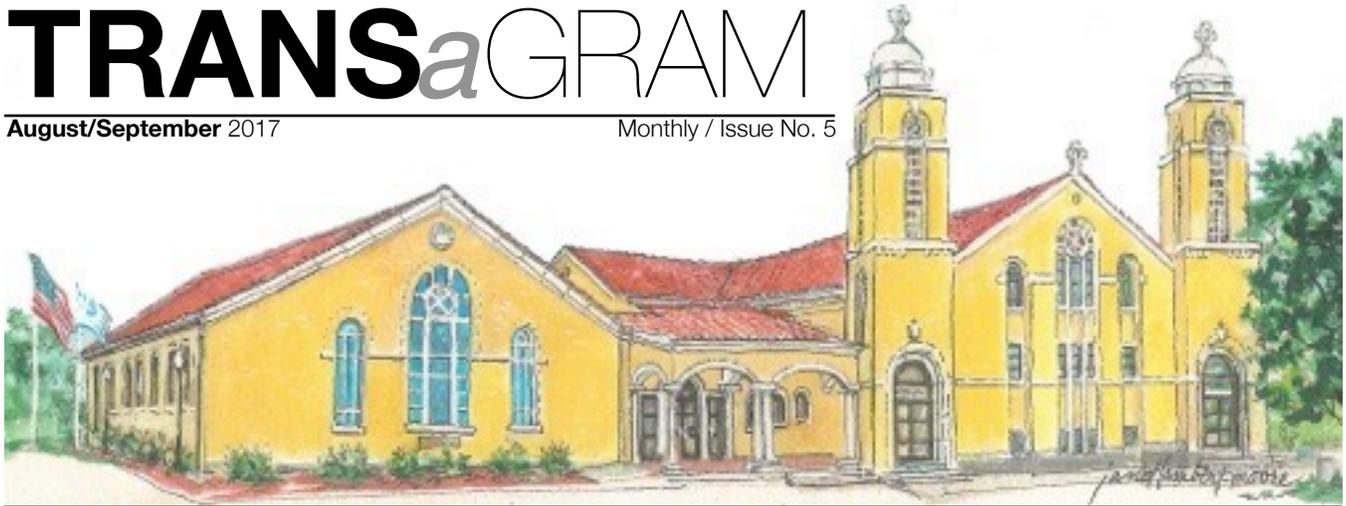


TRANSaGRAM

August/September 2017

Monthly / Issue No. 5



TRANSFIGURATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Fr. Tom Chininis, Pastor

Metropolis Ministry Award 2017

By Olivia Sintros



Joining Ellen at the awards dinner were (seated) Melanie Pappas, her mother Mary Koutsis and her daughter, Kathy and (standing) Pat Mahoney, Spike and Olivia Sintros, Fr. Tom Chininis, her son Christopher, and her husband Ernie.

It is with great pleasure that we honor Ellen Koutsis Dobi as this year's recipient of the Metropolis of Boston Ministry Award. Ellen was raised at St. George in Lynn and has been a faithful member of our Transfiguration Church for the past 28 years. Ellen's husband Ernest has offered unconditional support of her dedication to the ministries of the church, as have her three children who were raised in the church. Ellen has been a quiet, dedicated volunteer in many aspects of church life. She taught Sunday for many years, continues to sing in the Church choir, and has worked fervently as a Philoptochos member. In her role as Philoptochos sister, Ellen has served for many years on the Philoptochos Board, served as treasurer and currently as president. When not singing in the choir or doing Philoptochos work, Ellen is attending Kitchen Committee meetings and in her spare time volunteers countless hours working in the church office. Ellen is one of those mild mannered volunteers who is always ready to lend a helping hand. We thank Ellen Dobi, a true steward, for her love and service to the Transfiguration Church.

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FROM FR. TOM

WHICH TRANSFIGURATION?

By Fr. Nicholas Apostola, St. Nicholas Romanian Orthodox Church Shrewsbury, MA

August sixth. is a remarkable day in human history. It is the day on the Christian calendar when we remember the Transfiguration of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ. You will remember that Christ, pre-figuring His Resurrection, took three disciples — Peter, James, and John — and ascended Mount Tabor. There the Savior was transfigured, covered with light. The disciples threw themselves down on the ground, unable to gaze upon the brightness of His garment. Moses and Elijah appeared and talked with Him about His upcoming Crucifixion and Resurrection. They were all engulfed in an ethereal cloud. And a voice came from the Father testifying to His Son. It was a tremendous sight.

