



METROPOLIS
OF BOSTON

REJOICE!

The Monthly Publication of the

ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

93 Locust St. Dover, NH 03820 · Tel: (603) 742-7667

Web: www.annunciation.nh.goarch.org E-mail for church office: annunciationdover@gmail.com

Beloved in Christ,

Christ is Risen! What a joy it is to utter these most powerful and meaningful words ever uttered in the course of human history. The resurrection of Christ is the most radical, unique, and life-transforming event in the history of mankind. The reality of life after death is the direct consequence of Christ's resurrection. For the followers of Christ, fear of what lies beyond the grave is transformed into joy, knowing that death has been destroyed and that all can live eternally in the presence of Christ. The Resurrection also grants courage to Christians against the evil ways of the world, because Christ was victorious over the Devil. No wonder the Church celebrates this brightest of feasts and "festival of festivals" with such splendor for thirty-nine days straight, leading us to the Ascension of our Lord on the fortieth day after Pascha. During this 40-day period, the Resurrection should be continually celebrated by each and every one of us – in our hearts and in our homes. Every fear that we have as human beings can be vanquished through belief in the Resurrection, for through it, hope has been granted to mankind.

When we consider the secular world, we really don't see a world of hope. It doesn't seem like a world that has been transformed by the Resurrection of Christ, for evil, fear, and hopelessness abound everywhere we turn. What is equally sad is that many who claim to be believers in Christ, have fallen far away from the joyful message of the Resurrection.

In some Christians circles, it seems that the true message of Pascha

has been minimalized or completely lost. Certain Christian "theologians" have actually questioned the resurrection of Christ. For many, Easter is merely a celebration focused on children, with bunnies, candy, and egg hunts taking center stage. It is seen as a reason for family and friends to gather together, but with no clear focus or purpose. But where are the Cross and the Tomb in this type of celebration? Where are the tears shed along with the Theotokos and the others who stood by the Cross, and were present at the burial? Where, also, is the exuberance and ecstatic joy felt by the myrrh-bearing women who found the tomb empty?

This type of celebration of Pascha can be encountered in a profound way in the Holy Orthodox Church. We are the Church that focuses over one-third of the liturgical year on the preparation for, and celebration of the Lord's Resurrection. We are the Church that dedicates every Sunday of the year to the Resurrection. In the theological understanding of the Orthodox Church, each year we *share* in the Lord's passion and are buried with Him on Holy Friday, in order to be raised with Him in His glorious resurrection, thus renewing ourselves spiritually until the following year.

Everything regarding Orthodox Pascha is about *renewal*. First of all, Pascha falls in spring when all of creation is renewing itself. The week following the Sunday of Pascha is known as *Renewal* or *Bright Week*, because everything around us takes on new meaning and

life in the Resurrection. Each day of Renewal Week is liturgically considered a continuation of the Sunday of Pascha – the mystical *eighth* day – a unique day unlike any other in history. How could a focused Orthodox Christian who experiences the annual celebration of Pascha, *not* be a renewed person full of hope and resurrectional joy? When we are spiritually renewed through Pascha each year, we are then capable of facing a world that is without hope and full of evil.

The deep faith we have in the Resurrection also keeps us focused on the ultimate goal of life – the goal of *eternal life*. If this goal is not clearly a part of our everyday lives, then we are living a dream, and unfortunately, the "dreamers" are easy targets for the Devil. The formula is simple – if we are in love with *this* life and what it offers us, then we are not properly preparing for the next life. If we view this life as *temporary* and continuously seek to do God's will and to grow spiritually, then we are on the right path toward salvation. The great feast of Pascha offers us the faith and hope we need to prepare us for the next life without fear. Let the joyous message of Pascha enter your heart and soul again this year, so that you may reap all the spiritual benefits of this holiest of feasts!

