



# Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church

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Reverend Presbyter Anthony Evangelatos

## *The Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church Bulletin*

*Bulletin*

*Issue 107*

*April 2011*

## Η ΑΝΑΣΤΑΣΙΣ ΤΟΥ ΚΥΡΙΟΥ



## THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

# ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF BROCKTON

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AnnuciationYMT@yahoo.com

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Advisors:

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**Koliva for Memorial Services:** Ladies Philoptochos

**Coffee Hour:** Bertha Weinberg

**Office Administration:** Venice Mazarakis

#### Church E-mail addresses:

Fr. Anthony ~ [priest@annunciationbrockton.org](mailto:priest@annunciationbrockton.org)

Church Office ~ [office@annunciationbrockton.org](mailto:office@annunciationbrockton.org)

**Church Web-site address:** [www.annunciationbrockton.org](http://www.annunciationbrockton.org)

# April 2011

SUNDAY ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ	MONDAY ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ	TUESDAY ΤΡΙΤΗ	WEDNESDAY ΤΕΤΑΡΤΗ	THURSDAY ΠΕΜΠΤΗ	FRIDAY ΠΑΡΑΣΚΕΥΗ	SATURDAY ΣΑΒΒΑΤΟΝ
					1 9th Hour 9:45 am Presanctified Liturgy 10:00 am Salutations to the Theotokos 7 pm	2  Great Vespers 6 pm
3 <i>Sunday of St. John Climacus</i> Orthros 8:45 AM Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM <i>Του Αγ. Ιωαννου της Κλιμακος</i>	4  Great Compline 7 pm	5	6 9th Hour 5:15 pm Presanctified Liturgy 5:30 pm	7 Chanting of the Great Canon at <u>St. Gregory the Theologian, Mansfield</u> 6:30 pm (English service)  Finance Committee Meeting 6 pm	8 9th Hour 9:45 am Presanctified Liturgy 10:00 am Akathist Hymn to the Theotokos 7 pm	9  Great Vespers 6 pm
10 <i>Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt</i> Orthros 8:45 AM Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM <i>Της Οσιας Μαριας της Αιγυπτιας</i>	11 <i>(Fr. Anthony away on pilgrim- age thru 4/12 - no services)</i>	12	13 9th Hour 5:15 pm Presanctified Liturgy 5:30 pm	14  Building House & Grounds Committee Meeting 6 pm	15 9th Hour 9:45 am Presanctified Liturgy 10:00 am	16 <i>Saturday of Lazarus</i> Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am  Great Vespers of Palm Sunday 6 pm <i>Του Λαζαρου</i>
17 <i>Palm Sunday</i> Orthros 8:45 AM Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM <i>(fish, wine &amp; olive oil permitted) (for Holy Week services, please refer to schedule sent by mail or on website)</i> <i>Κυριακη των Βαιων</i>	18 <i>Holy and Great Monday</i> <i>Η Αγια &amp; Μεγαλη Δευτερα</i> <i>(για τις ακολουθιες της Μεγ. Εβδομας, βλεπετε το προγραμμα που λαβατε ταχυδρομικως)</i>	19 <i>Holy and Great Tuesday</i> <i>Η Αγια &amp; Μεγαλη Τριτη</i>	20 <i>Holy and Great Wednesday</i> <i>Η Αγια &amp; Μεγαλη Τεταρτη</i>	21 <i>Holy and Great Thursday</i> <i>Η Αγια &amp; Μεγαλη Πεμπτη</i>	22 <i>Holy and Great Friday</i> <i>Η Αγια &amp; Μεγαλη Παρασκευη</i>	23 <i>Holy and Great Saturday</i> <i>Το Αγιο &amp; Μεγαλο Σαββατον</i>
24 <i>Great and Holy Pascha</i>  <i>Το Αγιον Πασχα</i>	25 <i>Bright Monday (no fasting this week - all foods permitted daily)</i>  <i>Η Διακαινησιμος Εβδομας (καταλναις εις παντα)</i>	26 <i>Bright Tuesday</i>	27 <i>Bright Wednesday</i>	28 <i>Bright Thursday</i>  Food Festival Meeting 6 pm	29 <i>Bright Friday</i> <i>Feast of the Life - Giving Spring of the Theotokos</i> Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am <i>Της Ζωοδοχου Πηγης</i>	30 <i>Bright Saturday</i>  Great Vespers 6 pm

# *From Father Anthony*

Beloved in Christ, as you receive this bulletin we will be commencing, in just less than one month, the solemn observance of Holy and Great Week, culminating in the glorious celebration of the “Feast of Feasts and Festival of Festivals” – *Holy Pascha*. This certainly is the most beautiful and spiritual time of the year in the Holy Orthodox Church, during which we are moved in the innermost recesses of our being. During Great Week, the last days of Christ on earth are re-lived through the Church. As we participate in the divine services of the week, we truly feel united with Him as we approach His passion. On Great Friday we die and are buried with Him, only to rise with Him on the glorious day of Pascha. What a great gift we truly have in the liturgical tradition of the Holy Orthodox Church, and most especially, in her celebration of Great Week and Pascha! Could you imagine it any other way?

Since we Orthodox cherish our faith tradition so much, we must remember to work on passing it on to the future generations, as well as being missionaries to others. This faith that we hold on to so dearly must be passed on *intact* to our children, grandchildren, and godchildren. There is so much that our young people face in the world today that truly necessitates our emphasis on their spiritual growth. We cannot simply let the world shape their ideas about life in general, and more specifically, ideas about ethics, moral principles, and so on. We *need* the Church and her teachings and traditions, and more importantly, we need to keep these teachings and traditions alive *in our homes*. What better time of the year than Great Week and Pascha, for families and individuals to focus on Christ and His Holy Church. Our children must grow to know and love this holy season, and the life of the Orthodox Church in general, which will only come from *our* example as parents.

Never underestimate the power of our divine services and their ability to leave a life-long impression on young, innocent hearts and minds. Think back to your own special memories of the celebration of Great Week and Pascha in church and in your homes. Even if we have no children or are unmarried, we too can regain those memories year after year, as we celebrate these holy days together as a family in Christ.

Let us all become as children again, by prayerfully opening our hearts and minds to the power of the Holy Spirit during these sacred services. All of us can be spiritually transformed over and over as we prepare for Holy Pascha each year. Such a transformation is fully realized *especially* when we have made Great Lent the spiritual journey it is meant to be – a journey of repentance and spiritual growth through prayer, fasting, charitable acts, attendance at Lenten services, and participation in the holy mysteries of Confession, Unction, and the Eucharist.

May God grant you strength for the remaining weeks of Great Lent and for Great Week, as well as a greater appreciation for the collective responsibility we have to pass on our precious Orthodox Faith to the future generations. I also pray that all of you have a most blessed Great Week and Holy Pascha.