August 6th is also another anniversary. It is the day on which the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima in 1945. A transfiguration in its own right. The light was so bright that no one could gaze upon it. But there were no prophets speaking with the God-man. No voice from the Father. No ethereal cloud. (The mushroom cloud that engulfed Hiroshima was far from ethereal.) And, no gentle Christ lifting His disciples from the ground after the vision. Only death and destruction as far as the eye could see. Only a poison which continues to mutate living things until this day. Indeed, both were transfigurations: the first was from God, the other was from man. Each gives us an indication as to the consequences of our choices.

In some ways these two transfigurations represent two different world views. There is the worldview of faith, which is essentially God-centered. It looks at humanity and all of creation as God's handiwork. In this worldview everything comes from God and leads back to Him.

Then there is the scientific/technological worldview, which is basically human-centered, or perhaps more aptly put, materialist-centered. The scientist dissects and reassembles according to his or her design, or rather, the design that one might see in the thing itself. Regardless, there is little or no place for wonder or mystery. More importantly, there is no limit, no bounds beyond which the scientist will not travel. While this might be an extreme presentation of the positions, nonetheless it is helpful to look at the naked argument. When persons are pressed they fall back on the fundamental premise of their assumptions.

Of course, there need not be a conflict between faith and science. Many scientists and theologians are working hard to bridge the apparent divide. The God

who created us also created our mind and our logical faculties. In exploring and adapting our environment, we glorify Him — that is, if we are interested in glorifying Him. But mostly, when we behave as fallen humans, we are interest in glorifying ourselves and we often use our science and technology to this end. When we construct, when we explore, when we exploit, we extol this as a testimony to 'human ingenuity,' 'human creativity,' and 'human resourcefulness.' There is little if any understanding that our human endeavor might be, or at least should be, part of God's plan — or, might even be opposed to it.

St. Maximos the Confessor says, "The passion of pride arises from two kinds of ignorance, and when these two kinds of ignorance unite together, they form a single confused state of mind. For a man is proud only if he is ignorant both of divine help and of human weakness. Therefore pride is a lack of knowledge both in the divine and in the human spheres. For the denial of two true premises results in a single false affirmation." While this observation of St. Maximos is certainly applicable to almost every aspect of human life, it has a special significance in our current context.

As our technological capabilities expand at a rate almost totally incomprehensible to the human mind, there is no evidence yet that we, as a society, are aware of, or are taking into consideration, either divine help or human weakness. Rather we continue to view ourselves as essentially limitless. What was the reaction to the horror of Hiroshima and Nagasaki? Was it repentance and a turning away from the evil we had created? No! Ashamed by our deed we sought to delude ourselves by creating the 'atoms for peace' program. By building nuclear power plants, and other 'peaceful' uses for the atom, we thought we could cover our nakedness like Adam and Eve in the Garden. But as we have come to find out; this solution has turned out to be as great a monster as atomic weapons themselves.

"Today," cries one of the hymns of the Transfiguration, "Christ on Mount Tabor has changed the darkened nature of Adam, and filling it with brightness He has made it godlike." The true Transfiguration is the..... transfiguration of our nature. It is a change from what we were and are, into what we can become — into the likeness of Christ. It is concerned with an internal transformation. Another hymn says: "Shining forth with the light of the virtues, let us set foot on the holy mountain that we may gaze upon the divine

FROM FR. TOM

divine Transfiguration of the Lord.” The light of the Transfiguration is an internal light. Its source is the virtuous life which reflects the divine light. Christ possesses this light by nature; we have the ability to possess it by grace — that is, by how much we reflect Him.

We have greater power available to us than the split atom. We have the power to be gods. But we are like Adam and Eve. We want to possess this power on our own. We want to be something we are not. St. Maximos says: “Self-esteem is the replacing of a purpose which accords with God by another purpose which is contrary to the divine. For a man full of self-esteem pursues virtue not for God’s glory but for his own.” Adam and Eve were full of “Self-esteem” as they challenged God. And so are we as we continually challenge God by the arrogance of our undisciplined technology.

But surely, (one says to one’s self), God created us with the intelligence to do these things! God also created us with the intelligence not to do some things. We have the freedom to do anything. God has given us this. We have freedom even to destroy ourselves. Yet, no one would assert that this was within God’s plan for us. The nature and shape of the freedom God has given us is that He wants us to be like Him, but only if it’s founded our own free will, our own free choice. He will not stop us even when we choose badly. But, neither will he grant us eternal life if we do.