In the Risen Christ,

+Fr. Anthony



Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church

Proistamenos: Rev. Fr. Anthony Evangelatos

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	Peter Lampesis	ptlamp3@gmail.com
Bookstore	Vula Lalas	Vulaz55@gmail.com
Cemetery	(open)	
Chanter	(open)	
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	Robert Mitropoulos	
Flowers	Deborah Sousane	(603) 742-2691
GOYA	Kulin Krishnan	kulin.krishnan@unh.edu
	Peter Lampesis	ptlamp3@gmail.com
	Lea Macheras	lmacheras@yahoo.com
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		Lamprosfamily@comcast.net
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FROM FR. ANTHONY

Reflections on the Ascension

The following is taken from, *The Teachings of the Holy Orthodox Church*, by Rev. Michael Azkoul; Dormition Skete, 1986

With the Ascension of the Lord into the heavens and His session “at the right hand of God” (Mark 16:20), His earthly ministry came to an end. The pattern of salvation laid down by Christ for His “brethren” includes their ascension to the Father and “sitting down” in Christ at the “the right hand of God.” Christ now makes constant intercession for His Own, wrote St. Gregory the Great in his first ‘Dialogue.’

The Ascension of the resurrected and deified Christ into heaven was visible to the naked eye, even “the cloud which received Him out of their sight” (Acts. 1:9). He ascended into the East, ‘The Doctrine of the Apostles’ (II, 57:5) informs us, a fact which also justifies, in part, the worship of the Church towards the East. When He returns to judge the world, the angels announced to His Apostles and disciples on the Mount of Olives, He “shall come in like manner as you have seen Him go into heaven” (Acts.1:11)...

Of His Ascension, we learn something very interesting. When He reached the third heaven, the angels there did not know Him. St. Irenaeos says that they were not all aware of God’s plan for the salvation of the human race.

“But because the Word descended to His creatures invisibly, He was not known to them; but the Word had become incarnate. He was therefore visible in His Ascension; and when the principalities saw Him, the angels beneath called to those above, ‘Lift up your gates, and be lifted up, O you eternal gates, that the King of glory may enter in.’ And when these wondered and said, ‘Who is this King of glory?’ those who had already seen Him testified a second time, ‘The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory.’” ...

As the Lord approaches His Father next to Whom He will sit, now as eternal God-Man, once more He acts with the Spirit Who proceeds from the Father, sending Him as Comforter to His People according to His promise (John 15:26). “The Spirit of Truth” Himself commands all the heavenly host to welcome the victorious Christ...

FROM FR. ANTHONY

In Appreciation

I would like to take this opportunity to thank so many of our parishioners, for their various contributions during Great Lent, Holy Week, and Pascha. First, we would like to acknowledge the various church ministries and individuals who hosted the six Lenten suppers after each Wednesday Presanctified Liturgy. Many thanks to the Alkistis ladies and their volunteer kitchen crew, for the lovely Annunciation Vespers reception. We are also very grateful to all the donors for the various needs of the season, as well as throughout the year (you will see the acknowledgements further in the bulletin). We also extend our gratitude to all those involved with the church cleaning party, the palm cross weaving session, the decorating and beautification of the church for Palm Sunday, Holy Friday, and on Holy Saturday, as well as to Deborah Sousane for the beautiful job on so many of the icons needed during this season. Of course, let us not forget the volunteers both reading and intoning during services, especially when there was no chanter available. May you all be blessed through the light of our Resurrected Lord!

Spiritual Wisdom

After fulfilling a commandment expect to be tempted, for love of Christ is tested by adversity. (St. Mark the Ascetic)

A thorn bush can never produce a fig. Just so, your heart can never be free from oppressive thoughts, words, and actions until it has purified itself internally. Be eager to walk this path. Watch your heart always. Constantly say the prayer 'Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me.' Be humble. Set your soul in quietness. (St. Hesychius the Priest)

Our Lord told us to pray in secret – that means in your heart – and he instructed us to 'shut the door.' What is this door he says we must shut, if not the mouth? For we are the temple in which Christ dwells, for as the Apostle said: 'You are the temple of the Lord.' And the Lord enters into your inner self, into this house, to cleanse it from everything that is unclean, but only while the door – that is, your mouth – is closed shut. (St. Aphraates the Persian)

A young calf starts to wander after freshly grazing and eventually finds itself stranded among frightful chasms. So it is with the soul, for thoughts gradually lead it astray (St. Mark the Ascetic.)