In Christ's love,  
+Fr. Anthony

# From Father Anthony

## LENTEN FASTING GUIDELINES

Many pious Orthodox Christians seek to uphold the Lenten fast each year as best as possible. Following are traditional guidelines that are widely accepted and practiced within the Church. These guidelines are also illustrated on your 2011 Archdiocesan calendar. Let me stress again this year, that these are the ideal guidelines for a full and proper fast, which not everyone can follow. Remember, our Lenten journey is much more than a revision of dietary habits – it is a beautiful time of spiritual discipline which cleanses and strengthens both body and soul, helping us seek repentance, and to grow closer to God as we approach Holy Pascha. Whichever way we follow the Fast, let it be a spiritually enriching effort which includes intensified prayer, increased church attendance, almsgiving and other charitable works.

### Great Lent & Holy Week

Strict fast from all animal products (including fish), wine (all alcoholic beverages), and olive oil, with the following exceptions:

- wine & olive oil are permitted each Saturday & Sunday, except for Holy Saturday, a day of strict fasting
- fish, wine & olive oil are permitted on Palm Sunday
- many substitute vegetable oil for olive oil on strict fast days
- shellfish is permitted every day of the Fast
- fasting is always relaxed for those with health issues (especially diabetics), expectant or nursing mothers, growing children, travelers, and other such situations (seek out your spiritual father for guidance when in doubt)

## YOUTH PARTICIPATION PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those GOY-ANS and altar boys who participated in the first presanctified liturgy of Great Lent, as well as the YMT which sponsored the lenten supper following the service. This is our second year doing is, and hopefully, it will become an even more popular tradition. **In fact, wouldn't it be a great blessing if various parish organizations sponsored a lenten supper after each of the subsequent five presanctified liturgies?** Something to think about...

## SPIRITUAL WISDOM

*Keep in mind the existence of your ego; it causes every evil. Humble yourself; strangle your ego, which comes like a venomous serpent to poison your soul. Do not allow any proud thoughts to remain within you; only thus will you foil every activity of Satan.*

*Elder Ephraim of the Holy Mountain*

*Even when your body does nothing, sin can be active in your mind. When your soul inwardly repulses the evil one's attack by means of prayer, attention, remembrance of death, godly sorrow and mourning the body, it too, takes its share of holiness, having acquired freedom from evil actions. This is what the Lord meant by saying that someone who cleans the outside of the cup has not cleansed it inside, but clean the inside and the whole cup will be clean (cf. Mt. 23:25-26).*

*St. Gregory Palamas*

*Be true to God always and in everything. If you say the prayer, "Our Father..." pronounce each word sincerely with reverence, fixing your mind and heart upon God alone, not paying attention to anything or anybody around you. If you say any other prayer, say it also with all your soul, not with your heart divided, not paying undue attention to anything or anybody...be always, every moment, with God, especially when you pray to Him.*

*St. John of Kronstadt*

# *From Father Anthony*

## LENTEN CONFESSION SCHEDULE

During Great Lent, Fr. Anthony will be available to hear confessions as follows:

- each Monday evening after Great Compline (except 4/11)
- each Friday evening after Salutations (up to 4/8)
- each Saturday evening after Vespers (all year)
- during office hours by appointment (all year)
- during Great Week, as specified in the program that will be mailed

Please take advantage of this most healing mystery (sacrament) of love and forgiveness, as you make your spiritual journey toward Holy Pascha.

## SERVICE OF GREAT CANON IN MANSFIELD

Each year, our sister parish of St. Gregory the Theologian in Mansfield chants the Great Canon of St. Andrew, which falls on the fifth Thursday of Great Lent. I have participated in this service at St. Gregory for many years myself. Fr. Michael Bird and I would like to invite anyone who would like to hear this beautiful, poetic hymn of repentance, along with the reading of the moving life of St. Mary of Egypt to the service, **which will be at 6:30 pm, Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup>**. Please note that services at St. Gregory are primarily in English.

## BLESSING OF FOOD BASKETS ON PASCHA

As many of you know, there is a pan-Orthodox tradition of blessing baskets with the various foods with which we will break the fast after the Resurrection. This traditionally is done after the liturgy of Holy Pascha. If you wish to bring a basket to the Resurrection at midnight, please place it in on the steps of the *soleas*. The baskets will be blessed along with the red eggs after the liturgy. For those with children who might not be able to come at midnight, you may bring your basket to the Agape Vespers on the Sunday morning of Pascha to be blessed.

## READERS NEEDED FOR AGAPE VESPERS

In the blessed tradition of the Orthodox Church, the resurrectional Gospel proclaimed at the Agape Vespers on the Sunday of Pascha is read in various languages. This is done to emphasize the *universality* of the message of Christ's resurrection. Anyone interested in assisting, please contact Fr. Anthony as soon as possible. Please note that a reader is needed in English, as well.

## LENTEN REFLECTIONS

(The following is taken from *Daily Readings From the Writings of St. John Chrysostom*, edited by Fr. Anthony Coniaris, Light & Life Pub. Co., 1988)

### *Real Fasting*

*I speak not of such a fast as most persons keep, but of real fasting; not merely abstinence from meats, but from sins as well. For the nature of a fast is such that it does not suffice to deliver those who practice, it unless it is done according to a suitable law. So that when we have gone through the labor of fasting we do not lose the crown of fasting, we must understand how and in what manner it is necessary to conduct the business since the Pharisee also fasted, but afterward went away empty and destitute of the fruit of fasting. The Publican did not fast, and yet he was accepted in preference to him who had fasted in order that you may learn that fasting is unprofitable unless all other duties accompany it.*

*Fasting is a medicine. But like all medicines, though it be very profitable to the person who knows how to use it, it frequently becomes useless (and even harmful) in the hands of him who is unskillful in its use.*

*I have said these things not that we may disparage fasting, but that we may honor fasting. For the honor of fasting consists not in abstinence from food, but in withdrawing from sinful practices, since he who limits his fasting only to abstinence from meats is one who especially disparages fasting.*

(continued next page)

# From Father Anthony

## *The Proof of Fasting*

*Do you fast? Give me proof of it by your works. If you see a poor man, take pity on him. If you see a friend being honored, do not envy him. Do not let only your mouth fast, but also the eye, and the ear, and the feet, and the hands, and all the members of our bodies. Let the hands fast, by being free of avarice. Let the feet fast, by ceasing to run after sin. Let the eyes fast, by disciplining them not to glare at that which is sinful...Let the ear fast...by not listening to evil talk and gossip...Let the mouth fast from foul words and unjust criticism. For what good is it if we abstain from birds and fishes, but bite and devour our brothers?*

*Allow me to wish all of you a most blessed and glorious Holy Pascha!  
Καλη Ανασταση!*



## ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΙΕΡΩΝ ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΩΝ ΜΕΓΑΛΗΣ ΤΕΣΣΑΡΑΚΟΣΤΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΜΕΓΑΛΗΣ ΕΒΔΟΜΑΔΟΣ

<u>Δευτερα:</u>	Μεγα Αποδειπνον, 7 μμ (εκτος 11/4)
<u>Τεταρτη:</u>	9η Ωρα 5:15 μμ, Προηγιασμενη Λειτουργια 5:30 μμ
<u>Παρασκευη:</u>	9η Ωρα 9:45 πμ, Προηγιασμενη Λειτουργια 10 πμ. Χαιρετισμοι της Θεοτοκου, 7 μμ (μεχρι 8/4)
<u>Σαββατο:</u>	Μεγας Εσπερινος, 6 μμ
<u>Μεγαλη Εβδομας:</u>	<i>(Βλεπετε το προγραμμα που θα λαβετε ταχυδρομικως)</i>

### Προγραμμα Εξομολογησεως

- Καθε Δευτερα μετα το Αποδειπνο
- Καθε Παρασκευη μετα τους Χαιρετισμους
- Καθε Σαββατο μετα τον Εσπερινον (ισχυει ολο το χρονο)
- Ωρες γραφειου με ραντεβου (ισχυει ολο το χρονο)
- Μεγαλη Εβδομας – καθως γραφει το προγραμμα που θα λαβετε

# Church News

## Calendar of Events

SPRING GENERAL ASSEMBLY	SUNDAY, APRIL 3 <sup>RD</sup>
GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE	SUNDAY, APRIL 10 <sup>TH</sup>
GOYA SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON	SUNDAY, MAY 1 <sup>ST</sup>
169 HUNGRY FRIENDS DINNER	THURSDAY, MAY 5 <sup>TH</sup>
PHILOTOCHOS FOOD FESTIVAL	SATURDAY, MAY 14 <sup>TH</sup>
SUNDAY SCHOOL GRADUATION	SUNDAY, MAY 22 <sup>ND</sup>
GREEK SCHOOL GRADUATION	SUNDAY, JUNE 5 <sup>TH</sup>
GOLF TOURNAMENT	MONDAY, JULY 11 <sup>TH</sup>
SUMMER PICNIC	SUNDAY, AUGUST 21 <sup>ST</sup>
ANNUAL FOOD FESTIVAL	THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 <sup>TH</sup> THRU SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 <sup>TH</sup>
HARVEST BALL DANCE	SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22 <sup>ND</sup>
FALL GENERAL ASSEMBLY	SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20 <sup>TH</sup>
PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS	SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 <sup>TH</sup>
PARISH COUNCIL OATH OF OFFICE AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS	SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 <sup>TH</sup>

## 2011 Parish Council Meetings

April 14, 2011  
May 10, 2011  
June 14, 2011

*(no July meeting)*  
August 9, 2011  
September 6, 2011

October 11, 2011  
November 8, 2011  
December 13, 2011

# Church News

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### BULLETIN DEADLINE

All Submissions for the Bulletin are due 15th of the month.

### COFFEE HOUR

If you are interested in sponsoring a coffee hour, please call Bertha Weinberg at (508) 586-1030, or the Church Office at (508) 559-0910.

THE CHURCH NEEDS  
YOUR SUPPORT. RE-  
MEMBER TO SEND IN  
YOUR PLEDGE.  
PLEDGES ARE THE  
GREATEST SOURCE  
OF INCOME FOR OUR  
CHURCH

### CHURCH SERVICES

SATURDAYS GREAT VESPERS 6:00 PM

SUNDAYS

ORTHROS: 8:45 AM

DIVINE LITURGY: 10:00 AM

WEEKDAYS

ORTHROS: 9:00 AM

DIVINE LITURGY: 10:00 AM

ΤΑ ΣΑΒΒΑΤΑ ~ ΜΕΓΑΣ ΕΣΠΕΡΙΝΟΣ: 6:00 ΜΜ

ΤΙΣ ΚΥΡΙΑΚΕΣ ~ ΟΡΘΟΣ: 8:45 ΠΜ

ΘΕΙΑ ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ: 10:00 ΠΜ

ΤΙΣ ΚΑΘΙΜΕΡΙΝΕΣ ~ ΟΡΘΟΣ: 9:00 ΠΜ

ΘΕΙΑ ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ: 10:00 ΠΜ

### HALL RENTAL

Do not forget that our church gymnasium and / or lounge area are available for your special functions. Please call the church office for details.

### ADDRESS CHANGES

Please notify the church office if you are moving, so we may update our database in order to serve you better.

### HOLY CONFESSION

Every Saturday after Great Vespers, or during office hours by appointment.

# Church News

## SACRAMENTS AND FUNERALS

### BAPTISMS

February 27 Anastasia Elizabeth (Annalise Aleisha)  
Daughter of Mr. George Papadopoulos  
Sponsor: Chris & Joanna Kalogeropoulos

March 6 Noah  
Son of Mr. & Mrs. James Foley  
Sponsor: Aaron & Amelia Walker

### FUNERALS

March 2 Maria Beltsios

March 7 Erasmia "Rose" Samaras

May Their Memory be Eternal

## DONATIONS

In Memory of Sophia Theofilou (5 years)  
Mrs. Maria Theofilou ~ \$100

In Memory of Olympia (40 days)  
& George (2 years) Bokas  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Tsarhopoulos ~ \$100

In Memory of Olympia Bokas  
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Passias ~ \$50

In Memory of Olympia Bokas (40 days)  
Mr. & Mrs. Athanasios Karaliolios  
& family ~ \$200

In Memory of Theokritos Petropoulos  
Mrs. Georgia Petropoulos ~ \$50.00

In Memory of George Hatsiopoulos  
Special Items Account  
Mrs. Victoria Hatsiopoulos ~ \$100

In Memory of Catherine "Kay" Yaitanes  
Special Items Account  
Grand & Great grandchildren  
of Catherine "Kay" Yaitanes ~ \$500  
Children of Catherine "Kay" Yaitanes ~ \$500  
Mrs. Dee Yaitanes - Fletcher and Husband Alan ~ \$500

In Memory of Gus Chonis  
Mrs. Penny Kazis ~ \$100

Donations of Flowers  
For the Icon of the Panayia for the 4th & 5th Salutations  
The Verenis Family ~ \$50  
Mr. & Mrs. Ilias Potsis ~ \$50

Flowers to decorate the 3 Icons of the Annunciation  
Donated by Prof. & Mrs. Peter Karavites

## DONATIONS

In Memory of Stavroula "Stella" Panagouloupoulos  
Total donations to date ~ \$4,830

