



THE WORD

Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church
Andover, MA **May 2018**

In Brief



Sts. Constantine & Helen
Church Nameday -

May 20, Vesper Service 7 pm
May 21, Orthros 9 am
Liturgy 10 am

IMPORTANT DATES

Morning Meditations
May 9: 10 a.m.

June 3- Senior Recognition
(high school and college
graduates)

June 10 - Sunday School
Graduation & Parish Picnic

Metropolis Summer Camp
See schedule on page 4



Get news of additional events and announcements via email. Go to the church website www.andoverorthodox.org and sign up to be on our LISTSERV.

“STAYING CONNECTED TO CHRIST”

Message from Fr. Christopher

We’ve seen all around us the fallen trees and branches from the terrible Spring storms we experienced this year. The images look strange, disfigured, and distorted. We see huge dead branches next to trees that are starting to beautifully blossom.

As I thought about that image, I reflected about the image of our life. When we’re not connected to Christ and our Faith which is the Tree/Vine, we are like those separated branches. We’ve lost our source. Life gets disfigured and distorted.

Maybe in the storms and struggles of life we have fallen away from the Tree. Maybe worldly pursuits or other influences have pulled us away and disconnected us. Jesus said, “I am the Vine, you are the branches” (John 15:5). In order to truly be living and sustained, we have to be like branches, connected to *Him*.

Do you feel that connection? Do you feel you are receiving your life from the Vine and being replenished and fulfilled? Or, in your life today, do you feel separated, broken, disconnected?

You see, we all want to be connected to something. *We need* to be connected to something. Is it CHRIST ?

Yet many today are making the wrong connections. They are unhealthily and overly connected to so many things *other than the Vine*: to watching professional sports, to an obsession with politics, to movies and entertainment, to social media. They’re yearning for a connection!

You know, it’s interesting what’s happening with Facebook this year. We are seeing a lot of the corruption of some of the founders and executives, some who have resigned (after making their multi-millions), yet who admitted they knew exactly what they were doing - to get people addicted with that social media dopamine fix of “likes” and approval. Yet they still did it. As did other platforms like Snap Chat, Instagram, and all the rest that provide instant social approval. They also want all our *personal information*. They will use it to compromise us and profit themselves. Beloved, we can’t trust the world. The world is not looking out for us!

You see without Christ in our lives, all of these modern connections are dead, distorted, like those dead branches on the ground.

Yet there is one place where you *can* trust all your personal information: with God. He wants all your information. Jesus wants to know *everything* about you, so that He can love you more, bless you more, comfort you more. And you don’t need His approval, you already have it. You are His precious child. Trust Him. Give Him your most personal information by praying to Him, believing in Him. Talk to Him, and He will show you the truth of life.

(continued on page 2)

PARISH DIRECTORY

Clergy

Fr. Christopher Makiej,
Parish Priest

Dn. Sal Fazio
Dn. Gary Kent
Parish Deacons

Parish Council

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

Voula Danas
Sam Diamantis
Bess Gorman
Dorothy Hatzikonstantis
John Karafilidis
Nicholas Mimos
David Murphy
Peter Souhleris
Anthony Warren
George Xifaras

Church Office

Karen Davies

Office Assistants

Dorothy Mastromonaco & Ann Parish

Philoptochos

Olga Pithis, President

Chanter

Telly Papanikolaou

Choir

Pres. Katerina Makiej, Director

Organist

David Harvey

Altar Boy Co-Captains

Stelios Koutsogiannopoulos & 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

Samuel Xifaras

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

Telly Papanikolaou

Young Professionals Ministry

Nicholas Mimos

Facilities

George Perakis

Archons

Arthur C. Anton

James Lolos

Telly Papanikolaou

The Word

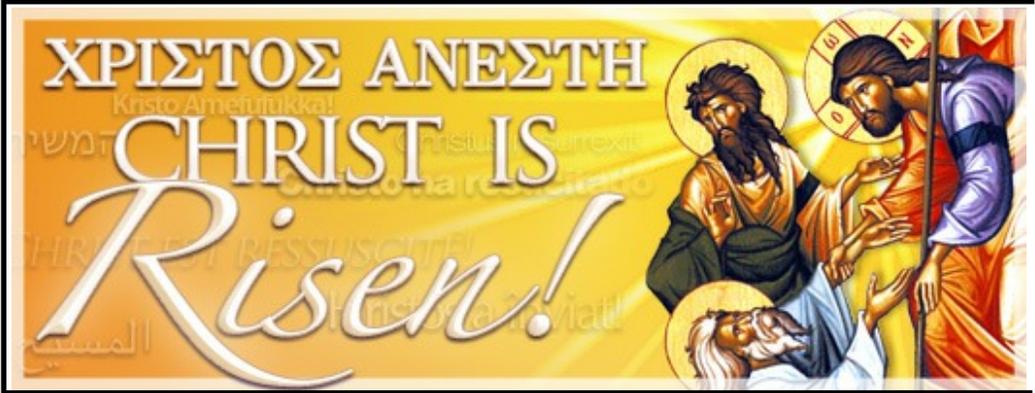
Elizabeth Xaros Bigelow, Editor

Staying Connected to Christ (continued from page 1)

And you know what else? He wants to give you all of *His* personal information. He wants you to know everything about *Him*. We will know Him more and more as we read the Bible, pray, and worship in Church.