Prayer in church is important. The best feelings and thoughts come in church, and, yes, the enemy attacks more violently in church; however, with the sign of the Cross and the Jesus prayer, you drive him away. (St. Barsanuphius of Optina)

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Please pray for our brothers and sisters:
Elizabeth, Deborah, Jim, Maryanne, Erin, Eleni

In keeping with a common Church tradition, we will keep names on the parish prayer list for **40 days**. If you wish to offer names for prayer, please send those via e-mail to the church office at:

annunciationdover@gmail.com,
or call the office at 742-7667.

Please give first names only, and preferably full names, not nicknames.

Donations

- Table-top lectern for multiple purposes – George and Althea Coussoule
- New, smaller size stand for wooden Cross in altar (including all materials and labor) – Jeff and Evelyn Savage
- Cleaning supplies for church cleaning day, 4/1 – Nick and Shana Mitropoulos
- New tablecloths and clear plastic covers for all tables in hall - Evangelatos family

Memorial Weekend Cemetery Visit

Fr. Anthony will be chanting a trisagion at our cemetery on **Sunday, 5/28, after the coffee hour at 1 pm**. You may provide a list of your loved ones' names who are buried there, to be handed to him when he arrives at the cemetery. Forms will be available at the pangari for this purpose.

CEMETERY

As we are approaching Memorial Day we would like to kindly remind everyone of our obligation to maintain the grounds at the Annunciation Cemetery, and from time to time do whatever improvements are needed. Your financial help is needed and will be much appreciated.

Below is the Cemetery Donation Form that can be filled out and mailed to the church. Checks should be made payable to: ***Annunciation Church – Cemetery Fund***.

Thanking you in advance for your kind consideration and financial support of the cemetery.

MEMORIAL DAY OFFERING for the ANNUNCIATION CEMETERY

Enclosed is the sum of \$_____ for my annual voluntary Memorial Day Offering to the Cemetery Fund.
Checks should be made payable to: Annunciation Church – Cemetery Fund.
Please mail to: Annunciation GOC, 93 Locust St, Dover, NH 03820

Name: _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

DONATIONS FOR GREAT LENT, HOLY WEEK & THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Items for Lent & Holy Week

Decoration of icon for the Salutations (4 Fridays) – **Melqui Pires**
Decoration of icon of the Annunciation – **Pam Byers**
Floral arrangement for iconostasis icon of the Annunciation – **Poole Family**
Flowers for the Veneration of the Holy Cross – **Richard Clairmont**
Palm strips for Palm Sunday crosses – **Victor Elios**
Decorative palm branches for Royal Gate – **Peter and Rea Lampesis**
Bay laurel for Palm Sunday & Holy Saturday – **Panagiotis and Eleni Xydias**
Decoration of icon of the Bridegroom (Nymphios) – **Evangelatos Family**
Decoration of Icon of the Mystical Supper – **Richard Clairmont**
Wreath for Cross – **anonymous**
Beeswax lambades for Cross, 12 Gospels, & Epitaphios – **Claire Delintsiotis**
Decoration of banner of the Resurrection – **Rossie McBride -O’Hearne**
Decoration of icon of the Resurrection – **Zoe Polychronopoulos, in memory of George and Sylvia Polychronopoulos**
Lilies for Holy Pascha - **Hope Frudakis, Michael Frudakis, Lily Frangos–Lirrette, John and Anita Demopoulos, Lea Macheras, Victor Elios, Richard Clairmont in memory of Dr John Rouman.**

The following items are needed throughout the year:

Communion wine – **Konstantinos & Fotini Gavrielidis**
Beeswax candles for altar table & Soleas candle stands – **Evangelatos Family – 40 lbs.**
Incense – **Torry Attallah**
Charcoal – **Peter Strangas, Torry Attallah**
1 box candle fuel cartridges – **\$150 (no donor)**

Flowers for the Epitaphios

Vasilike Demopoulos in memory of Dr James Demopoulos
Richard Clairmont in memory of Dr John Rouman
Annette Roylos
George Lazarus
Peter Strangas in memory of Mary Strangas
Paul Koutroubas
James and Rosanne O’Hearne
John Mitchell in memory of Ora and John D. Mitchell
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Lea Macheras
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Elisabeth Zisis
Josh and Jessica Quigley
Torry Attallah
Peter Espiefs



Please forgive any omissions that may have occurred. We attempted to be as accurate as possible according to our office records.