In Memory of Catherine "Kay" Yaitanes  
Total donations to date ~ \$810

In Memory of Erasmia "Rose" Samaras  
Total donations to date ~ \$240

In Memory of their Parents  
Dimitrios, Despo & Thomas, Helen  
Mr. & Mrs. Fotios Pouliopoulos ~ \$100

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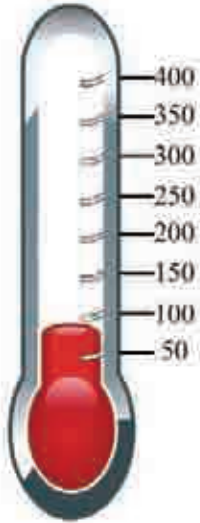
BRINGING BOSTON  
AND THE SURROUNDING  
AREAS TOGETHER

AEROBIC  
CALISTHENICS  
MUSCLE STRENGTHENING

# Church News

## Snow Removal

Families

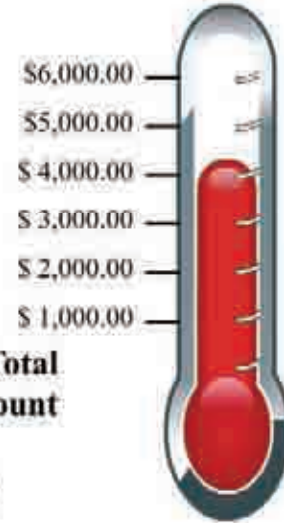


400 Total Families



\$6,000 Total Goal Amount

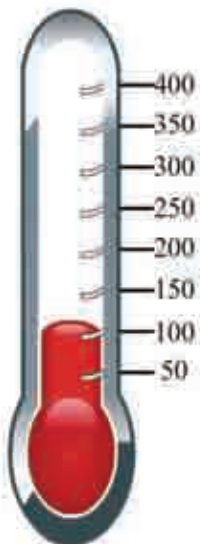
6K Total Goal



80 Families \$4,085 Amount Raised  
Support for Snow Removal as of March 15, 2011

## 2011 Total Goal

Stewards



400 Total Stewardship Goal



\$150,000 Total Goal Amount

150K Total Goal



109 Pledges \$34,600 Amount Raised  
Pledged number of Stewards as of March 15, 2011

## ACOLYTES/ALTAR BOYS

Thanks to all for your on-going service to the altar of God. We really need everyone's assistance during Holy Week. A letter will be going to your homes with more information.

## BASKETBALL

**STEVE PASSIAS ~ [passias@comcast.net](mailto:passias@comcast.net)**

The games have been fun. St Catherine's of Braintree and the Annunciation children have joined to create a wonderful season. Plans for a summer camp with Bill Gomes will be announced in the following bulletins. Please let Steve know if you are interested in playing.

**If anyone is interested in being a volunteer coach for our summer or fall program please give Steve a call (508) 942-8483**

## HOLY FRIDAY ~ MYRRHBEARERS

**KATHY TSIANAKAS ANGELIS ~ [ktsianakas@hotmail.com](mailto:ktsianakas@hotmail.com)**

Again this year, we are asking girls to participate as Myrrhbearers on Holy Friday. We will use Myrrhbearers both at the 3 pm burial service, and of course, at the lamentation service starting at 7 pm. Any girls who are interested, please contact the church office or Kathy Angelis.

## GREEK DANCING

**JON & PENNY BUTERBAUGH ~ [pnasios@nasiosandgalloway.com](mailto:pnasios@nasiosandgalloway.com)**

Our Junior Dancers will be marching in full costume at the Greek Independence Day Parade in Boston on April 10<sup>th</sup>. Dancers will have a quick snack then dress immediately following liturgy. Parents needed to assist!! (Senior Dancers will be marching with the GOYA!)

Also, we will once again selling our beautifully decorated Pascha candles on April 17<sup>th</sup> (Palm Sunday), immediately following Liturgy, and also following evening services on April 20<sup>th</sup> (Holy Wednesday). We appreciate everyone's support in our fundraising endeavors!

## GREEK SCHOOL

**TINA BOUTAS ~ ARGYRO PAPAPOPOULOS ~ EVRIDIKI PAPAIOANNOU**

Please join us for our Greek Independence Day Parade in Boston

**Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup> following the Divine Liturgy.**

### Meeting Times:

**Tuesday:** K, 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> grades – **Wednesday:** 2<sup>nd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grades – **Thursday:** 4<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grades

## HOPE/JOY

### HELLENIC ORTHODOX PRIMARY EDUCATION / JUNIOR ORTHODOX YOUTH

The children had a wonderful time at the **Bake-4-Lent** event. They have learned some specifics about baking and fasting during the Lenten period. They all worked together to make koulourakia and paksemathia (biscotti) for all to enjoy at coffee hour all during Lent.

**Palm Cross Making ~ April 15<sup>th</sup>** The community is invited to help make palm crosses for Palm Sunday. Join us Friday starting @ 5:30pm – as long as you can stay or until 1,000 Palm crosses are shaped. All are welcomed to this wonderful activity night.

## GOYA

### GREEK ORTHODOX YOUTH OF AMERICA

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

~ April 15 <sup>th</sup>	- Friday	- Palm Making
~ April 16 <sup>th</sup>	- Saturday	- Philoxenia House Visit
~ April 29 <sup>th</sup>	- Friday	- Luncheon Prep

**April 1<sup>st</sup>** - The GOYA Scholarship completed applications must be submitted to the office. The applications and associated guidelines are now available at the church office.

**\*\* Scholarship Luncheon - Sunday, May 1st, 2011 \*\***

Tickets will be sold during coffee hour starting April 10<sup>th</sup>, or you can email an advisor and provide for them your name and amount of tickets requested.

GOYA has been busy planning for the rest of the Sunday school year. We have participated in the Lenten pre sanctified liturgy, and are planning a trip to the Philoxenia house. We are also preparing for the Greek Independence day parade, as well as the GOYA scholarship luncheon. On a different note, the GOYA had a fun trip up to the metropolis of Boston camp in New Hampshire, skiing with the Arlington and Braintree GOYA's as well. We are looking forward to a great spring!

We are looking for new members to join our youth ministry. If you know anyone in grades 7 - 12, please have them attend an upcoming GOYA meetings listed above.

Jbuterbaughjr@gmail.com ~ ckolentsas@student.bridgew.edu - Kbarrows1106@post03.curry.edu

## JUNIOR CHOIR

c.mason14@yahoo.com ~ CORINNE MASON and HEIDI MASON ~ heidim50@aol.com

Junior Choir rehearsals are now to be held **Sunday morning** in the conference room @ 10:45 - 11:15 am.

