

Saint Gregory Greek Orthodox Church

# The Mustard Seed

“... if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.” --Matt. 17:20



## Fr. Alex's Reflection: "Greatest Gift"

Beloved Parishioners and Friends:

At the writing of this newsletter, on a windy, chilly late October afternoon, I'm in disbelief that we are approaching November—the brilliant oranges, reds, yellows and purples of fall foliage will soon give way to the steel grey of winter.

Yet, the late autumn is also a quite "brilliant" time of year. Thanksgiving approaches: a time of gratitude, a time to recognize God's many gifts and a time to consider the needs of others above our own. If we make room for God in our hearts, this will be a time for brilliant spiritual growth.

Of course, we then move toward the season of the Nativity. Guided by the Nativity fast (begins Nov. 15), we realize this season is not all about spending and fretting about gifts. We understand that the greatest gift is Christ—and that all gift-giving must be seen in this light to be seen clearly. We approach the Holy Child like the Magi, worshipping toward him in humility, awe, true gratitude and, especially, love.

As we move toward these powerful times I look forward to walking alongside you in immense joy and hope,

*Fr. Alex*



## Liturgical/Sacraments

### Sunday Services

**Orthros, 8:30 am; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 am**

Nov. 6: 7th Sunday of Luke

13: 8th Sunday of Luke

20: 9th Sunday of Luke

27: 13th Sunday of Luke

Dec. 4: 10th Sunday of Luke

11: 11th Sunday of Luke

18: Sunday before the Nativity

25: The Nativity of the Lord

### Weekday Services

**Orthros, 8:30 am; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 am**

Dec. 6: Saint Nicholas, **Orthros/Liturgy**

Dec. 24: Eve of the Nativity, **Vespertal Liturgy (w/ Holy Communion), 5 pm**

### Myrrhbearers Ministry Opportunities

Girls and young women (6 - 18) are invited to join this faithful ministry group. Members hold Antidoro, read the Epistle and more. Contact Fr. Alex to learn more.

### Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, Nov. 20, 3 pm

The Attleboro Area Interfaith Council will sponsor this ecumenical service at Second Congregational Church, Attleboro. Details to follow, and we are all invited!



## Youth Ministries: Sunday School, JOY, GOYA & More

For details on Sunday School events, contact **Dionne Katinas** (dionnekatinas@comcast.net) and **Maureen Dimitriou** (dimitriou5@live.com). Contact Steve Christo (smchristo@comcast.net) for GOYA updates and Fr. Alex for all other youth events. Please save these dates and plan to join us. Look for further details in our weekly communications, and contact our youth leaders with any questions.

- ♦ **November 6 and December 4:** Sunday School students will sit together with their teachers for an up close and personal view of the Divine Liturgy.
- ♦ **November 6, 13, 20 & 27:** GOYAns will staff the "Giving Tree" (6th, 13th & 20th) and help with organizing/packaging gifts (27th).
- ♦ **November 13:** Sunday School "littles" (PreK, K, 1st grade) will have an opportunity to sit and talk to Fr. Alex as he visits their classroom. This is a great chance for them to meet Fr. Alex in person!
- ♦ **November 13 & 20:** GOYAns grocery shop (13th) and assist with organizing food (20th) for the Middlesex Sheriff's Association Thanksgiving Dinner Drive.
- ♦ **November 20:** Sunday School Open House. Parents can visit their child's classroom.
- ♦ **December 4:** GOYA Pizza Party (6 pm) and concert (7:30 pm) at Wheaton College.
- ♦ **December 18:** Annual Christmas Pageant, to be held following Divine Liturgy.

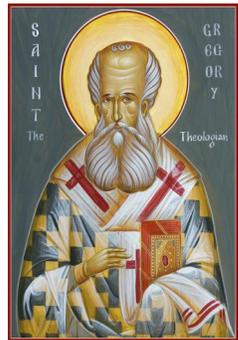


Nativity Pageant, Dec. 18

## Stewardship: Update & Dec. 11 Stew. Sunday

### How are we doing?

Thanks to your generosity, St. Gregory's parish has now exceeded its Stewardship Commitment goal of \$210,000 for 2022. We are up to 118 Steward Families who have committed over \$214,000. This exceeds our 2021 commitments, and we still have 2 months left in the year.



However, we do still expect a significant gap between our income and expenses for 2022 and ask you to continue to be as generous as possible.

### What can I do right now to further our Stewardship Ministry?

We also continue to need Stewardship of Time and Talent in the fulfillment and enablement of our many ministries. Specifically, we need individuals and families who can help with our audit and elections committees, antidoron baking and serving, Epistle reading, Fellowship Hour organization, campus maintenance management, cleaning and light handy-work, fundraising, singing leaders, driving, service projects, Food and Friends, Philoptochos, book store, and many others.

If you are inspired to help with any of these, please see Fr. Alex, Karen Guinan, or Phil LaFond. Also, save the date of Dec. 11 for Stewardship Sunday. Details are forthcoming and materials will soon be available.

*"And through us your generosity will result in not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God."*

—2 Corinthians 9:11-12

## Philoptochos & Thanksgiving Drive

### ◆ Philoptochos Membership Drive & Bake Sale

The Philoptochos Membership Drive is underway! Please consider joining, as you become a voting member and your dues support the Philoptochos on the national and local level. Becoming a member in itself is philanthropy. We welcome all members, women and men, 18 years or older, and look forward to working together no matter your schedule or availability for monthly meetings. There is no minimum requirement to be a part of this dedicated group. And please mark your calendars! **Our annual bake sale is Sunday, November 20.** Pick up a delicious baked good, or two, to share at your Thanksgiving table (or you can enjoy it before then, if you can't wait!).

### ◆ Middlesex Sheriff's Assoc. Thanksgiving Drive

We will once again be offering Thanksgiving dinners for veterans served by the Middlesex Sheriff's Association. Food donations and financial offerings will gladly be accepted through Nov. 20. **Contact Fr. Alex for details or to offer a financial donation for shopping.** As of now, we will welcome the following food items for drop off in the Narthex:

**\*\*\*Our goal is 25 dinners: Boxes of stuffing and instant mashed potatoes | Canned cranberry sauce, green beans, peas and corn | Frozen turkeys (will be collected closer to the 20th).**



## Parish Council Greeting—Karen Guinan

Dear Saint Gregory Family,

Happy Fall! I hope that you are all settled in to your routine, and a big part of that includes your worship at Saint Gregory. We have seen a slight increase in attendance with the commencement of Sunday School.

We had a successful Welcome Back Barbeque on September 11 and a PC sponsored Pancake Breakfast, along with a spiritual presentation by Dr. Despina Prassas, on Sep. 25. Please see the church calendar for many more exciting events in the months to come.

I pray to see a thriving Saint Gregory's with your help!

Yours in Christ, *Karen Guinan*

## Education/Community

- **Nov. 6: GOYA Giving Tree begins.** Wish lists in support of those served by West Side Benevolent Circle will be available as of the 6th.
- **Nov. 6: Parish General Assembly.** Join us for this important meeting of our parish family.
- **Nov. 13: Orthodox Life: "Contemporary Moral Issues" cont.** Join Fr. Alex during Fellowship Hour for an informal, discussion-oriented presentation, utilizing Fr. Stanley Harakas' *Contemporary Moral Issues*. **Contact Father for further details.**
- **Dec. 4: Parish Council and Board of Auditors Elections.** Contact Fr. Alex if you are interested in serving as an auditor. For those interested in serving on the council, Election Forms are in the Narthex and should be returned to the Church Office by **Nov. 13.**



### CONTACT & MEDIA

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