

REJOICE!

The Monthly Publication of

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

October 2022

Beloved in Christ,

One of the minor feasts of the Theotokos is that of the Holy Protection. Traditionally, this feast is assigned to the 1st of October. However, since World War II the Church of Greece has transferred it to the 28th of October, popularly known as "OXI Day." Whether it is celebrated on the first or twenty-eighth of the month, its spiritual lessons and benefits for us remain the same.

First, let us review the background of this holy feast as taken from the Synaxarion. *The feast of the Holy* Protection of the Mother of God was established following a vision of our Holy Father Andrew, the Fool for Christ, during the course of a vigil in the Church of Blachernae at Constantinople. At the fourth hour of the night, while deep in prayer, the Saint lifted up his eyes to heaven and beheld the holy Mother of God watching over the congregation as she covered the faithful with her Veil. Epiphanious, the disciple of Saint Andrew, who was also accounted worthy of looking upon this wonder, confirmed the truth of the vision. Whereupon, the Saint hastened to the altar, opened the coffer containing the precious Veil of the Queen of the world and, standing in front of the royal doors, extended it above the worshippers. Upheld by an invisible power, the Veil hung in the air and was of such size as to entirely cover the great congregation. Then, amid a shattering burst of light, the Mother of God went up into Heaven and out of sight, but leaving the Christian people in possession of her holy Veil as a pledge of her loving Protection.

Many a time did the Mother of God give clear evidence of her protec-

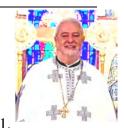
tion of the imperial City and, by analogy, of the entire holy Church of Christ, which is the new Jerusalem. Indeed, everywhere and at every moment, the Sovereign Lady of the world casts her Veil mystically over Christians as she prays and makes intercession for the salvation of the world to her Son and Lord.

By understanding the role of the Theotokos in the life of the Church, we can thus clearly find a deeper meaning to the feast of the Holy Protection. Let us remember that the Holy Theotokos shares a relationship with Christ that is unique from that of any other human being. Simultaneously being Christ's earthly mother as well as part of His creation, is a mystery beyond our understanding. The Son and Word of God exists *eternally*, prior to the creation of the world and the human race. Their unique relationship allows the Holy Mother of God to have a closeness and boldness to intercede with her beloved Son on behalf of all of us.

Let us also remember that as Orthodox Christians, we have been grafted onto the Mystical Body of Christ. Therefore, by being one in Christ as fellow Christians, we also have the Theotokos as our heavenly Mother, who cares for us here in this world as we prepare for the next. Because of this love and concern for her children in Christ, we have seen countless miracles, apparitions, signs and wonders by the Holy Virgin and Theotokos throughout the ages. The event of the Holy Protection described above, is another one of these wondrous signs given for our reassurance and spiritual benefit.

In my opening paragraph I

mention the translation of this feast to October 28 by the Church of Greece The reason for this shift from the original date of October 1,



was because of the miraculous defeat of Mussolini's army by the Greeks after the Italian invasion of 1940, which brought Greece actively into World War II. There are many stories from Greek soldiers of the time, referencing apparitions of the Theotokos with messages of encouragement, as well as other miraculous events. By celebrating the Greek victory on OXI day along with the religious celebration of the Holy Protection, the Greek nation appropriately offers thanksgiving each year for its divinely assisted deliverance from the oppressor.

We today should also turn daily to the Holy Mother of God for her help and guidance for our spiritual struggles, as well as for our health and wellbeing. As young children we all ran to our mother's embrace when we were frightened or hurting. To this day we can clearly remember the loving protection and warmth felt during those moments in our mother's arms. We can take those feelings to the spiritual level whenever we approach an icon of the Theotokos, both during our daily prayers or in church. Her loving protection is there whenever we need it. So, let us remember the story of the Holy Protection of our beloved Panayia not just every October, but also every time we turn to her in prayer.