## ORATORICAL FESTIVAL

**RHODA ECONOMOS ~ (508) 587-4907**

The Junior Division (grades 7 - 9) will read their 3-4 minute speech. Senior Division (grades 10 - 12) will read their 4-5 minute speech. Local Festival - **March 27<sup>th</sup>**, District Festival - **April 10<sup>th</sup>**, Metropolis Festival - **May 14<sup>th</sup>**, **National Festival - June 1-3 in Houston, Texas.**

## SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

**Sunday School Classes** will be held on: (Teachers meeting on April 14<sup>th</sup> @6:30)

**April 3, 10 ~ May 1, 8, 15, 22**

Pascha is **APRIL 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

## YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM

Email us @ [AnnunciationYMT@yahoo.com](mailto:AnnunciationYMT@yahoo.com)

Because of everyone's continued support, our **food barrel** is always full. **THANK YOU**. We will be acquiring a bigger barrel which will allow selected food pantries to pickup at the church. This is such a wonderful fellowship that we are all so proud of.

# Church News

## 2011 Fundraiser Events and Committees

As part of our 2011 goals for the parish, we've reorganized several committees in order to expand and implement new ideas for the church. The following Events and Committees are available for participation:

### Events

Lenten Luncheon  
Greek Independence Parade  
Hungry Friends  
Greek School / Sunday School Picnic  
Golf Tournament  
Summer Picnic  
Food Festival  
Harvest Ball Dance  
Other Social Gatherings

### Committee

Stewardship  
Finance  
Contracts / Legal / Church By Laws  
Building / House and Grounds  
Youth Activity Support  
Scholarship  
Ecclesiastical  
Website & Technology  
Book Store

If you have interest or a talent in the following areas, please contact the church office. The groups are just formalizing and schedules will be published on monthly basis with times and dates for the meetings. We look forward to your participation!

John Karolemeas  
Parish Council President

## GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE

### April 10, 2011

Buses will leave the Church parking lot at 12:00 Noon following the Divine Liturgy. Please call the Church Office at (508) 559-0910 to reserve a space on the bus. Seats are limited.

(NO LAST MINUTE PASSENGERS)

Children under 5 years old are not permitted on the bus per state law.

# *Church News*

## THE ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE FOLLOWING RECIPIENTS FOR THE 2010 CHURCH SCHOLARSHIPS

The Varros Foundation Scholarship awarded to:  
Johanna Westcott

The Mary Davilas Scholarship awarded to:  
Kyle Westhover

The Stathis L. Dimou Scholarship awarded to:  
Theodore Giomakis  
Johanna Westcott

The Chris and Bessie Tsaganis Scholarship awarded to:  
Theodore Giomakis  
Johanna Westcott  
Kyle Westhover

The Charlene Fields Scholarship awarded to:  
Kyle Westhover

The Areti Potsis Scholarship awarded to:  
Johanna Westcott

The James C. Mihos Scholarship awarded to:  
Johanna Westcott

The Paul A. Tasho Scholarship awarded to:  
Theodore Giamakis

The Ahepa Scholarship awarded to:  
Johanna Westcott

The Joanna Christopoulos Scholarship awarded to:  
Johanna Westcott

Congratulations !!



# EASTER EGG HUNT



## EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 24TH

There will be an Easter Egg Hunt following the Church Services. Please bring in your baskets and meet in the lobby after services are completed. All children of our parish are welcomed. We are looking for plastic egg (filled w/ goodies) donations. Please drop off any donations at the Church office.

# *Church News*

## **LENTEN LUNCHEON**

WE WISH TO THANK THE FOLLOWING FOR THE PRECIOUS TIME AND GENEROUS DONATIONS MADE FOR OUR ANNUAL LENTEN LUNCHEON.

TED NTAKOULAS & FAMILY ~ RICE

SOTERIOS ARVANITIDES & FAMILY ~ CHEESE, OLIVES, STRING BEANS

AVRAAM VARDAXIS & FAMILY ~ BREAD

E. CHARLES GIANNAROS & FAMILY ~ SHRIMP

CAPE COD CAFÉ (JAMOULIS FAMILY) ~ PIZZA

STEPHANIE KOUPELIS & FAMILY ~ PRODUCE FOR SALAD

CHRIS COUTSOUMOS & FAMILY ~ CAKE

IRAKLI SAVAS & FAMILY ~ STRING BEANS

NICHOLE BETHONY & FAMILY ~ CAKE

MARTIGNETTI LIQUORS (ILIAS POTSIS) ~ WINE

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HELPED IN THE KITCHEN

SAM ARVANITIDES, CHRIS COUTSOUMBOS, TULLA GIANNAROS,  
SOPHIE KOUTSOUMOU, TED NTAKOULAS, SAM PSYCHOS, PHILIP TSIONIS  
& PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS



## **169 HUNGRY FRIENDS**

PLEASE JOIN US ON THURSDAY, MAY 5 2011 FOR OUR ANNUAL 169 HUNGRY FRIENDS DINNER AND RAFFLE IN THE COMMUNITY CENTER TO BENEFIT OUR PARISH. THE DONATION IS \$125.00 PER PERSON. PARTICIPANTS CAN BRING A GUEST TO DINNER FOR AN ADDITIONAL \$25.00. A SPECIAL INVITATION IS BEING EXTENDED TO ALL WOMEN OF OUR PARISH TO JOIN US FOR A FUN EVENING. PLEASE SEE ANY PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER FOR RESERVATIONS.

# *Philoptochos News & Views*

## Easter Preparations

Egg Coloring & Decorating ~ Thursday, April 21st, 2011  
All night church vigil ~ Holy Thursday evening, April 21st following church services, all are welcomed.  
Epitaphios Preparations ~ Friday, April 22nd at 9:00 AM

## Up Coming Dates to Remember !!!

April 5th ~ Meeting at 7 PM  
May 3th ~ Meeting at 7PM

## Koliva

For Koliva please call the church office @ 508/559-0910.  
We would appreciate one week's notice in advance of the memorial service to prepare your koliva. The cost is \$85 and checks should be made payable to the Philoptochos Society.

## Visit to Shut ~ Ins

The Ladies Philoptochos will be making their annual Easter visits to our seniors who are unable to get out from their homes. If you would like to add a name to our list, please contact our chairlady Soutana Kotsiopoulos (508) 584~ 8838 with the information.