It is *that* relationship that keeps us connected and truly alive. He is the Vine, we are the branches. Stay connected to Christ. Don't let anything separate you from Him.

Amen.



Parish Council Notes

Christos Anesti!

Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen! Christos Anesti! Alithos Anesti! These joyous words echoed in our beautiful candlelit sanctuary at the Service of Resurrection and the Anastasis early Easter Sunday morning. All during Holy Week, we relived the last few days of the life of Jesus through His triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, to His Passion and Death on Good Friday, to His miraculous Resurrection on Easter Sunday. We fasted, read our bibles, and attended church, all to prepare us for the most solemn and sacred moment in our entire liturgical year when lifted our candles to make the sign of the Cross and announced: Christ is Risen, Truly He is Risen!

I want to thank Father Chris for his spiritual guidance and direction all through our Great and Holy Lent. He was ably assisted by Deacon Sal and Deacon Gary, Chanter Telly Papanikolaou, the choir under the direction of Presvytera Katerina Makiej, and our organist David Harvey, as well as our altar boys and our Parish Council and usher teams. We are indeed fortunate to have many, many volunteers that worked all week to prepare the church with flowers along with Elaina Berry and Desi Souhleris as well as the Philoptochos and the Daughters of Penelope. For those who stayed for the Agape Meal after the *Anastasis*, they were treated with delicious food prepared by Brian and Andrea Lynch, Bob and Paula Goodwin, and their team of tireless cooks and servers. This year, Brian even made a very tasty fish chowder for us to enjoy. A heartfelt "Thank you" to everyone who assisted during Lent and Holy Week.

The month of May is a busy time for our parish. On May 22, we celebrate the Name Day of our church. As the school year comes to an end for high school seniors, we encourage our graduates to apply for our church scholarships to assist with their college costs. The Landscape Ministry will be calling for volunteers soon to help clean up the landscaping from winter damage and debris. Kindly lend an hour or two if you have the opportunity.

Finally, on behalf of the Parish Council, thank you and your families for making our parish such a warm and welcoming community of believers in Jesus Christ. May God be with you and yours,

Buzz Stapczynski
Parish Council President

Philoptochos

Dear Church Family,

We would like to extend our gratitude to everyone who donated money and time to beautify our church and honor Christ during Holy Week and on Easter Sunday. The church looked beautiful, and everyone enjoyed worshipping amidst the lovely floral arrangements.

At our most recent meeting, we donated funds to Holy Cross College, the Sisterhood of St. Basil's Academy, and the International Orthodox Christian Charities. Our next meeting will be on May 17. We plan to have a social meeting at a restaurant and conduct our end of the year business at that time. We will be update you through our email list and the weekly list serve regarding the time and location. If you are not a member yet, but would like to come to a meeting to see what it is like, we would be delighted for you to join us.

With love in Christ
Georgiana (Gina) LaFortune
Corresponding Secretary



Bookstore

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

We could go on and on talking about the weather we have experienced so far this year, but we are now entering May, the month of daffodils, tulips, lilacs, and high spirits for a wonderful summer. The month of May also features the commemoration of the works of Saints Constantine and Helen. Our church proudly bears their name and celebrates their holy commitment to the Orthodox faith. We plan to have their icon available in the bookstore very soon. We also anticipate receiving a book for ages 10-15 that shows how the Roman Empire became Christian through the efforts of Saint Constantine and his mother, Saint Helen.

With the coming of summer, we are also preparing for graduations, Mother's Day, and many other important events. An appropriate gift for a faithful parishioner of any age is a meaningful and helpful book on our Orthodox faith. We have tried to include something for everyone in the bookstore. Hopefully, we will be able to help in your selection.

We would like to thank all for helping to make the bookstore so all-encompassing. Please keep your ideas and suggestions coming so that we can continue to improve our service to our wonderful community.

Here's to a wonderful Spring (at last) and to a fun-filled May.

Thank you!

Elaine Demetroulakos
Dotty Vlamis

Attention High School Seniors

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS -- The church scholarship application is now available from the church office. Please call or email for the application. Submission deadline for completed application is May 13, 2018.

