



# THE WORD

**Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church**

**Andover, MA**

**March 2019**

## In Brief



**BIBLE STUDIES THIS MONTH**  
*"Pursuing our spiritual life"*

Morning Meditations  
March 13 - 10:00 AM

Men's Ministry Dinner  
March 27 - 7:00 PM

## IMPORTANT DATES

March 31- New Families' Welcome  
April 7 - Lenten Luncheon  
Plan to attend and enjoy a wonderful meal and the fellowship of our church family.



March 10



Get news of additional events and announcements via email. Go to the church website [www.andoverorthodox.org](http://www.andoverorthodox.org) and sign up to be on our **LISTSERV**.

## Great Lent – a time for joyfulness and renewal!

**T**he season of Great Lent, which begins this March 11, is the time of preparation for the feast of the Resurrection of Christ. It is the living symbol of man's entire life which is to be fulfilled in his own resurrection from the dead with Christ.

Lent is a time of renewed devotion: of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. It is a time of repentance, a real renewal of our minds, hearts and deeds in conformity with Christ and his teachings. It is the time, most of all, of our return to the great commandments of loving God and our neighbors.

In the Orthodox Church, Great Lent is not a season of morbidity and gloominess. On the contrary, it is a time of joyfulness and purification. We are called to "anoint our faces" and to "cleanse our bodies as we cleanse our souls."

The very first hymns of the very first service of Great Lent set the proper tone of the season:

*Let us begin the lenten time with delight . . . let us fast from passions as we fast from food, taking pleasure in the good words of the Spirit, that we may be granted to see the holy passion of Christ our God and his holy Pascha, spiritually rejoicing.*

*Thy grace has arisen upon us, O Lord, the illumination of our souls has shown forth; behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the time of repentance (Vespers Hymns).*

It is our repentance that God desires, not our remorse. We sorrow for our sins, but we do so in the joy of God's mercy. We mortify our flesh, but we do so in the joy of our resurrection into life everlasting. We make ready for the resurrection during Great Lent, both Christ's Resurrection and our own.

*From goarch website*



25th MARCH

★ ★ ★ GREECE ★ ★ ★

INDEPENDENCE DAY

The Greek School Independence Day program will take place on March 23.

**PARISH DIRECTORY**

**Clergy**

Fr. Christopher Makiej,  
Parish Priest

Dn. Gary Kent  
Parish Deacon

**Parish Council**

Buzz Stapczynski, President  
John Terzakis, Vice President  
Jim Panagas, Secretary  
Carol DiPietro, Treasurer  
Dylan Archambault  
Voula Danas

Bess Gorman  
Dorothy Hatzikonstantis  
Jimmy Kalogeropoulos  
John Karafilidis  
Nicholas Mimos  
Steven Robinson  
Peter Souhleris  
John Vitale  
Anthony Warren

**Church Office**

Karen Davies  
**Office Assistant**

Dorothy Mastromonaco  
**Philoptochos**

Olga Pithis, President  
**Chanter**

Telly Papanikolaou  
**Choir**

Pres. Katerina Makiej, Director  
**Organist**

David Harvey

**Altar Boy Co-Captains**

Michaelangelo Tsaparlis & Michael Makiej

**Sunday School**

Patty Trant, Director

**Greek School**

Voula Nikitas

**Christian Lending Library**

Patti George, Director

**GOYA Advisors**

Voula Danas & Eleni Xifaras

**GOYA President**

Joanna Archambault

**JOY Advisor**

Patty Trant

**Youth Choir/Women's Fellowship**

Pres. Katerina Makiej

**Book Store Manager**

Elaine Demetroulakos

**Internet Ministry**

George Xifaras

**AHEPA**

Steven Pithis

**Daughters of Penelope**

Nancy Pantazopoulos

**College Fellowship**

Dn. Gary & Fr. Chris

**Young Professionals Ministry**

Nicholas Mimos

**Facilities**

George Perakis

**Archons**

Arthur C. Anton

James Lolos

Telly Papanikolaou

**The Word**

Elizabeth Xaros Bigelow, Editor

**Parish Council Notes**

Dear Parishioners,

First of all, thank you to those who have volunteered to be on service teams. We recruited three or four parishioners who heard Father's call for folks to assist us, but the need is still out there for additional women or men, who would like to assist during Divine Liturgy, greet folks in the Narthex, or help in the church hall for coffee hour and the clean-up afterwards. It's a great way to give back to our community and meet other parishioners who are dedicated to service.

At the Parish Council meeting in January the Council approved a new five-year lease with Andover Country Day School. The lease covers school years 2019/2020 to 2023/2024. This pre-school has been an excellent tenant for the past five years, and we are excited to have them for another five. ACDS is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. (It started as St. Robert's Country Day School at St. Robert's Church in West Andover in 1969.) There are a total of 53 students in the school. Several of our parishioners have sent or are sending their preschoolers to this wonderful educational program. You can learn more about ACDS at [www.andovercountrydayschool.org](http://www.andovercountrydayschool.org) or on Facebook.