The enormous complexities of this subject can not be fully pursued in this short reflection. However, there is one thing I would like for you to ponder. The nuclear issue, environment pollution, genetic research, global warming, and so many other problems arising from modern scientific and technological advances cannot, in the final analysis, be left to the scientists, technicians, or politicians to decide alone. These are deeply spiritual issues and we should understand that the spiritual dilemmas arise because there is a lack of communion with the living God. It is through communion with Him that we will be able to find the answers.

Three Mile Island (1979) sits as a heap of radioactive poison which our technology is incapable of rectifying. Chernobyl (1986) remains a no-man’s zone of radioactive wasteland. No one knows how we will deal with the Japanese nuclear catastrophe (2011). We search in vain for a home for our nuclear waste because no one wants it in their backyard. And, all the while, people ignore the warming planet even as glaciers melt and huge icebergs fall off the Antarctic shelf.

How can one begin to number other environmental disasters? Do you remember the chemical/oil disasters like the famous Love Canal (1976) evacuation, or the Exxon Valdez (1986) oil spill, and the Deepwater Horizon (2010) oil breach. Have you forgotten the close-to-home catastrophe of General Electric’s pollution of the Housatonic River, and the next-to impossibility of correcting it. These and other countless other evidences of the failure of our arrogance before God threaten to destroy us. More tragically, these will affect and effect our grandchildren when we are all long dead.

And yet, these sign-posts that could lead us back to repentance go largely unheeded. Moreover, there are people who arrogantly deny the evidence of both science and their own eyes.

The choice before us is clear. Either we choose the uncreated light of the Transfiguration available to us through our faith in Jesus Christ our Savior, or we choose the created light of our atomic bombs. Both alter nature irrevocably. One way is in accord with God’s will, and will lead us to the goodness God intends. The other springing from the self-delusion of our pride leading to suicide.

“Come, let us ascend into the mountain of the Lord,” sings a hymn of the Transfiguration, “even to the house of our God, and behold the glory of His Transfiguration, glory as of the Only Begotten of the Father. Let us receive light from His Light, and with uplifted spirits let us forever sing the praises of the consubstantial Trinity.

Wanted!

Trans-a-Gram Editor

Unfortunately, Amanda Apostolou is no longer able to donate her time and talent as editor of the Trans-a-Gram. This is a great opportunity for a college student who is looking for experience or portfolio content for publishing, marketing, or graphic design. If anyone is interested in donating their time and talent as editor, please contact the office or Fr. Tom. Thank you for your continued support of our communications ministries.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS



President's Report

As A Generation Passes

by Christian Zouzas, Parish Council President

Memory Eternal

It is always a difficult and a sad time when there is a funeral at our church, and almost within a week a sitting council member and past president passed away.

Dean Proyous

The Parish Council would like to send its prayers and condolences to the family and relatives to long time sitting and active council member Dean Proyous. Dean faithfully and tirelessly acted as assistant treasurer for many years. One of Dean's passions was feeding the homeless every month at the Community Kitchen and with Dean's passing it will be difficult to fill his shoes. May his memory be eternal.

Nicholas P. Nicholaou

The Parish Council would also like to send its prayers and condolences to the family and relatives of long time parishioner and past President Nicholas P. Nicholaou. Nick served as past president for many years, as a chanter, and was devoted to the Transfiguration, he was a true inspiration of servitude.

As generations pass on, who will fill the void and take their place and carry on the work they devoted their lives to for their beloved Church?

Treasurer's Report

by Kon Kalabokis, Parish Council Treasurer

ACCOUNT SUMMARY (AS OF JULY 31, 2017)

Account	Balance
Altar Fund	\$2,159.52
Building Maintenance	\$10,625.44
Endowment Fund	\$8,951.59
General Checking	\$39,008.76
Kitchen & Hall Fund	\$247,116.28
Money Market Savings	\$200,603.88
Outreach Center	\$7,668.77
Rental Account (restricted)	\$115,616.37
Special Events Checking	\$43,815.76
Youth Ministry	\$6,852.19
Rodis Fund	\$4,000.00
Account Totals:	\$686,418.56

If you have any questions, contact Kon Kalabokis at kkalabokis@gmail.com. He will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS



Stewardship Report

“As the Father has sent me, so I send you” John 20:21

by Olivia Sintros, Stewardship Reporter

For many, making the all-important decision of how to support the church has been made really easy by going online to www.parishpay.com. Beginning on Monday, October 9th ParishPay will migrate to a new online giving program called WeShare. WeShare brochures will soon be made available explaining how easy it is to give to the church. The transition will be made very simple for those already giving online. If online doesn't work for you and you choose to fill out a commitment card and have not to date, please pick one up in the narthex or call the church office where Jeanne will be delighted to assist you. Completing the commitment card helps us to successfully track your pledge and greatly assists our record keeping. Please know that an increase in stewardship or an additional stewardship donation can happen at any time in spite of what you may be donating online or what you may have indicated on your commitment card. A donation toward your stewardship (at any time) whether large or small will help us pay our bills through the summer months and into the fall. Wouldn't it be great not to use fundraising money to pay the bills? As always, we are grateful for whatever works for you as a member of our parish community. As Jesus told us, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Thank you.