## UP COMING DATE TO REMEMBER!!!

*Saturday, May 14 & Sunday, May 15, 2011*  
*Philoptochos Two Day Food Festival*

*The Philoptochos Society is planning their 2nd Annual Food Festival*

*Details to follow!!*



*Tsourekia & Koulouria*

*Kourabiedes*

*Easter Baskets*

*Greek Pastries*

**Annual Philoptochos**

**Palm Sunday**

**Bake Sale**

**Sunday, March 17, 2011**

To order Tsourekia, Koulouria & Kourabiedes in advance please call,  
the Church office

# Annunciation Book Store



## ANNUNCIATION BOOKSTORE

*Our bookstore offers many items for the Lenten period:*

- *The Friday Night Akathist Hymn book in Greek and English that is beautifully printed and easy to follow.*
- *Holy Week books in Greek and English*
- *Lenten cookbooks*
- *Prayer books*
- *Incense*
- *Children's books*

*For those interested in architecture and New England history, we offer a beautiful hardback containing **fantastic photos of Greek Orthodox churches** throughout New England, including photos inside the churches and brief, engaging community histories. A wonderful gift for a history buff.*

*Below is a sample of our selection, but we also can order special items, so stop by the bookstore on Sundays after Divine Liturgy.*

- ***Children's Bible Reader:*** *Illustrated stories from the Old and New Testament for young readers.*
- ***Let's take a walk through the Orthodox Church:*** *A child's view of objects seen throughout our Church and their purposes*
- ***Preparing for Marriage:*** *An Orthodox perspective for the preparation of the Sacrament of Marriage. Includes the text of the sacrament.*
- ***Living responsibly in an age of excuses:*** *Focuses on moral responsibility and our actions.*
- ***The Orthodox Church:*** *The history of our Orthodox Church and its position in today's world.*
- ***The Orthodox Church A-Z:*** *Information about the Orthodox Church. History, sacraments, feast, prayers, etc. It also contains a glossary of 500 terms and definitions.*
- ***Dictionary of Orthodoxy:*** *400 pages of words on the Orthodox Faith, its life, faith, teaching and sacraments.*
- ***Introduction to the Orthodox Church:*** *For those wishing to learn more about the Orthodox Church and those considering conversion.*
- ***Orthodox Bible Study:*** *A bible for every Orthodox home. Includes the Old and New Testament, featuring footnotes explaining scripture passages.*
- ***Living in Christ:*** *A guide to spiritual growth.*
- ***Growing in Christ:*** *A guide to obtaining maturity in the Orthodox Faith.*
- ***All Ye Saints:*** *Alphabetical listing of Saints and Feastdays*
- ***Cookbooks For Everyday Greek Cuisine*** as well as for Lenten Fast

**Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church of Brockton  
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual  
January-February 2011**

	<u>Jan -Feb</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>
<b>Income</b>			
<b>Candles</b>	5,600	7,336	(1,736)
<b>Donations</b>	10,955	4,666	6,289
<b>Greek School</b>	0	1,000	(1,000)
<b>Monthly Bulletin</b>	1,000	250	750
<b>Other Income</b>	1,326	1,668	(342)
<b>Stewardship Pledges</b>	34,600	20,000	14,600
<b>Tray Collections</b>	3,030	4,166	(1,136)
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>56,511</u>	<u>39,086</u>	<u>17,425</u>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	56,511	39,086	17,425
<b>Expense</b>			
<b>Archdiocese Commitment</b>	8,400	8,400	0
<b>Archdiocese Pension Fund</b>	1,000	1,000	0
<b>Employee Taxes and Benefits</b>	5,307	4,408	899
<b>Gratuities</b>	0	134	(134)
<b>Greek School</b>	0	150	(150)
<b>Gross Payroll</b>	20,294	20,700	(406)
<b>Housing Allowance</b>	8,250	8,784	(534)
<b>Insurance</b>	0	2,084	(2,084)
<b>Maintenance and Repairs</b>	8,122	6,666	1,456
<b>Miscellaneous Expenses</b>	1,773	416	1,357
<b>Pastor Benefits</b>	2,539	4,000	(1,461)
<b>Supplies</b>	3,533	2,666	867
<b>Utilities</b>	8,328	5,666	2,662
<b>Visiting Clergy / Cantor</b>	0	500	(500)
<b>Youth Activities</b>	<u>0</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>(250)</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>67,546</u>	<u>65,824</u>	<u>1,722</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>(11,035)</b>	<b>(26,738)</b>	<b>15,703</b>



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF BOSTON  
ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΒΟΣΤΩΝΗΣ

Ἐν Βοστώνῃ τῇ 9ῃ Μαρτίου, 2011

Πρὸς τὸ εὐλαβὲς Ἑλληνορθόδοξο Πλήρωμα  
τῆς Ἱερᾶς Μητροπόλεως Βοστώνης

Ἀγαπητοὶ ἀδελφοί,

Κάθε χρόνο ἡ Ὁμογένεια τῆς Νέας Ἀγγλίας συγκεντρώνεται γιὰ νὰ ἐκφράσῃ τὸ ἀθάνατο πνεῦμα τῆς Ἑλληνικῆς Ὁρθοδοξίας ἀπὸ τὸ ὁποῖο διακατέχεται. Ὁ συνδυασμὸς τοῦ Εὐαγγελισμοῦ τῆς Θεοτόκου καὶ τῆς Ἑλληνικῆς Ἐπαναστάσεως ἀποτελεῖ βαθύτατο συμβολισμό τῆς ἔννοιας τῆς ἐλευθερίας, πού δὲν εἶναι ἀπλῶς πολιτικὴ ἐλευθερία καὶ ἐθνικὴ ἀνεξαρτησία, ἀλλὰ "τῆς σωτηρίας ἡμῶν τὸ κεφάλαιον." Οἱ δύο αὐτὲς ἐορτὲς ἀποβλέπουν στὴ μαρτυρία τῆς ἐλευθερίας ὡς τὴν πεμπτοῦσία τῆς ὁμαλῆς καὶ εὐρυθμῆς κοινωνικῆς ζωῆς καὶ ταυτόχρονα στὴ διατρέφωσι τοῦ μηνύματος ὅτι ἡ ἐλευθερία ἀποτελεῖ ἀναντίρρητα τὴν ὁμορφιά τῆς ζωῆς.

Φέτος ἡ παρέλαση γιὰ τὴν Ἐθνικὴ Ἀνεξαρτησία θὰ πραγματοποιηθῇ τὴν 10ῃ Ἀπριλίου στὸ Boylston Street τῆς Βοστώνης. Ἐχομε τὴν μοναδικὴν εὐκαιρίαν νὰ διακηρύξουμε τὴν ἀφοσίωσίν μας στὰ ἰδανικὰ τῆς εἰρήνης, τῆς ἐλευθερίας καὶ τῆς δικαιοσύνης. Συγχαίρω τὴν Ὁμοσπονδιαν Ἑλληνικῶν Σωματείων Νέας Ἀγγλίας πού ὀργανώνει τὴν παρέλαση καὶ εὐχομαι κάθε Ἑλληνορθόδοξος Χριστιανὸς νὰ συμμετάσχῃ μὲ ἐνθουσιασμό.