As many of you know, the annual budget for our Parish is funded by stewardship and not dues. At every Council meeting we receive a finance report from Carol DiPietro, CPA, our Treasurer. In January we received the good news that, once again, the total stewardship received in 2018 exceeded the budget. We received \$296K from all stewardship sources, and we budgeted \$288K. Thank you to all our faithful who completed their stewardship pledges in 2018.

*A few words of caution. The weather in March can be a tricky - one day sunny and 50 degrees and the next an icy rainy mix. Please be careful walking in the Church parking lots and on the sidewalks. If you see an icy area, please let the Ushers know so they can put down some ice melt. Safety First!*

The Great Lent begins on March 11. It is the most holy and prayerful time of our year, and there will be Pre-Sanctified Liturgies on Wednesday evenings and Salutations to the Theotokos on Friday evenings. Please take advantage of these times to make Lent meaningful and to prepare for Holy Week and Easter Sunday.

*Kali Sarakosti,*

Buzz Stapczynski  
Parish Council President

*Please join us for this year's*

**Lenten Luncheon**



*Sunday, April 7, 2019*

*Pick up your tickets at March coffee hours or call the Church office to reserve seats.*

## Philoptochos

Dear Church Family,

Philoptochos held a fruitful meeting on January 17, 2019. With your generosity, we were able to give donations to the Orthodox Christian Fellowship, Autism, St. Photios Shrine, Social Services, Support a Mission Priest, and Orthodox Christian Missions.

We will be decorating the Church throughout Lent and for Easter, including flowers, ribbons, and the Epitaphio. We thank you in advance for donations for the purchase of the floral and other decorative needs for this blessed time.

We have not forgotten Trivia Night, and we are looking into options for an event next year. We will keep everyone posted!

With sisterly love,  
Georgiana (Gina) LaFortune  
Corresponding Secretary

### **PASCHA – SUNDAY, April 28, 2019 LENTEN AND HOLY WEEK FLORAL NEEDS**

Below is a list of items needed for the additional services that are held during this season. Should you wish to offer any of the items below "In Honor of" or "In Memory of" a loved one, please contact Karen at the Church office 978-470-0919. Checks made payable to SS. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church.

#### **SALUTATION SERVICES (five Fridays):**

2 Vases and Icon Frame --\$75.00; 2 Vases only: \$60.00; Icon only: \$50.00

Friday, March 15:  
Friday, March 22:  
Friday, March 29:  
Friday, April 5:  
Friday, April 12:

Saturday of Lazarus Narthex Icon -- \$50  
Holy Saturday Morning Narthex Icon -- \$50  
Elevation of the Holy Cross Daffodils -- \$150 (any amount)  
Palms -- \$500 (any amount)

## Bookstore

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

With Great Lent, the most sacred time of our religious calendar, beginning in a couple of weeks, the Bookstore has the following new offerings to help us in our journey toward Easter:

"Tending the Garden of Our Hearts: •Daily Lenten Meditations for Families" - offers family devotions based on the scriptures for each day of Great Lent.

"Children's Orthodox Prayer Book" - contains children's first prayers and includes several short and simple explanations on prayer and spiritual life.

"When You Pray: A Practical Guide to an Orthodox Life of Prayer" – gives practical advice on developing an active prayer life. (Anyone who prays - really prays - may have given up in discouragement. It's not easy. The purpose of this book is to ease the burden by drawing on the advice and experience of those who pray.)

"Meditations for Holy Week: •Dying and Rising with Christ" - shows how to make your Lenten fast acceptable. This gem of a book will inspire you for the fast and encourage you on your Lenten journey.

Also, please visit the Bookstore to view the unique prayer bracelet we have for sale. This bracelet is unique in that the beads come from a plant known as "The Tears of the Virgin Mary". It is said that this plant sprouted miraculously under the Cross of Jesus during the hour of His crucifixion from the compassionate tears of the Virgin Mary. The bracelet is imported from Serbia. Because the beads are made from the seeds of the plant, there is quite a bit of beautiful variation in color.

We thank you for your support and wish you *Kalo Pascha*,

Elaine Demetroulakos  
Dotty Vlamis

THANK YOU TO THE  
FOLLOWING FOR DONATING  
THE COMMUNION WINE.

Ana Packard  
Desi and Peter Souhleris  
Peter and Voula Danas  
Anonymous

### **The Word** Volume 20, Issue 3

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Elizabeth Xaros Bigelow, Editor. [exbigelow@aol.com](mailto:exbigelow@aol.com).

# DAYS OF CREATION

Play this game to remember when God made each of his masterpieces.

DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5	DAY 6	DAY 7



### What you need:

- Paper
- Rulers
- Pencils
- Markers or crayons
- Dice
- Bibles (open to Genesis 1:1–2:3 for reference)

### What you do:

1. To make game boards, draw a grid with four rows and seven columns, totaling 28 squares.
2. Across the top row, write DAY 1 in the first square and continue through DAY 7.
3. Take turns rolling one die, or all players can roll at once. For the number rolled, draw something God created on that day (in the correct column).
4. When you fill an entire row, draw a smiley face in the DAY 7 square. The first player with two smileys wins.



#168223474



# Decode The days

At this time of year, God's creation "springs" to life.

*Directions: After reading Genesis 1:1–2:3, write the correct Creation day number under each picture. Then add up each day's total and write it on the correct blank below.*


Day 1 (light) \_\_\_\_ Day 2 (waters) \_\_\_\_ Day 3 (land and plants) \_\_\_\_ Day 4 (heavenly bodies) \_\_\_\_


Day 5 (birds and water animals) \_\_\_\_ Day 6 (land animals and people) \_\_\_\_ Day 7 (God rested) \_\_\_\_

Answers: Day 1 = 3, Day 2 = 3, Day 3 = 10, Day 4 = 6, Day 5 = 10, Day 6 = 15, Day 7 = 2

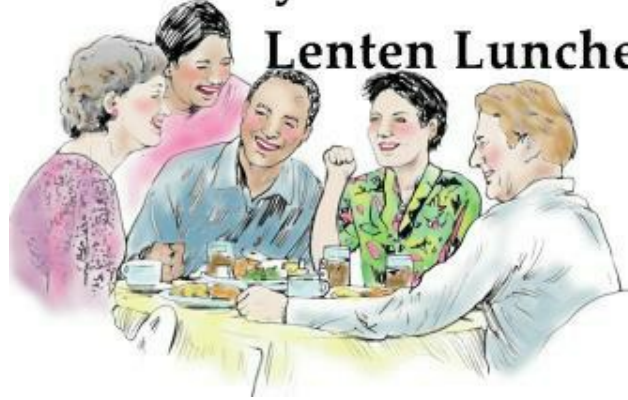


# March 2019

## SAINTS CONSTANTINE & HELEN GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday of Souls Orthros 9:00 a.m. Liturgy 9:30 a.m.  Family GLENDI 6:30 p.m.
3 <i>Meatfare Sunday</i> <b>Orthros</b> 9:00 a.m. <b>Liturgy</b> 10:00 a.m. Baptism (Diamantopoulos) 1:00 p.m.	4	5  Greek School 4:30 p.m.	6	7	8	9 2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday of Souls Orthros 9:00 a.m. Liturgy 9:30 a.m.  Baptism (Beers) 3:00 p.m.
10 <i>Cheesefare Sunday</i>  <b>Orthros</b> 9:00 a.m. <b>Liturgy</b> 10:00 a.m.  Baptism (Karafilidis) 2:00 p.m.	11   Great Lent begins	12  Greek School 4:30 p.m.	13  Morning Meditations Bible Study 10:00 a.m.  Pre-sanctified Liturgy 6:00 p.m.	14	15  1 <sup>st</sup> Salutations to the Theotokos 7:00 p.m.	16  3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday of Souls Orthros 9:00 a.m. Liturgy 9:30 a.m.  Baptism (Pescatore) 11:00 a.m.
17 <i>Sunday of Orthodoxy</i>  <b>Orthros</b> 9:00 a.m. <b>Liturgy</b> 10:00 a.m.  GOYA Mtg 6:00 p.m.	18	19  Greek School 4:30 p.m.  Parish Council Mtg 7:15 p.m.	20  Pre-sanctified Liturgy 6 p.m.	21  Philoptochos Mtg 7:00 p.m.	22  2 <sup>nd</sup> Salutations to the Theotokos 7:00 p.m.	23  Greek School Independence Day Program 5:00 p.m.
24  <b>Orthros</b> 9:00 a.m. <b>Liturgy</b> 10:00 a.m.  JOY Mtg 12:15 p.m.	25  Greek Independence Day  Annunciation Orthros 9:00 a.m. Liturgy 9:30 a.m.	26  Greek School 4:30 p.m.	27  Pre-sanctified Liturgy 6:00 p.m.  Men's Dinner 7:00 p.m.	28	29  3 <sup>rd</sup> Salutations to the Theotokos 7:00 p.m.	30
31 <i>New Families Sunday</i> <b>Orthros</b> 9:00 a.m. <b>Liturgy</b> 10:00 a.m.						

- **Family** -  
**Lenten Luncheon**



***Immediately Following Divine Liturgy***  
***Sunday, April 7, 2019***  
***Fish Dinner \$20/person***  
***Pizza Dinner \$10/person***

***Reserve Your Tickets Early – Last Year Was a Sell-Out!***

**Please purchase tickets at March coffee hours or contact the church office  
to make your reservation.**

**All proceeds benefit the Mortgage Elimination Fund**



**Saints Constantine & Helen**  
**Greek Orthodox Church**  
**71 Chandler Road**  
**Andover MA 01810**

**Periodical**