2017 Stewardship July	as of 7/31/17
Participating stewards	264
Total pledged	\$114,860
Received to date	\$108,998
Budgeted stewardship goal	\$165,000



Parish Council Report

by Amanda Apostolou, Parish Council Secretary

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

The parish council met on Tuesday, June 6. The following are a few items that were discussed:

- Thanks to festival chairman Costas Tsioulis and all his hard work and the work of all the volunteers, we raised \$32,000 at the festival. This amount was transferred from the Special Events account to General Checking to cover normal operating expenses over the summer.
- Tiffany Margardo is no longer the administrative assistant for the Transfiguration church. Jeanne Brady is filling in part-time over the summer.

The parish council met on Friday, June 20 for a special meeting. The following item was discussed:

- Due to a bookkeeping error with Fr. Tom's salary from 2014 to the beginning of 2017, the Parish Council voted to compensate him \$12,500, funded from the Special Events account. Payroll has been contacted and all bookkeeping errors have been resolved.

PARISH GROUPS



Philoptochos Society Report

by Ellen Dobi, Philoptochos Society President

May Meeting: Our May 4th “Mother’s Day” meeting was our last general meeting for the Ecclesiastical year. We voted to round up the proceeds from our koulourakia and soup sales to \$2000 for the Philoxenia House and to send \$1000 in support of camper scholarships to the St. Methodios Faith & Retreat Center, two of our Metropolis commitments. We also donated \$1500 to the Festival, \$100 to the Goya Cancer walk and \$300 to the Children’s Medical Fund Luncheon. And, finally we donated \$250 to the Metropolis Ministries in memory of the Metropolitan’s sister.

Mother’s Day & Father’s Day: Many thanks to Connie, Freda, and Clara Gkolias for distributing carnations in celebration of our Mothers and Fathers.

Clothing Drive: Thank you to all who donated clothing, other textiles and shoes for the clothing drive. We made over \$800.

Festival: Thank you to ALL who helped to bake the koulourakia and baklava, baked other items, and helped to sell items during the Festival. We did an amazing job! (*pictures on pages 11-12*)

Literacy Project: Thanks to the generosity of our parishioners and friends, we provided books and book bags to the children of the Reilly Elementary School. This year marks the 10th anniversary of our literacy program; over 15,000 books have been distributed to local children over these ten years. Special thanks go out to our Literacy coordinators, Karen Mitropoulis, Amanda Apostolou and Olivia Sintros. Thank you to Sandra Gulezian for selling candles during Great and Holy Lent and earmarking the money (\$395) for the Literacy Project. (*pictures on pages 13-14*)

Scholarship/Graduate Sunday: Scholarships to qualifying high school students planning on

attending college next year were awarded on Sunday, June 18th after Divine Liturgy. Students who completed college, graduate or advanced degree work were also recognized for their achievement. Thank you to our Scholarship Chair, Pat Mahoney, Program Design, Melanie Pappas, and Scholarship Committee: Ellen Dobi, Soula Spaziani, Georgia Dristiliaris, Yiota Simoglou and Olivia Sintros. Many thanks to the families who have supported and contributed to scholarships in memory of loved ones. (*pictures on page 9*)

House of Hope: Thank you to Cindy Rios for coordinating the schedule of volunteers. Cindy has the dates for the 2017-2018 year, normally the 4th Thursday of the month. If you would like to volunteer your time preparing a dinner (at home) and serving at the House of Hope, contact Cindy at cerios3@hotmail.com or 978-459-1897.

Spring Calendar Raffle: Thank you to all who participated in our Spring Calendar Raffle fundraiser. The winners are as follows:

\$25 Winners: Valarie Letsou, Joseph Greathead, Joyce Collela, George Koufagazos, Robin Walbridge, Patricia Mahoney, Barbara Souza, Stephen & Lisa Coupe, Joyce Limberopolous, Elizabeth Natsios, Al Finnicciaro, Beverly Patsourakos, Eleni Prentakis, Ellen Dobi, Arthur & Christine Faneros, Marc Gulezian, Betty Balamotis, Virginia Bertos

\$50 Winners: Virginia Bertos, Peter Dulchinos, Eva Dukakis, Marina Balkas, Elizabeth Tavoularis, Joyce Collela, Thomas Letsou

\$100 Winner: Tom and EJ Amick

continued on next page.....