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

ALKISTIS NEWS



*We were very fortunate to have received generous donations during the Vespers Reception. Thanks go to **Den- nis and Betsy Kostis, Rosie O’Hearne, plus several anonymous donations.** These were much appreciated in light of no fundraising in the last two years.*

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Parishioners,

Christos Anesti!

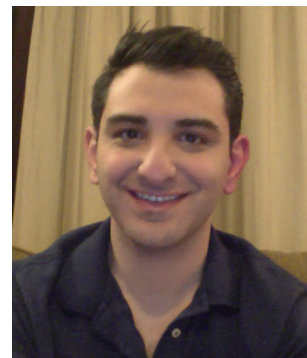
Before we dive into my monthly message, I would like to take this chance to thank everyone who contributed their time and effort during Great Lent, Holy Week, and Pascha. Please know you have my gratitude.

As we move into May, there are a couple of upcoming parish events I’d like to highlight; the first being our **Spring General Assembly** to be held on this Sunday, April 30th. Join us later in the month, on Sunday, May 21 for **Church School Graduation**, where we will honor our graduates and name the recipients of this year’s scholarships.

Finally, I’d like to provide an update on the work being done to restore the Father Athans Hall from the water damage it suffered earlier in the year. We spent much of April navigating the insurance claim process. This process took more time than expected, perhaps setting us back a couple of weeks, but in the end proved worthwhile. Our claim has since been approved in its entirety, and the final phase of repair work is on track to begin next week. Please note, coffee hours on Sundays after liturgy should remain unaffected.

As always, feel free to contact myself or any Parish Council member if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions about the church. We value your input.

Sincerely,
Michael Frudakis
Parish Council President



PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

Church School

Xristos Anesti! Christ is Risen!

As we wrap up the end of another Church School year, I want to thank everyone for their support and patience as I have worked to step into the role as Church School teacher, and more recently, as Church School Director. It has been quite the journey to this point, one that I am humbled to be on with you all.

St Theophan the Recluse tells us, “Of all holy works, the education of children is the most holy.” As a parent I can say that I agree to this wholeheartedly and endeavor to make every Sunday a rich learning experience for the children. Yet, I would be remiss if I tried to take the credit for the success of the School this year! I want to say a big “THANK YOU” to everyone who has assisted me:

Ms. Lea, Ms. Claire, and Ms. Nancy were instrumental in assisting within the classroom, substituting for me on multiple occasions while I was away; I truly cannot thank you enough for all that you have done. I am also very grateful to Ms. Shana and Ms. Pam for allowing me to lean on their collective many years as Church School teachers and Directors before me. The encouragement and know-how that each one of you has brought with you, are the threads that tie us together and keep our School going. May the Lord always bless the works of your hands!

It has been a hard year working to fill the classrooms with students again after the last few years of COVID shutdowns have scattered us. Add in the flooding of the downstairs classrooms over the winter, and it has been quite the challenge thrown our way! Nevertheless, we shall continue to work together to rebuild our Church School, to bring the students of every age back, and to once again fill our classrooms with laughter, joy, and learning. St. John Chrysostom says, “The primary goal in the education of children is to teach, and to give the example of a virtuous life.” Where better to begin that journey than at the heart of it, every Sunday in our beloved Church.

