liturgy

**Monday, December 24**

5:30pm Vespers

The Nativity of Christ

**Tuesday, December 25**

8:30am Divine Liturgy

The Nativity of Christ

### JANUARY 2019

**Tuesday, January 1, 2019**

8:30am Divine Liturgy

St. Basil the Great

**Saturday, January 5, 2019**

6:00pm Vespers

Eve of the Theophany of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

**Sunday, January 6, 2019**

8:30am Divine Liturgy

The Epiphany (Theophany) of Christ

**Sunday, January 13, 2019**

8:30am Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, January 20, 2019**

8:30am Divine Liturgy

**Wednesday, January 23, 2019**

8:30am Divine Liturgy

Righteous Father Dionysius of Olympus

**Sunday, January 27, 2019**

8:30am Divine Liturgy

**Wednesday, January 30, 2019**

Three Hierarchs' Day

6:00pm Supplication to the Theotokos followed by Bible Study

### FEBRUARY 2019

**Saturday, February 2, 2019**

8:30am Divine Liturgy

The Presentation of Christ into the Temple

**Sunday, February 3, 2019**

8:30am Divine Liturgy

**Wednesday, February 6, 2019**

6:00pm Supplication to the Theotokos followed by Bible Study

**Saturday, February 9, 2019**

10:00am ORTHROS for IV-on-the-Go

4:30pm VESPERS for IV-on-the-Go

**Sunday, February 10, 2019**

8:30am Divine Liturgy

**Wednesday, February 13, 2019**

6:00pm Supplication to the Theotokos followed by Bible Study

**Sunday, February 17, 2019**

8:30am Divine Liturgy

**Wednesday, February 20, 2019**

6:00pm Supplication to the Theotokos followed by Bible Study

**Sunday, February 24, 2019**

8:30am Divine Liturgy

**Wednesday, February 27, 2019**

6:00pm Supplication to the Theotokos followed by Bible Study

**MARCH 2019**

**Saturday, March 2, 2019**

8:30am 1st Saturday of the Souls

**Sunday, March 3, 2019**

8:30am Divine Liturgy

Judgment Sunday (Meatfare Sunday)

**Wednesday, March 6, 2019**

6:00pm Supplication to the Theotokos followed by Bible Study

**Saturday, March 9, 2019**

8:30am 2nd Saturday of the Souls

**Sunday, March 10, 2019**

8:30am Divine Liturgy

Sunday of Cheesefare (Forgiveness Sunday)

6:00pm Forgiveness Vespers

**Monday, March 11, 2019**

Clean Monday ~ Great Lent Begins

## Bookstore & Book Club

Saint Catherine's Book Club hosted Dr. Philip Mamalakis in October to discuss his book, which now has been translated in Greek, *Parenting Toward the Kingdom of God*.

Those that participated found it fruitful to speak with him about parenting challenges faced in the home. This

book is available at our bookstore! So, inquire today!



In addition, our bookstore has been busily preparing for the Nativity Season!

Many books are available for the youth and adults alike, in Greek and in English. If you are searching for something specific, please contact Presbytera Maria and she can help you with your questions. Visit the bookstore this holiday season for the gift that keeps on giving.



## Mr. and Mrs. Club

Open to all married couples, the Mr. and Mrs. Club is a ministry of Saint Catherine's Braintree which meets periodically throughout the year at different venues to cultivate a camaraderie between couples of the parish who together grow in the Faith develop-



ing a deeper relationship with God and one another through witness, worship, service and fellowship.

Topics about marriage are discussed. Events have been well attended with our next Mr. and Mrs. Club happening on January 18, 2019. Come join great fellowship and fun!

**Important Dates:**

Friday, January 18 at 6:30pm

**Philoptochos**

Philoptochos is busy this holiday season! We coordinated a coat drive with the GOYA benefitting the Marg Crispin Center in Braintree, collecting new warm winter coats from our generous parishioners who whole heartedly participated. The coats have been given to needy children in the local area.