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Transfiguration Name Day: The church's name day was celebrated with Vespers and a reception hosted by the Dristiliaris family on Saturday night, August 5th (*pictured right*), and Liturgy and a reception hosted by the Philoptochos on Sunday, August 6th. Thank you to all who donated their time (for set up, serving and clean up) and talents (for brunch items and desserts) to create successful receptions.

Save the date: Our first general meeting will be Thursday, September 28th. Pot luck dinner will begin at 6:30 pm with meeting following at 7:00 pm. Please contact the Gkolias sisters at 978-851-7867 to offer a dish. Please come to enjoy fellowship, vote on donations, and learn of our plans for the coming year.



From left: Georgia Dristiliaris, Cathy Roy, Daphne Easton, and Kippi Fleischer

The new Philoptochos Board for 2017-2019 was elected and presented:

Amanda Apostolou (Secretary), Ellen Dobi (President), Georgia Genna, Georgia Dristiliaris (Assistant Treasurer), Corrine Dubay (Treasurer), Daphne Easton (Membership Chair), Clara Gkolias (Corresponding Secretary), Connie Gkolias, Freda Gkolias, Sandra Gulezian, Angela Hastings (1st Vice President), Nancy Lane (2nd Vice President), Pat Mahoney, Karen Mitrooulis, Melanie Pappas, Olivia Sintros, & Soula Spaziani.



Many thanks to outgoing board members for your past years of service:
Lisa Coupe, Deanne Finn, Joanne Kalabokis and Susan Mitchell

PARISH GROUPS



Sunday School News

by Connie Gkolias, Sunday School Director

Hi girls, boys, and parents,

Good news, Sunday school will begin on Sunday September 10th.

You will find enclosed your registration forms, please fill them out

and bring to church on the 10th or mail them. We look forward to seeing you. Your teachers have a very exciting year planned for you.

Parents please make sure the children are on time at 9:30am so they do not miss anything and especially Father Tom's sermon. We need to do everything possible to ensure our children get as much support as we can give them in learning our Greek Orthodox faith. See you on September 10th!

Important Dates:

Sunday School begins Sep 10

GOYA News

by Thea Tully, GOYA Director

This essay was presented to the parish at the end of the school year during the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival. Andrew Spanos also presented an essay, which was published in a previous TAG issue.

Oratorical Essay

By: Brendan Malone

And Jesus said, “render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s” (Matthew 22:21). Now, while at first it may seem like this is advocating for the separation of political matters from religious matters, what it’s actually implying is that we shouldn’t expect the same fairness, hope, and catharsis that we seek in our religious lives to be found in our political ones. In reality, no political party represents true Christian values. As Jesus Himself implied, they’re not supposed to. What’s left for us to do then, is to make the decisions that we know to be morally just; the decisions that will help and benefit ourselves, our family, and our neighbors, while also recalling that God should be the sole place we dedicate our total love and allegiance to.

In context to the quote, “render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s” is Jesus’ response to the Pharisees asking whether or not it’s religiously lawful to pay taxes. Upon taking out a coin, Jesus asks “whose image is this?”, and in doing so lets the Pharisees understand that the image of Caesar on the coin isn’t just a portrait, but rather a graven image that some people pay more loyalty to than to God. Furthermore, the claims of God and of politics are completely separate. If you claim the Lord God as your God, then you owe everything to God. In this case, Caesar’s claims become illegitimate, and you owe Caesar nothing. On the other hand, if your faith is in Caesar and politics, then God’s claims must now become illegitimate; you owe Him nothing, but you owe to Caesar, at the very least, the coin which bears his image.

So, as more and more elections come and go, cast your votes not in favor of controversy, of division, or of hatred, but rather think about the people that your vote will be effecting, and in turn vote in favor of love, of justice, and of support, so that together we may all progress as a morally just society. We were all made in God’s image, and thus voting in favor of only benefitting ourselves while disregarding everyone else would be placing politics above God, seeing your neighbors, or God Himself manifest, in their time of need, and turning away.

CHURCH EVENTS AND OUTREACH

Graduate Sunday

by Patricia Mahoney, Scholarship Chairwoman

High School Graduates

The Transfiguration Philoptochos presented scholarships to seven well deserving high school students from the Class of 2017 on Sunday, June 18 after Divine Liturgy. These scholarships were made possible through the generosity of members of our parish family.