In Christ’s service,
Jess Quigley

**Last Day of Church School
Sunday, May 21, 2023**

PHOTOS FROM HOLY FRIDAY SERVICES



PALM CROSS WEAVING



May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>Please note that all Orthros services and Divine Liturgies, both on Sundays & weekdays, are always at 8:45 am & 10 am, respectively.</i></p>	1	2	3	4	5	6 Great Vespers 6 pm
7 Sunday of the Paralytic <i>Orthros & Liturgy</i>	8	9	10 Mid-Pentecost <i>Orthros only at 10 am</i> Parish Council 6 pm	11	12	13 Great Vespers 6 pm
14 Sunday of the Samaritan Woman <i>Orthros & Liturgy</i> Mother's Day	15	16	17	18	19	20 Great Vespers 6 pm
21 Sunday of the Blind Man <i>Orthros & Liturgy</i> Last Day of Church School	22	23	24 Leave-taking of Pascha & Vespers of the Ascension 7 pm	25 Holy Ascension of Our Lord <i>Orthros & Liturgy</i>	26	27 Great Vespers 6 pm
28 Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council <i>Orthros & Liturgy</i> Trisagion at Cemetery 1 pm	29 Memorial Day	30	31			

2023 PARISH STEWARDS - AS OF APRIL 2023

THESE FAMILIES HAVE RETURNED THEIR NEW STEWARDSHIP FORMS
PLEASE DO NOT FORGET TO SUBMIT YOUR NEW 2023 STEWARDSHIP FORM

Evangelatos, Rev. Anthony &
Presvytera Themmi
Atkinson, Heidi & Shawn
Boudreau, Elene & David
Bonias, Thomas & Georgia
Byers, Pamela & Bill
Charos, Evangelos & Maryann
Charos, Alexandra
Chrysaftidis, Constantine
Clairmont, Richard
Danie, Kyle & Kiki
Delintsiotis, Anthi
Delintsiotis, Claire
Delintsiotis, Demetrios
Demopoulos, Nicholaos
Demopoulos, Vasilike (Zeff)
Elios, Christina
Faskianos, Maria
Frangos, James & Peggy
Frangos-Lirette, Lilly
Fresh, Hayden
Frudakis, Hope
Frudakis, Michael
Gemmas, Mark & Lorie
Gemmas, Nicholaos & Margaret
Gurney, Sarah & Charlie
Hannan, Robert and Betty
Kageleiry, Harry & Barbara
Kageleiry, Gregorios
Karabelas, Arthur & Donna
Karoutas, Paul
Koromilas, Johnnie
Kostis, Dennis & Betsy
Kostis, John & Stacey
Kottaridis, Kathy
Koutroubas, Paul
Labanaris, Nicholas & Fotine
Lalas, Kimon & Vula

Lalas, John
Lampesis, Peter & Rea
Lampros, Sharon & John
Lark, Margaret
Lazarus, George & Sandy
Lewis, Alexandra
Maher, Georgeanna Roberts
Martin, Amy
Maskwa, Paul & Paula
Maskwa, Litsa & Eric
Melitus, James & Kathleen
Mitropoulos, Nick & Shana
Mitropoulos, Robert & Ryan Eagle
Morris-Howard, Bea & Rob
Motsis, Nicholaos
Murphy, Ed & Ahn
Mutevelis, Nicki
Nelson, Mark & Melanie
O'Hearne, James & Rosanne
Oschman, Nora
Panasis, Helen
Passas, Constance
Pires, Melquisedeque
Polychronopoulos, Zoe
Poole, Emily
Poole, Alice & Stephen
Quigley, Jessica & Josh
Rallis, Katerina
Rouman, James
Savage, Jeff & Evelyn
Scontras, Yota
Servetas, Charlotte
Sousane, Deborah & James
St. Peter, Michael & Demetra
Stamelos, Paraskevi
Strangas, James
Strangas, William
Strangas, Peter

Schumaker, Robin
Thomas, George & Denise
Trudeau, Nancy
Tsiros, Cathy & William
Tsopas, Nickolas
Tsougranis, Ted and Irene
Tsouramanis, Katina
Venetos, James & Nanine
Vomvoris, Bill and Cynthia
Xydias, Bill
Xydias, Panagiotis & Eleni

**If you do not see your name,
perhaps you have not filled out
your 2023 Stewardship form!**

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Kostas & Nick Katralis

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