Μετὰ τῆς ἐν Κυρίῳ ἀγάπης,

*τὸ Βασίλειον μεθ' ὁδοῦ*

Ο ΒΟΣΤΩΝΗΣ ΜΕΘΟΔΙΟΣ

βάλλοντας, δεν έχει καμιά θέση μέσα στην πάμφωτοτη δόξα της ὀρθόδοξης εικόνας, αλλά βρίσκεται έξω από αυτήν. Τὸ φῶς ἀπὸ τὸν Χριστὸ καὶ ἀπὸ τὸν ἁγιασμένο ἄνθρωπο διαπορβιμύεται καὶ σὴν ἀλλαγὴ κτίση καὶ δημιουργία, ἐνῶ ἀντίθετα τὰ πάθη τοῦ ἀνθρώπου δημιουργοῦν τὸ οικολογικὸ πρόβλημα. Σὺς εἰκόνες δὲν παρουσιάζεται ὁ στεναγμὸς καὶ ἡ δόνησις τῆς κτίσεως, ἀλλὰ ἡ δόξα τῆς, καὶ αὐτὸ μᾶς ὑπενθυμίζει τὸν λόγον τοῦ Ἀποστόλου Παύλου: «*Ἡ γὰρ ἀποκαταδοκία τῆς κτίσεως τὴν ἀποκάλυψιν τὸν ὕλῶν τοῦ Θεοῦ ἀπεκδέχεται... καὶ αὐτὴ ἡ κτίσις ἐλευθερωθήσεται ἀπὸ τῆς δουλείας τῆς φθορᾶς εἰς τὴν ἐλευθερίαν τῆς δόξης τῶν τέκνων τοῦ Θεοῦ*» (Ρωμ. η', 19-22). Ἔτσι, μέσα σὴν ὀρθόδοξη εἰκονογραφία φαίνεται καθαρὰ ἡ διδασκαλία τοῦ ἁγίου Γρηγορίου τοῦ Θεολόγου γὰρ τὴ συμμετοχὴ τῆς κτίσεως στὸ πανηγύρι τῆς Ἀναστάσεως τοῦ Χριστοῦ.

Τὸ πέμπτο σημεῖο ποὺ παρατηροῦμε σὴν ὀρθόδοξη εἰκόνα εἶναι τὸ σκοτεινὸ στοιχεῖο. Σὲ όλες σχεδὸν τὶς εἰκόνες, ποὺ ἀναφέρονται στὸν Χριστὸ καὶ τὸ ἔργο τῆς θείας Του οἰκονομίας, βλέπουμε κάποιον σπηλαιώδη σκοτός. Αὐτὸ τὸ συναντᾶμε σὴν εἰκόνα τῆς Γεννήσεως, σὴν εἰκόνα τῆς Βαπτίσεως, σὴν εἰκόνα τῆς εἰς Ἄδου καθόδου τοῦ Χριστοῦ. Τὸ σκοτεινὸ αὐτὸ σπήλαιο δὲν ὁμοιάζει καθόλου μὲ τὸ πλατωνικὸ σπήλαιο, μέσα στὸ ὁποῖο οἱ ἄνθρωποι, ποὺ βρίσκονται στὸ σκοτάδι τῆς παρουσίας ζωῆς, βλέπουν ἀμυδρῶς ὡς σκιές τὸν κόσμο τῶν ἰδεῶν ἔξω ἀπὸ αὐτὸ. Σὲς ὀρθόδοξες εἰκόνες βλέπουμε ὅτι οἱ ἄνθρωποι ζοῦν μέσα στὸ θεοῦ φῶς, ἐνῶ τὸ σκοτός ποὺ βρίσκεται στὸ βάθος εἶναι ὁ χώρος τοῦ θανάτου.

Ὅπως τὸ φῶς ἔχει δύο ιδιότητες, τὴν φωτιστικὴ καὶ τὴν καισικὴ, ἄλλα φωτίζει καὶ ἄλλα καίει, ἀνάλογα μὲ τὴν κατάσταση τοῦ κάθε ἀντικειμένου, ἔτσι καὶ τὸ φῶς τοῦ Θεοῦ φωτίζει καὶ καίει, ἀνάλογα μὲ τὴν κατάσταση τοῦ ἀνθρώπου. Ἔτσι, αὐτὸ τὸ σκοτάδι δὲν εἶναι ἡ ἄπνοια τοῦ Θεοῦ, ἀλλὰ ἡ παρουσία τοῦ Θεοῦ ὡς σκοτίας καὶ πῦρ καὶ αὐτὸ βέβαια ἐξαρτᾶται ἀπὸ τὴν κατάσταση τοῦ ἰδίου τοῦ ἀνθρώπου.

Πάντως, γεγονὸς εἶναι ὅτι, ὅπως φαίνεται σὴν εἰς Ἄδου Κάθοδο τοῦ Χριστοῦ, δηλαδὴ τὴν ὀρθόδοξη εἰκόνα τῆς Ἀναστάσεως, ὁ Χριστὸς κατεβαίνει στὸν ἄδη κάθε ἀνθρώπου, εἰσέρχεται μέσα

σὴν ἀπελεισία του καὶ σὴν χώρα τοῦ προσωπικοῦ του ὑπαρξιακοῦ θανάτου, ἀκόμη καὶ ὅταν οἱ ὄψεις τῆς ὑπαρξῆς του εἶναι κεκλεισμένες, γιὰ νὰ δώσει τὴν δυναμικότητα στὸν καθέναν νὰ ἐξέλθει ἀπὸ αὐτὸ τὸ βασανιστικὸ σκοτάδι τῆς ἀπελεισίας καὶ τῆς μοναξιάς του καὶ νὰ τὸν οδηγήσει σὲ προσωπικὴ κοινωνία μαζί Του, χωρὶς ὅμως νὰ καταργήσει τὴν προσωπικὴ του ἐλευθερία.

Τελικὰ, ἡ ὀρθόδοξη εἰκόνα, μὲ τὸν τρόπο μὲ τὸν ὁποῖο παρουσιάζει τὸν Χριστὸ καὶ τοὺς Ἁγίους, δείχνει ὅτι ὁ Θεὸς μας εἶναι γεμάτος ἀγάπη καὶ σταγερὴ γιὰ τὸν ἄνθρωπο, ποὺ κατεβαίνει καὶ μέχρι τὸν ἄδη τῆς προσωπικῆς του ἀπελεισίας καὶ ἀπογνώσεως γιὰ νὰ τὸν συναντήσει· ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἔχει ἄφηλές προδιαγγραφεὶς καὶ σὲ ὅσοι καταίτασι κι ἂν βρίσκεται μπορεῖ νὰ γεμίσει ἀπὸ φῶς· ἡ κτίσις ἡ ὁποία βιάζεται ἀπὸ τὸν ἐμπαθεὶ ἄνθρωπο ἀποδέχεται καὶ ἀναμένει τὴν ἀνακαινιστὴ τῆς· καὶ ὁ κάθε προσωπικὸς ἄδης μπορεῖ νὰ γεμίσει ἀπὸ τὴν δόξα τοῦ φωτός τοῦ Θεοῦ.