Sincerest thanks were extended to all of the donor families without whose support scholarships like this would not have been possible. Each recipient was awarded a scholarship of \$500. In addition, each scholarship recipient received an additional \$100 from the Dr. Christos Daoulas Endowment. This is the fifth year in succession the Daoulas Endowment has so generously remembered our high school seniors.

In the spirit of thanks, gratitude and appreciation were extended to the following members of the Scholarship Committee: Fr. Tom, Philoptochos President Ellen Dobi, Soula Spaziani, Georgia Dristiliaris,



PHOTOS BY MELANIE PAPPAS

From left: Fr. Tom Chininis with high school graduates William Zouzas, Will Fokas, Chris Koufogazos, Athena Mc Cann, Joanna Piazas, Andrew Spanos (not pictured) Nomikos Vaporis



From left: Fr. Tom Chininis with college graduates Evanthia Tully, Nicholas Mastas, Philip Lane, Katerina Kalabokis, and Cassandra Floor, with Fr. Gregroy Floor

Jill Laganas, Olivia Sintros, Melanie Pappas, and Yiota Simoglou. Each year they have demonstrated their love and caring for the future of the youth of the parish.

All the graduates were congratulated on a job well done and wished the best of luck as they begin their next exciting chapter.

Following the presentation, all were invited to a luncheon reception in our Fellowship Hall.

College Graduates

Additionally, Transfiguration Church recognized five college graduates for their achievements. We wish them good strength in their future endeavors.

GRECIAN FESTIVAL '17

A very loud shout out to the Festival 2107 volunteers who gave so generously of their time and talent. We couldn't have done it without you! Please forgive if you don't see your name with an extra shout out to you!

Fr. Tom, Fr. Greg, Deacon John, Costas, Angelo, Lisa, Mike F. Panayioti, Jimmy D., Ernie, Carl, Fred, Mike T., Ernie, Joe, Corrine, Angela, Diane, Cindy, Debbie, Kathy, Thea, Sophia, Holly, Louise, Daphne, Sandy, Lisa, Cindy, Helen, Daphne, Gertrude, Connie, Freda, Clara, Makarios, Paniota, Chris T., Joanna, Autumn, Virginia, Helene, Olivia G., Alexis, Niki, Stephanie G., Catherine, Susan, Olivia G., Marina, Melanie, Erin, Mary, Sharon, Arthur, Christine, Jill, Betty, Ellen, Soula, Ann, Ellen, Dottie, Georgia, DePaula, Yiota, Stephanie M., Joanne, Matt, Amanda, Bill, Chris S., Nick K., Kon, Marc, Nick S., Cassey, Peter, Costas N., Arthur, Kassandra, Ariana, Savannah, Chris K., Sophie, Athena, Nick., Tim, William, Harry, Georgia, John, Gail, Theona, Regina, Joanna T., Pat, George B., Michael K., Chris, Paul, Stephen, Chuck, Jeff, Edward, George, Catherine, Sophia, Spike, Ron, Stratos, Eli, Sophia, James, Jonathan, Dimo, Sandra, Seraphim, Herman, Jimmy P., Elaine, Joanna, Thomas, Callia, Erin, Jose, George, Kathy, Christa, Elizabeth, Florence, Evanthia, Mary Ann, and George E.

With grateful thanks to our Festival 2017 Underwriters and Donors whose treasure supported the success of our Festival. May God bless you all.

Market Basket

Coca Cola

Enterprise Bank

AHEPA Order 102

Arthur and Christine Faneros

Alfred Finocchiaro

Mike and Diane Fokas

Ladies Philoptochos Society

Toula and Arthur Sparages

Costas and Elizabeth Tsioulis

Elaine Lazouras

Georgia Dristilliaris

Peter and Nano Eliopoulos

Spike and Olivia Sintros

Niclis and Daphne Kouloungis

Wallace and Demi Flanagan

Anonymous

Jim and Noule Demetri

Effie Mavraides

Mary D. Ploof

Matt and Amanda Apostolou

Chuck and Cathy Nestor

Mel and Agnes Yankopoulos

Pat Mahoney

Fred Block

Melanie Pappas

Angie Rigs

Fr. Tom and Karen Chininis

Marc and Sandra Gulezian

Nick and Susan Pappas

Arthur and Regina Dabillis

Larry and Soula Spaziani

Jeff and Angela Hastings

David and Nancy Lane

Nick Diamond

Ronnie and Debbie Sevigny

Mama's Italian Restaurant

Acton Toyota- Glenn Hoffman

Long Meadow Golf Club

Angelo and Lisa Koukas (Jillie's Family Restaurant)