Parents of Graduating High School and College Seniors -- If your son or daughter is graduating high school or college this year, please let the office know so that your student can be recognized on Senior Recognition Day, June 3rd.



Oratorical Festival



COMMUNION WINE Donors:

Ana Packard

Anastasios and Katerina Haraktsis

Thank You

The Word

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Greek Independence Day



Saturday of Lazarus Retreat

Boston Metropolis Summer Camp 2018

Youth Summer Camp is for persons ages 8 - 18 and offers a week of fun and fellowship connecting youth from throughout the Metropolis to each other and their faith. Registration has begun. For more information, go to www.boston.goarch.org.

Session 1: July 9 - July 15, *Youth Session: Ages 8 - 18

Session 2: July 16 - July 22, *Youth Session: Ages 8 - 18***

Session 3: July 23 - July 29, *Youth Session: Ages 8 - 18

Session 4: July 30 - August 5 *Youth Session: Ages 8 - 18

***Olympiacos FC Soccer Camp will be held during Session 2





An interview with Fr. Christopher Makiej

(Thirteenth and final in a series of 100th Anniversary parishioner interviews conducted by Bessie Liponis.)

BL: You are an ardent believer in Jesus Christ and promote His Goodness to all. Have you had any personal experiences over the years that you could share with us that had the greatest impact on you with regard to your beliefs?

Fr. Chris: The word “experiences” is a good one because I believe they are needed and can powerfully impact our lives. The experience the Disciples had with Jesus changed them forever. For all of us, worshiping in Liturgy, reading the Bible, praying, are all life-altering experiences if we allow them to be. For me the experience of growing up in the Church and serving as an altar boy, chanting, and reading the epistles, had a profound impact. From there it all began. Attending seminary was amazing for me. All the bible, theology and spirituality courses were life- changing. Then there was the experience of the month I spent on Mount Athos at the monastery of Simona Petra the summer before I was ordained. It was there I learned the Jesus Prayer, attended services round the clock at this monastery high on a mountain overlooking the Aegean Sea, and met some truly spiritual and holy people.

BL: A very popular spiritual “event” that occurs quite frequently is the 40-day blessing of all of our newborns. The parishioners love to see these beautiful cherubs with their proud parents approach the iconostasis for this special introduction to the Church. Can you give us an idea of how this all started, how many babies have experienced this uplifting experience in our own church, and is it common to all Greek Orthodox churches?

Fr. Chris: The 40 day blessing is a Jewish custom. Jesus himself was brought to the temple when he was 40 days old to be blessed, and the Orthodox Church has followed this tradition ever since. I have blessed hundreds of children over the years, and it’s always a great joy for me.

BL: Here’s a “Big Picture” question for you, Fr. Chris. What do you see as the biggest challenge for Greek Orthodoxy in the future?

Fr. Chris: I think Christianity in general has big challenges going forward, whether it’s Orthodox, Catholic, or Protestant. Secularism, modernism, and atheism seem to be taking over. But I’m an optimist, and I believe there is a great hope and positive future for the Orthodox Church, because life without God and Faith will always leave us empty and hopeless. So the Church has great opportunity. We just have to do a better job at getting the message out there and meeting people where they’re at and keeping the message relevant, compelling, and simple. But in some circles of Orthodoxy today we are not as Christ-centered as we should be. There’s too much emphasis on heavy rules and regulations, confusing rituals without explanation, and theological jargon that confuses people and does not speak to their everyday concerns. We forget that Jesus spoke simply and related to the core yearning in people’s hearts. We would do well to follow His example - while never compromising the fullness of our Orthodox Faith.

BL: Thanks to you, Fr. Chris, our church has grown by leaps and bounds during your tenure. I know that eliminating the mortgage is of great interest to you. How about after that? What do you envision to be the next big thing we will work toward?

Fr. Chris: Well, we have a great Long Range Planning Committee, and we’re always putting forth new ideas and initiatives, with the major ones always to be approved by the Parish Council and the General Assembly. I think some things that are important are, perhaps, more beautification inside the church and narthex and some design and aesthetic work in our conference room, atrium, and hall. More pastoral and youth staff will be needed in the future. Expanding current ministries and creating new ones, and outreach and evangelism are things that all parishes should be engaged in. So I feel the “next big thing” is always limitless. I like what Bishop Kallistos Ware once wrote: “God will always have something new to teach us, and we will always have something new to learn from God.” And that will continue from this life and into eternity.

BL: You place great emphasis on the youth of our church. They are special to you. You are passionate about this subject. While the answer to “why” may be evident, please use this as a platform to complete our series for our Centennial Year, 2017.