In Christ,

+*Fr. Anthony*

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church

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Daughters of Penelope

Cathy Blougouras

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FROM FR. ANTHONY

Spiritual Wisdom

Acknowledge your sinfulness and pride and impatience, and humble yourself under the strong hand of God accusing no one but yourself, and then you will see divine help; how God will calm you and cause the hearts of those that oppose you to be favorably disposed towards you. (St. Macarius of Optina)

When you pray, keep close watch on your memory so that it does not distract you with recollections of your past. But make yourself aware that you are standing before God. (St. Evagrius the Solitary)

In all cases let us hasten to humility; for the humble one lies on the ground, and where can one fall who lies on the ground? But it is evident that one who is in a high place easily falls. (Sts. Barsanuphius and John)

The Lord desires one man to be saved through another, and in the same way Satan strives to destroy one man through another. (St. John of Karpathos)

Attend to your conscience, for we do not know the hour of our death. And if we do not repay our creditor (our conscience, that is) everything we owe him, he will accuse us vehemently, without holding back. Then – alas! – our mouth will be silenced, not having any answer to give. (Elder Ephraim of Arizona)

Depart from every man who loves to quarrel. (St. Pimen the Great)

Orthodox Life Sessions

Orthodox Life sessions will commence on **Thursday**, 10/20 at 7:00 pm in the library. Again this year, I will alternate between Thursday evenings and mornings to accommodate both those who work, and those only available in the morning. Please join us to learn more about Holy Scripture, the lives of the saints, various topics of interest, as well as time for questions and answers.

Altar Service

Once again we invite young boys and teens to join the altar service team. Archdiocesan guidelines suggest the age of nine as a good age to begin serving. Please consider joining this spiritually rewarding ministry to serve God and our parish!

Proper Etiquette for Holy Communion & Antidoron

Now that church school is in session and more people are receiving Holy Communion, I thought it wise to discuss a few issues regarding the proper receipt of Holy Communion and antidoron.

- When you approach for Communion, please do not cross yourself in front of the chalice; do so before getting close. Sometimes people hit the chalice base which could cause spillage or worse.
- When holding children, please carry them **in your right arm.** This is because most priests are right-handed and it would be awkward the opposite way.
- Please get as close as possible to the chalice. It's difficult to reach your mouth with the spoon if you are too far back, which again could cause spillage.
- Always say your full baptismal/chrismation name prior to receiving, and not a nickname or shortened version, nor your given legal name if different. Please teach children to do the same.
- Place your chin **over** the communion cloth to catch any potential dripping from your mouth. Make sure to dab your lips on the cloth after receiving.
- After receiving, **do not** say "thank you" or anything else. This could cause particles of Communion to spray out of your mouth.
- Antidoron is **blessed bread** and should be treated carefully and with respect. Always place your non-dominant hand under the piece as you consume it, then consume any crumbs in your hand. This will avoid crumbs falling on the floor and being stepped upon.

Fr. Anthony Continued

From the Lives of the Saints

10/2 – The Hieromartyr Cyprian and the Virgin Martyr Justina

Cyprian lived at Antioch in the reign of the Emperor Decius (249-51). He was rich and of noble birth and enjoyed a great reputation as a philosopher and magician. There dwelt in Antioch at that time a maiden of radiant beauty called Justa whose father, Aidesius, served as a priest of the idols.

One day she was among those listening to the preaching of the deacon Praulius who had come to spread the words of everlasting life among the people. Justa was so struck by what she heard that she straightway believed in Christ with all her heart. Such was the transformation wrought in her by faith and love for God, that her mother was drawn to join her and went on to convince her husband likewise, so that all three asked Bishop Optatus for holy baptism. Justa eventually made up her mind to consecrate her virginity to the Lord and to spend the rest of her life in chastity, fasting and prayer.

A young man called Aglaidas, who was a pagan, fell passionately in love with her. But seeing all his advances rejected, he applied in desperation to Cyprian for magic charms whereby passion might be given free rein in the body of the pure virgin. Cyprian consulted his books and called up the demons who were always at his command, but nothing he could do was able to tempt the maiden and let loose in her the fiery darts of lust, so powerful was her love for her heavenly Bridegroom.

Seeing the demons he had sent against her thrice vanquished by the grace of Christ and the sign of the Cross, Cyprian acknowledged that the Christian faith was more powerful than all his devilish tricks. He too believed and asked Bishop Anthimus for baptism, renounced his magical arts and publicly burned his books. Later on, he himself became bishop and ordained Justa as a deaconess with the name of Justina. During the persecution of Decius they were both arrested and taken to Damascus to be tortured. They were then brought before the Emperor at Nicomedia, where he ordered them to be beheaded.