Panteli and Ann Karakastanis (Skewer's Wood Grill)

Michael and Stella Billiris (Bilco)

CHURCH EVENTS AND OUTREACH



**GRECIAN
FESTIVAL '17**



- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Chris Pappadopoulos | 32 " Samsung LED TV |
| Christina Rocheleau | Foursome at Long Meadow Golf Club |
| Jack Dolliver | Samsung Tablet |
| Kostas Nicholopoulos | HP Office Jet Printer |
| Olivia Sintros | American Girl Doll |
| David Flanagan, Jr. | \$100 MA Lottery Tickets |
| Shyanne Laganas | Trader Joe's Gift Basket |
| Panayiota Beoetwa | American Girl Doll |
| Campbell Gibson | \$100 Ruth's Chris Steak House |
| Ellie Sintros | Handyman/Handylady Gift Basket |
| John Panagopoulos | \$100 Money "Cake" |
| Kathy Chareas | Coleman Camping Grill |
| Amber Greathead | Trader Joe's Gift Basket |
| Liz Flanagan | "It's Margarita Time!" Gift Basket |
| Mathew Ramazani | Original Handcrafted Walking Stick |

FESTIVAL RAFFLE WINNERS

Grateful thanks is extended to all the Raffle donors and the hundreds of ticket purchasers for their unconditional love and support of Grecian Festival 2017.

CHURCH EVENTS AND OUTREACH



GRECIAN FESTIVAL '17



CHURCH EVENTS AND OUTREACH

Philoptochos Literacy Project

by Olivia Sintros, Literacy Project Co-chairwoman

The 550 students of the Peter W. Reilly Elementary School in the Belvidere section of Lowell were this year’s most appreciative recipients of book bags and books to support their summer reading program. Many of the students in grades K-4 asked the same question, “Can we keep this bag and books?” and broad smiles emerged as they processed the positive response, “Yes, you can!” We gratefully thank the continued generosity of our parishioners and friends as we have been able to sustain this literacy initiative since 2008. A special thanks to Philoptochos members Amanda Apostolou, Pat Mahoney and Debbie Sevigny, who were present and witnessed firsthand the appreciation felt by Reilly students and staff alike. A shout out to Karen Mitropoulis who was unable to be

with us, but who sent along some very special books autographed by friend and author Peter Reynolds of the Blue Bunny Bookstore in Dedham, MA. Once again, it is through the generosity of the parishioners and friends that these new and gently used books are collected throughout the year, so keep them coming as we work toward Literacy 2017-2018. Please contact Olivia Sintros at osintros@comcast.net or Karen Mitropoulis at greekgirl1312@comcast.net if interested in donating books or making a donation toward books.

PHOTOS BY: REILLY STAFF AND OLIVIA SINTROS



CHURCH EVENTS AND OUTREACH

PHOTO BY REILLY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STAFF



Philoptochos Literacy Project

Peter W. Reilly Elementary School



CHURCH EVENTS AND OUTREACH

Vacation Church Camp 2017

by Amanda Apostolou

Campers at Vacation Church Camp 2017 had a great time learning our theme "Who do you say that I am?" They sang songs, old and new, and even had the opportunity to sing for Community Kitchen, and join them for lunch! They learned Greek dancing, wiggled to GoNoodle.com, herded "sheep", and got lots of exercise during gym time. They followed along in prayer as Presvytera Cassey Floor taught them to make prosphora, and listened intently to Fr. Tom in Orthodox Life. They enjoyed an after lunch treat at their own private ice cream truck, assembled backpacks for local kids in need, and crafted more than just bracelets and boxes, but memories with friends, old and new. Finally, at the end of the week, a few of us enjoyed a beautiful day at the Metropolis of Boston Camp in Contoocook, NH. We thank all the staff and counselors for their help during VCC. We understand it is a big commitment but it is an essential part of our children's educational and fellowship experience at Transfiguration Church. If you have never volunteered for camp before, we encourage you to do so next year and see what fun we have!





VCC 2017



CHURCH INFORMATION

CHURCH

Secretary: Jeanne Brady
Address: 25 Father John Sarantos Way,
 Lowell, MA 01854
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TRANS-A-GRAM

Editor Needed
 Please contact office for information

HOSPITAL NOTIFICATION

Please contact the church office when a family member has been admitted to the hospital or care facility. This will allow Fr. Tom to make a pastoral visit. Because of HIPAA regulations hospitals are reluctant to inform the local clergy of parishioners who have been admitted to their facility. So, the responsibility of notifying the parish falls on the family.