Fr. Chris: Someone once said that the Church is always just one generation away from extinction. If we do not pass the torch of our Faith on to our children and grandchildren, then what will we have? So we must keep our youth engaged and involved in the life of the Church and most importantly help them to understand *why* it’s so important: because the Church proclaims the life-saving message of Jesus Christ and reveals the ultimate purpose and meaning of life! Also, as you know, our parish has a very active Goya, Joy, Sunday School, Greek School, Vacation Church School, Altar boys, basketball teams, oratorical festivals, project Mexico, missionary work ministries. And I feel so grateful that our parish leads the Metropolis in sending kids to Summer Youth camp. Certainly all Christian denominations can do a better job keeping our college age and young professionals more involved and connected. And parents have a huge role in this all of the above. When there is a loving home and marriage with committed and faithful parents, young people will not stray far from their faith.

BL: So many thanks to you, Fr. Chris, for all that you do in the name of Jesus, your best bud. I hope that’s not irreverent! I like to think of Him that way. It brings Him even closer.

Thanks, also, to all the readers of these interviews. I have had some positive feedback which caresses my heart. I have so enjoyed interacting with all these prominent people!

Bess Liponis

HEART LIGHT

This Mother's Day, make a bright gift for someone special in your life.



What you need:

- Scissors
- Cardstock
- Tape
- Mason jar
- Primer paint
- Acrylic paint (3 colors)
- Paintbrushes
- Battery-operated tea light
- Paper and pen
- Hole punch
- Twine

What you do:

1. Cut out two cardstock hearts and tape them to the jar sides, near the bottom.
2. Paint the entire jar with primer paint. Let dry.
3. Paint splotches of acrylic paint over the primer. Let dry. Remove the heart shapes.
4. Place the tea light in the jar.
5. Write a note that says, "Mom, you're the light of my life!" Punch a hole in one corner of the note, thread twine through the hole and tie the note around the jar's neck.



WORTHY OF RESPECT

On Mother's Day, we celebrate our moms and everything they do for us. How does God tell us to treat our moms?



Directions: Using the key below, fill in the blanks to complete Deuteronomy 5:16, NIV.

A	C	D	M*	N*	O*
E	F	G	P*	R*	S*
H	I	L	T*	U*	Y*

" _____ your _____
 and your _____ , _____
 the _____ your _____ has
 _____ ."
 _____ 5:16, NIV

Answer: "Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you." Deuteronomy 5:16, NIV



May 2018

SAINTS CONSTANTINE & HELEN GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Greek School 4:30 p.m.	2 Men's Dinner 7:00 p.m. Daughters of Penelope Meeting 7:00 p.m.	3	4	5 Baptism (Bancroft) 11:00 a.m.
6 Orthros 9:00 a.m. Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Baptism (Koutouvides) 1p.m.	7	8 Greek School 4:30 p.m.	9 Morning Meditations 10:00 a.m.	10	11	12 Wedding (Ziavras) 4:30 p.m. GOYA Dance 7:00 p.m.
13 Orthros 9:00 a.m. Liturgy 10:00 a.m. GOYA 6:00 p.m. <i>Happy Mother's Day</i>	14	15 Greek School 4:30 p.m. Parish Council Meeting 7:15 p.m.	16	17 ASCENSION 9:00 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Liturgy Philoptochos Dinner Meeting 6:30 p.m.	18	19
20 Orthros 9:00 a.m. Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Baptism (Walfield) 2:00 p.m. JOY Meeting 12:15 p.m. Church Name Day Vespers 7:00 p.m.	21 Church Name Day 9:00 a.m. Orthros 9:30 Liturgy	22 Greek School 4:30 p.m.	23	24	25	26 Saturday of Souls 9:00 a.m. Orthros 9:30 Liturgy Baptism (Tagliaferro) 11:00 a.m.
27 Orthros 9:00 a.m. Liturgy 10:00 a.m. HOLY PENTECOST No Sunday School	28 Memorial Day	29 Greek School 4:30 p.m.	30	31		

SIX WEEK BEGINNER BALLROOM SESSION

Learn to Ballroom Dance...even if you think you have two left feet!

Six Week Session

Foxtrot, Waltz, Swing & Rumba

Tuesday Evening January 24, 31, February 7, 14, 28 & March 7th (No Class on February 21)

7:00-8:30pm

\$99.00 per person

(Includes Six Week Session & One Pass to "Saturday Night" Ballroom Dance at
DNE School of Dance)

Great Holiday Gift Idea!

Couples, Singles, Teens, Groups of Friends

All Are Welcome!

Instructors: Lynn Makiej & Tom Webster

Where: Sts. Constantine & Helen Church Hall

Call TODAY to REGISTER! 978-251-1700

Checks payable to Sts. Constantine & Helen Church, MC/VISA

(Bring your check on the first night of class...January 24th)

ALL proceeds go towards the Sts. Constantine & Helen Mortgage Elimination

www.information@dancenewengland.com

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