10/16 – St. James Netsetov, Missionary in Alaska

Saint James was born in the island of Unalaska in 1802 of a Russian father and an Aleut mother. He completed his studies in the seminary at Irkutsk in Siberia, was ordained priest and returned to Alaska. He spent the next thirty-six years there, continuing the work of Saint Herman (13 Dec.) in a pastoral ministry to the native populations, which he carried on amid the hazardous conditions of life in those parts.

Weather permitting, he would board one of the frail kayaks or load his humble belongings onto a dog-sled, and accompanied by some young clergymen in lesser orders, would set out to carry the word of God to the scattered populations of the Aleutian Islands, and later, between 1845 and 1863, to the inhabitants of the lower Yukon valley. He was the first Orthodox priest since the holy Hieromartyr Juvenal, to venture into these territories. Although in general he was well-received and rapidly converted the indigenous population to the true faith, he sometimes had to deal with the determined opposition of the shamans.

His concern for the spiritual life of his flock extended from baptizing to teaching the elements of Christian morality, and the proper preparation for Holy Communion by fasting, confession and prayer. He carried a tent with him which served as a makeshift church, except when the bitter cold would freeze the sacred Species and so prevent a meeting for the Divine Liturgy. Besides his missionary journeys, he translated the New Testament and founded a school.

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS



Parish Chronicle



<u>Weddings</u> 9/17 – **Adam Lirette** and **Lilly Frangos**

Death Notices

Robert Andrews fell asleep in the Lord on 8/15. Many of you may know that Robert was originally from our parish, and is the iconographer who produced the mosaic icons of the iconostasis and those behind the altar.

Memorials & Trisagions

Dr. Peter Lampesis Dr. John Rouman

May their memory be eternal!

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Please pray for our brothers and sisters:

Elizabeth, Deborah, Roula, Jim, Logan, Kali, Alexandros.

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

- Decoration of Icon of the Nativity of the Theotokos anonymous
- Decoration of Icon of the Elevation of the Precious Cross Steve and Alice Poole
- New microwave oven for kitchen George Lazarus of Strafford Appliance

"Ta Nea"

No doubt everyone read Cynthia Vomvoris' statement in the September *Rejoice* regarding "Ta Nea." We wish to thank Cynthia for her many years of contributing this section to our monthly bulletin; it has been greatly appreciated by all. Happy "retirement," Cynthia!

Parish News — Volunteers Needed

Office Secretary Position

As previously announced, the position of parish office secretary remains open after Hope's retirement at the end of June. If any parishioner is interested in applying for the position of office secretary, please contact Fr. Anthony or Sophia Mitropoulos-Abbott for more details.

Church School Positions

As previously announced, the following position needs to be filled.

• **Church School Director.** The main function of this role is general oversight of the program in conjunction with Fr. Anthony, and ensuring that there will be substitute teachers available when needed. The director will also coordinate with the Parish Council liaison for general support from the council, both financially and otherwise.

In addition, substitute teachers are also needed during the Church School year. If anyone is available to assist in this regard, please let us know.

Dover Apple Harvest Day—Volunteers Needed!

On Saturday, October 1, come support this church fundraiser selling baklava and baklava sundaes- certain to be a SWEET day! Consider coming for even a short time to visit our booth and talk with Apple Harvest visitors about our church and it's ministries! If you are interested in volunteering, please email Litsa at egeorgakilas@gmail.com. Volunteers needed for help with set-up at 8am, and throughout the event which ends at 4pm, followed by breakdown.

OUTREACH

Outreach News:

The Outreach "Coffee Hour Plus" held on September 25th was a success! Approximately 35 people participated in the luncheon which included receiving a small box of pastry, a bag of kourlourakia or paximathia, and a pan of frozen Pastichio if they desired. We received \$705 in donations, plus were able to deliver treats to at least 15 parishioners in our community. Thank you to the cooks who helped make the Pastichio and the luncheon, to the bakers who make koulourakia, paximathia, baklava, pasta flora, kourambiethes, and finikia, and to Maria Faskianos who donated the cake for the luncheon in memory of Dr. James Faskianos. You put a smile on many faces. Thank you to the attendees of the luncheon for your gracious and very generous support.