There is a Holiday Outing at the Common Market in Quincy planned for December 11<sup>th</sup>. This is a great chance for the women of Philoptochos to join in fellowship, celebrating the season.



Our annual Cookie Walk/ Bake Sale on December 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. Please come by for some delicious home baked cookies and Greek pastry and support Philoptochos!

Alexandra (Lexi) McInnis  
 Philoptochos President

**Important Dates:**

**Tuesday, December 11**

**Philoptochos Christmas Outing**

6:00pm at Common Market

**Saturday & Sunday, December 15 & 16**

3rd Annual Cookie Walk



## College Ministry

A new ministry to Saint Catherine's this year is our College Ministry. Youth in college can register for this ministry by visiting [www.goo.gl/forms/v0TbE2BAJafJUWTI3](http://www.goo.gl/forms/v0TbE2BAJafJUWTI3) filling out the Google Form. The mission and goal of this ministry is to continue to cultivate an ethos of fellowship, ministry, witness and worship although students are away at college. Currently students are receiving monthly emails that reinforce this mission and the importance of staying connected to the Church with an active personal relationship with God. Stay tuned for upcoming fellowship events that will take place during college breaks.

## Family Nights



Family Nights have been well attended with our last one on October 27<sup>th</sup> where we watched the newly released to streaming *Incredibles 2*.

Parish Family Nights give families the opportunity to learn more about the Orthodox Church, while spending quality time with one another and other members of the parish. The hope of Family Nights is that

what has been learned is taken and implemented in the life of the home. This is to reinforce “Family as Church,” encouraging practice of the Faith. Each Family Night includes a family activity, Compline Service, dinner and various breakout sessions focused on a theme. Our next Family Night will be on December 7<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:30PM. Contact Presbytera Maria to RSVP. Through worship, service, fellowship, and witness growth in the Faith by God’s grace happens together one day at a time!

### Important Dates:

**Friday, March 1**

Family Night at 6:30pm

*Remembering Those Departed*





## HOPE & JOY

We are well under way with another year of HOPE & JOY (see pictures on opposite page). We started our year in September, and since then, we meet on the third Friday of the month where kids start the evening with some games, dinner, and then a religious lesson that ties into what is going on in the month we are in.

In October we had a harvest themed event where the kids got to decorate pumpkins and they even left with some candy.

Please join us for our December Hope/Joy on Friday, December 14th from 6:30pm-8:30pm in the small hall. We will be decorating gingerbread houses after dinner. Please bring a gingerbread house and join us for some fun.

Wishing everyone at St. Catherine's a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Eleni Kalioras and Christina Boutas  
HOPE and JOY Advisors

### **Important Dates:**

**Friday, December 14**

Gingerbread House Making at 6:30pm

## Sunday School

We begin the 2018-2019 Sunday School year with joy, enthusiasm and hope, and we look forward to a productive year. We are pleased to announce that we have ninety students currently enrolled

in our program. There a small percentage of families that have not completed their registration yet. Please get in contact with us to do so.

The Sunday School staff is looking forward to a wonderful Sunday School Holiday season and we want to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a New Year full of peace and joy.

Sunday School Coordinators  
Maria Spiropoulos & Christina Boutas



### **Important Dates:**

**Monday, December 24**

Our Sunday School/ Greek School Christmas Pageant will take place on Christmas Eve. The rehearsals will be on Sunday, December 9, 16 and 23. Volunteers would be greatly appreciated to help with the pageant. Details on the pageant will be forthcoming.

**Sunday, January 20**

Skating Party at Shea Memorial Skating Rink, Quincy. Pizza will be served at 2:00 -3:40pm.

**Saturday, January 26**

Youth Gala at 6pm

## Sunday, February 3

### Godparents Sunday

The Sunday School students are asked to invite their Godparents to church. After communion, the Godparents can join in the Sunday School class. This observance offers the participants the opportunity to reaffirm the tie between them and their Godparents.