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Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church
Lowell, MA

August 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
			Kafeneion @ Center 10am Paraclesis 6:30p		Paraclesis 6:30p	Great Vespers 7pm Reception following
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Feast of Transfiguration Orthros 8:30am Liturgy 9:30am	Paraclesis 6:30p	Tuesday Morning Ladies 9:30 am	Kafeneion @ Center 10am Paraclesis 6:30p		Paraclesis 6:30p	LTLC dinner
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Orthros 8:30am Liturgy 9:30am Monthly Trisagion	Great Vespers 7pm @ Dracut	Feast of Dormition Orthros 9 am Liturgy 10 am @ Dracut	Kafeneion @ Center 10am			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Orthros 8:30am Liturgy 9:30am		Tuesday Morning Ladies 9:30 am	Kafeneion @ Center 10am			
27	28	29	30	31		
Orthros 8:30am Liturgy 9:30am		Tuesday Morning Ladies 9:30 am Community Kitchen 11:30am	Kafeneion @ Center 10am			



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Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church
Lowell, MA

September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					Start of Ecclesiastical Year	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Orthros 8:30am Liturgy 9:30am Monthly Trisagion	Labor Day Office closed	Tuesday Morning Ladies 9:30 am Parish Council Mtg 6:30pm	Kafeneion @ Center 10am		Feast of Nativity of Theotokos Liturgy 9:30am	Parish Golf Outing LTLC dinner
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Orthros 8:30am Liturgy 9:30am 1 st Day of Sunday School Welcome Back BBQ		Tuesday Morning Ladies 9:30 am	Kafeneion @ Center 10am	Feast of Holy Cross – Liturgy 9:30am Philoptochos Pot-luck & Meeting 6:30pm		Great Vespers 6:30 pm Reception following
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Feast of St. Sophia & 3 Daughters Orthros 8:30am Liturgy 9:30am		Tuesday Morning Ladies 9:30 am	Bible Study 10am Kafeneion @ Center 10am	House of Hope Dinner		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Orthros 8:30am Liturgy 9:30am	Metropolis Golf Tournament	Tuesday Morning Ladies 9:30 am Community Kitchen 11:30am	Bible Study 10am Kafeneion @ Center 10am			

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SERVICES, SACRAMENTS, AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Services

SUNDAY SERVICES

Orthros: 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy: 9:30 a.m.
Monthly Trisagion Sep 3, following Liturgy

Special Services (continued)

September 8: Orthros 8:30 am & Liturgy 9:30am
September 14: Orthros 8:30 am & Liturgy 9:30am
September 16: Orthros 8:30 am & Liturgy 9:30am

Sacraments

BAPTISMS

May 27: Michael Metaxopoulos, son of Michael Metaxopoulos, Jr. Sponsor Alyssa Dillon
July 30: Peter George Bissias. Son of George and Kimberly Bissias. Sponsor Alex Bissias

CHRISMATIONS

No Chrismations this month

WEDDING & MARRIAGE BLESSINGS

May 6: Andrew and Trang (Vu) Chalupka. Sponsor Anne Chalupka

June 17: Matthew and Nikki (Economou) Collins. Sponsor Jennifer Tanguay

FUNERALS: MAY THEIR MEMORY BE ETERNAL

May 30: George Koufougazos
June 16: Mary (Georgakakos) Corbin
June 26: Carole Rodis
July 10: Dean Proyou
July 12: Nicholas P. Nicholaou
July 26: Alice Kaknes

Calendar of Events

VACATION CHURCH CAMP (VCC)

November 18: Advent Camp

YOUTH MINISTRY

August 26: GOYA Meeting
October 20: FFN Fall Fun Fest

SUNDAY SCHOOL

August 24: Sunday School Staff Meeting
September 10: Registration and 1st Day of Classes
September 17 & 24: Classes

CHOIR

Rehearsals as announced

BIBLE STUDY AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

September 13, 20 & 27: Bible Study 10:00 am

Aug 23, & 30 & Sep 6: Book Discussion Group 10:00 am

OTHER CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Aug 22, 29, Sep 5, 12, 19, 26: Ladies' Group Meeting 9:30 am
Aug 5, 12, Sep 6, 13, 20, 27: Kafeneion @ Outreach Center 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

OUTREACH AND SPECIAL EVENTS

August 22: Community Kitchen @ Outreach Center 11:30 am
September 9: 2017 Golf Outing
September 9: LTLC Dinner
September 26: Community Kitchen @ Outreach Center 11:30 am
September 28: House of Hope Dinner

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