**Μακαριώτατε,**

Οἱ ὀρθόδοξες εἰκόνες εἶναι ἓνα βασύτατο, θεολογικὸ, ἐμπειρικὸ, δογματικὸ βιβλίον, καὶ, ὅταν εἰσθῆι κανεὶς σὲ αὐτὸ, μπορεῖ νὰ ἀντιληφθεῖ ὅχι μόνον τί εἶναι ὁ Χριστιανικὸς ὀρθόδοξος Θεός, ἀλλὰ καὶ τί εἶναι ἡ Ἐκκλησία Του καὶ ποῦ εἶναι τὸ νόημα τῆς ζωῆς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου.

Ἡ ὀρθόδοξη Ἐκκλησία εἶναι τὸ δοξασιμένο καὶ θεωμένο Σῶμα τοῦ Χριστοῦ, εἶναι ὁ χώρος τῆς συναντήσεως τῶν πάντων, ἀγγέλων καὶ ἀνθρώπων, κεκοιμημένων καὶ ζώντων, ἀρχόντων καὶ ἀρχομένων, Κληρικῶν καὶ λαϊκῶν, ἀνδρῶν καὶ γυναικῶν, ξένων καὶ ἰθαγενῶν, εἶναι ὁ πνευματικὸς νομαφῶνος τῆς δόξης, εἶναι τὸ κατάλυμα τῶν θείων ἐρώτων. Ἡ ὀρθόδοξη εἰκόνα δείχνει ὅτι τὴν ζωὴ τοῦ ἀνθρώπου δὲν τὴν καθορίζει ἡ ὕλικὴ οἰκονομία, ἀλλὰ τὴν νοηματοδοτεῖ ἡ θεία οἰκονομία, ποὺ τὸ δίνει ἐλπίδα καὶ προσωπικὴ.

Ἡ Ἐκκλησία δὲν εἶναι ἰδιοκτησία κανενός καὶ κανένας δὲν μπορεῖ νὰ τὴν ἰδιοποιηθεῖ καὶ νὰ ἀποκλείσει κάποιους ἄλλους· εἶναι ἀνοικτὴ σὲ όλους τοὺς ταπεινούς, ποὺ διακρίνονται ἀπὸ τὸν τελωνικὸ στεναγμὸ, ἀλλὰ ταυτοχρόνα εἶναι κλειστὴ σὲς Φιμισαίους καὶ τοὺς ὑποκριτῆς ποὺ νομίζουν ὅτι βρίσκονται μέσα σὴν Ἐκκλησία. Ἡ Ἐκκλησία δὲν εἶναι χώρος ἀνταγωνισμῶν καὶ ἀγά-

νων επικρατήσεως μερικῶν ομάδων, ἀλλὰ εἶναι ἐνώτητι προσώπων, εἶναι χώρος μαρτυρίας καὶ μαρτυρίας, σωπῆς καὶ προσευχῆς, σταυρώσεως, ἀναστάσεως καὶ Πεντηκοστῆς. Ἡ Ἐκκλησία δὲν περιορίζεται στὸς τοίχους καὶ τὴν ὄρασή, ἀπὲ ἐκφράζεται ἀπὸ ἀμεταμόρφωτους ἀνθρώπους, πρὸ ἀνυπολόγητοι μὲ τὸ προσκῆνιο καὶ τὸ παρισκῆνιο καὶ ἔχουν ἀπλῶς γνώσεις περὶ τοῦ Θεοῦ, ὄχι ὅμως τὴν γνώση τοῦ Θεοῦ, ἀλλὰ ἡ Ἐκκλησία ἐκφράζεται ἀπὸ τοὺς ἁγίους Προφῆτες, Ἀποστόλους, Πατέρες, Ὁσίους καὶ Μάρτυρες, πρὸ εἶναι ὁλοφάνειοι, εἶναι ἡ «λικαίδια» τῆς γῆς.

Ἡ ὀρθόδοξη εἰκόνα, ὡς ἐκφραση τῶν ὀρθόδοξων δογμάτων καὶ τῆς ἐσωτερικῆς λάμπρας τῆς ὀρθόδοξης Ἐκκλησίας, σκορπᾷ ἀγάπη καὶ σταργή, γαλήνη καὶ ἡρεμία, ἐλευθερὸς τοὺς πονεμένους καὶ διψῶντες τὴν δικαιοσύνη τοῦ Θεοῦ, πραγματοποιεῖ τὴν τελικὴ κυριαρχία τοῦ Θεοῦ τῆς ἀγάπης, δείχνει τὸν μεταμορφωμένο κόσμο, τὴν καινὴ κτίσι).

Ὁ Θεὸς φανερώθηκε ἐν σαρκί, ἡ Ἐκκλησία δοξάζεται ὡς Σῶμα Χριστοῦ, ἡ εἰκόνα εἶναι ἐκφραση τῆς μεταμορφωμένης ζωῆς καὶ τῆς ἀνακαινισμένης κτίσεως, ἡ ὀρθόδοξη εἰκόνα ἡ εἰκόνα τῶν ἀπελευθερωμένων, ἡ ἀληθινή τῶν στερημένων. Ἀγάλλεται σήμερον ἡ Ἐκκλησία, εὐφραίνεται μὲ τὴν δόξα τοῦ Νυμφίου τῆς, καὶ οἱ ἱερεῖς εἰκόνας εἶναι τὰ στολίδια τοῦ λαμπροῦ νυμφικοῦ τῆς ἐνδοξῆς αὐτῆς νύμφης τοῦ Χριστοῦ.

Ὅποτε, μακάριοι ὄσοι ἔγαυον τὴν δόξα τοῦ Νυμφίου καὶ τῆς Νύμφης καὶ ζῶν σὺν κεκοιμημένο νυμφώνα τῆς δόξης, ἐνδεδυμένοι μὲ τὸν χιτῶνα τῆς εὐφροσύνης. Μακάριοι ὄσοι συμμετέχουν σὺν δαίτη τῆς Βασιλείας, τὸν ὅποιο δείχνουν οἱ ἱερεῖς εἰκόνας καὶ γέγονται τὴν νηφάλια μέθη τοῦ Πνεύματος, πρὸ ἐξέρχεται ὡς θοιμία εὐοσμιο ἀπὸ αὐτῆς. Μακάριοι ὄσοι ἀπολαμβάνουν τὴν δόξα τῆς ὀρθόδοξίας ὄχι μὲν φρενὸς τὸν χρόνον, ἀλλὰ κάθε μέρα, ὄσοι συμμετέχουν σὺν τρισάγειο ἴμνω τῶν ἀγγέλων καὶ τὸ ἄσμα τῶν λευτερωμένων.



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