## Greek School

We had a great first year and even better next year!

We recognize that our biggest struggle last year was our Pre-K and K class and we have been making steps to improve that throughout the year. To provide a solution to our problem in that class we moved Kuria Vaia to become our new PreK and K teacher.



This year we have also introduced a new program to our instruction called Greek Enrichment.

The students of St. Catherine's Greek School will have music and dance every Tuesday and Thursday for 30 min each.



They learn age appropriate, traditional, Greek folk & seasonal songs and dances that will be performed during the various celebrations throughout the school year. Given this great opportunity the students will be reinforced to use the Greek language, comprehend the stories that each song has to tell, practice familiar words into singing and perform with confidence & expression! In addition, the students will learn through this enrichment portion important Greek composers, Greek culture, and Greek traditions. Music has been proven to wire children's brain in a more complex and efficient way. Also, singing is a great tool to memorize and remember words for a much longer period of time.



The Greek Enrichment class has been incorporated into our program by creating a block schedule. In order to maintain the level and length of language instruction we increased our class time an additional 30 mins in order to incorporate our enrichment program.



The first session of the Adult Conversation class was a success! We had 10 adults enrolled and they all completed the session. Some of the feedback that we received was that students said that an extended program would be more beneficial. Since last year was our first year providing such a program we wanted to test our market and demand for the program. This year we rolled out a year long program and marketed not only adults but also teenagers from high schools.

All of the fundraising Greek School events and Holidays were successful! All our events took place on Sundays and we presented at church and at the Maliotis Cultural Center

Maria Dimitriadis  
Greek School Director

### Important dates:

#### **Saturday, December 15**

Calanda | Christmas Carols at the Greek Consulate and the Hellenic Nursing Home.

#### **Monday, December 24**

Christmas Pageant together with the Sunday School

#### **Sunday, January 27**

Three Hierarchs' Greek Presentation after Divine Liturgy at Church also at the Maliotis Cultural Center

#### **Thursday, February 28**

Tsiknopempti Celebration

#### **Saturday, February 16**

Greek School PTA Paint Night

## GOYA

### *A message from Lia Vassiliadis 2018-2019 GOYA President*

A sense of bonding and belonging has always been present in Saint Catherine's GOYA. GOYA has not only allowed us to give back to the community, but also has given us the gift of forming special friendships.



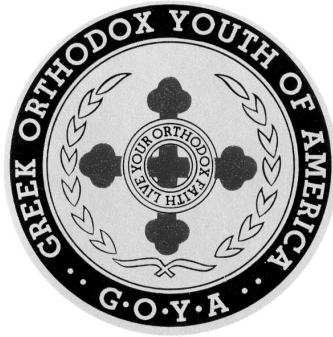
Over the years, we have handed out care packages to the homeless in the streets of Boston, visited the elderly at Hellenic Nursing Home, volunteered at the food pantry in Braintree, collected coats, held numerous food drives, and volunteered

for various functions and events held at Saint Catherine.



As a GOYAn group, we also participate in many fun activities such as trips, Screampfest at Canobie Lake Park, dances, ice skating, fashion shows and attend sporting events.

Being part of GOYA strengthens our faith and friendships with other Greek Orthodox youth. We feel blessed to be part of such a wonderful community that embraces the GOYAn.



St. Catherine's GOYA is planning their first fundraiser of the year with their annual Winter GOYA Dance on December 15th.

In the coming New Year, we are planning a lot of fun activities, service projects, more dances and outings.

### **Important Dates:**

**Saturday, December 15**

GOYA Christmas Dance at 7:00pm

**Friday, December 28**

GOYA Winter Break Outing

**Saturday, January 26, 2019**

Youth Gala at 6:00pm

**Sunday, January 27, 2019**

GOYA Sunday

**Sunday, February 3, 2019**

Philoptochos & GOYA

visit to Hellenic Nursing Home

**Sunday, February 24, 2019**

GOYA Sunday

**Saturday, March 2, 2019**

GOYA Greek Night Dance

## **Christmas Tree Lighting**

Last Saturday, December 1st, the youth ministries decorated the Christmas tree at the exterior of the Church with the help of the people that came.

This was the second year the event took place at the Saint Catherine church. Everybody put their ornaments, handmade by Greek school students or the ones they brought, on the tree, sang Christmas songs, carols, both in Greek and English, when the lights on the tree were on.

Afterwards, in the great hall, there were gingerbread men cookies that the children decorated and hot chocolate for everyone. And..... of course, there was a surprise guest, Santa Claus, who gave the children candies and took a lot of pictures with them!



# Saint Catherine Greek Orthodox Church

Rev. Fr. Dionysios Koulianos  
Contact Fr. Dionysios at:  
Cell: 260-418-8028  
frdionysiosk@gmail.com

## 2018 Parish Council

John Vemis, President  
Anargyros Pappas, Vice President  
Dena Manning, Treasurer  
Kuriakos Petroulas, Assistant Treasurer  
Joyce Radiches, Secretary  
George Zygyouras, Assistant Secretary

### Board Members:

Alex Mousis  
George Papadogiannis  
Georgia Gregoriades  
Helen Cobban  
Ioannis Demestihias  
Theodore Karakostas  
Theodoros Gregoriadis  
Vasiliki Ramos- Tschlis  
William Kazis

## Ministries

**Altar Boys:** Evangelos "Laki" Papageorg  
Thano Kazis- Group Leader  
Demetri Seremetis- Group Leader

**Youth Choir:** Nektaria Sofou- Boustris

**Adult Choir:** Evelyn Czaja

**Chanter:** Emilios Karakostas

**Sexton/Neokoros:** Zissis Lappas

**Greek Dance Group:** George Vemis

**Greek School :** Maria- Elisabeth Dimitriadis

**Greek School PTA:** Maria Lefas

**GOYA Advisors:** Vaso Christopoulos  
Elephtheria Atsiknoudas Boutalis, Jesse Kroger,  
Viki Vale, Demetra Karalexis, Kuriakos Petroulas,  
Theodoros Gregoriadis

### HOPE and JOY Advisors:

Eleni Kalioras & Christina Boutas

### Sunday School:

Maria Spiropoulos & Christina Boutas

### Philoptochos :

Alexandra McInnis- President  
Pamela MacNamara- Vice President  
Margarita Kaplan - Recording Secretary  
Christina Nichols- Corresponding Secretary  
Alison Christine Kaplanes- Treasurer



# stewardship news



ST. CATHERINE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΣ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΑΓΙΑΣ ΑΙΚΑΤΕΡΙΝΗΣ

119 Common Street, Braintree, MA. 02184 · Tel: (781) 843-0047 · Fax: (781) 843-2727



November 27, 2018

With Christmas almost upon us and the New Year ahead, we reflect on all the good works accomplished and blessings bestowed upon us by God here at Saint Catherine's. Amongst these, we are truly thankful for you and your family here in our church. You are a vital part of our church community.

As a valued steward and supporter, we lovingly remind you that as of this letter we have not received a Stewardship Commitment Form with an offering to the Church for 2018. Stewardship is an opportunity to examine our priorities and values, to express our thankfulness, to give of ourselves and to grow in grace. It allows us to participate in the work of God; it is an expression of our commitment.

Kindly consider this reminder during this season of joy and good will and complete your Stewardship Commitment for 2018. Your stewardship will ensure the success of the programs undertaken for the spiritual needs of the families entrusted to our care.

For your convenience, we have enclosed a Stewardship Commitment Form. Remember that your stewardship provides the foundation for our parish ministries and our efforts in meeting the challenge of spreading Christ's Word and our Orthodox Faith.

May the grace of our Lord bless you and your loved ones to experience the joy of Christ's Birth through the joy of giving.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Dionysios Koulianos & The Stewardship Committee