Outreach Meeting:

The purpose of Outreach is to provide discrete support and assistance to members of our church and the larger community when they are in need. In the past, support has been a variety of things such as financial, paying for an electric or heating bill, providing transportation for an appointment, donating to the Grab and Go Program or delivering treats to seasoned members of our church.

Outreach is always looking for new members . Feel free to attend our next meeting at the Church **on October 4th at 4:30pm** and help us brainstorm news ideas and activities. If you are not able to attend, you can call 603-742-0611, or email me at lamprosfamily@comcast.net with a subject title of OUTREACH. Your support will be very much appreciated.

GOYA

Greetings Goyans! Hope the new school year is treating everyone well. We have a lot of fun events planned for the upcoming months. Here is what we have for October:

• Bowling at Dover Bowl - Saturday, 10/8, 6pm

Hope to see you all there!

GRANDPARENTS SUNDAY

On Sunday, October 23rd we will be hosting our first Grandparents Sunday. We invite all grandparents to bring their grandchildren to church that Sunday. Of course, we would like to see the children's parents as well!

The Parish Council will host the coffee hour following Divine Liturgy.

ORTHODOXY ON TAP

Orthodoxy on Tap will take place on Monday, October 31st at 6pm. It will be held at the Anatolia Mediterranean Restaurant (2 Main Street, Somersworth, NH 03878).

This is geared toward our young adults, although anyone is welcome to join. You are free to invite a friend.

Fr. Constantine Newman will be our guest speaker for the evening.

October 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3	4 Outreach Meeting 4:30pm	5	6	7 HONY AWAY	No Vespers GOYA Outing 6pm
9 \$\frac{1}{4}\text{\$\frac{1}{4}}\text{\$\frac{1}{4}\$ am Liturgy}\$\$ Visiting Priest	10	11	12	Parish Council Meeting 6 pm	14	Great Vespers 6:00pm
- n	Fr. Antho					
16 f 8:45am Orthros 10 am Liturgy		18 †	19	Orthodox Life Session 7 pm	21	Great Vespers 6:00pm
23 8:45am Orthros 10 am Liturgy Grandparents Sunday	24	Great Vespers of St. Demetrios in Saco, ME 6pm	Ĥ	Orthodox Life Session 10 am	Holy Protection Of the Theotokos 8:45am Orthros 10 am Liturgy	Great Vespers 6:00pm
30 #	Orthodoxy on Tap 6 pm Anatolia Restaurant Somersworth,NH					

KALI PAREA



Kali Parea will be sponsoring an **International Food Tasting** on Saturday November 5th at 6:00pm in the Fr. Arthur Athans Fellowship Hall. We ask an individual, family or families to host a table representing a specific country. You would be responsible for decorating the table and then bringing an appetizer, entrée and dessert which represents that country.

All paper goods and utensils will be provided. We will all be "tasting" and sharing the foods from the different regions. Please consider hosting a table. Let Althea or George Coussoule know as soon as possible what country you would like to represent. Hurry so that you can choose the country you prefer. Italy and France have already been taken.

In lieu of buying tickets, donations are welcome. All proceeds will go to the Outreach Committee to help in their efforts to reach out to people who are in need.

To host a table or to reserve your seat for the tasting please call: Althea 603-498-5179 or George 603-923-1349

FESTIVAL NEWS

Another festival has come and gone, and it was a huge success. The festival is meant to bring everyone in our parish together, to show our community that we are a united group of individuals brought together by our faith. I hope that everyone felt as much pride and support as we did this past Labor Day weekend. We appreciate the trust during the planning process and event!

As the chairs of the festival committee, we wanted to say thank you! Thank you to everyone who volunteered at the festival and helped with the preparations all year long! We could not have done it without you! We also want to acknowledge and send an extra thank you to our committee. You all went above and beyond with this event and we could not imagine doing it without you! A special thank you to Committee Members who met consistently since April. Paul Karoutas and Paul Maskwa: no cooking or baking session could happen without them, making sure everything is purchased on time (and at the right price!). Sharon Lampros: your outreach to find volunteers, your ability to thoughtfully think through the efficiency of different functions of the event. Maria Happnie and John Lampros: thank you for always being there to manage our finances throughout the event. Vula Lalas: the raffle could NOT happen without you, and you make it look so easy even though there is so much work that goes into it. And Robert and Ryan Eagle-Mitropoulos: for taking on the task of advertising and spending countless hours putting the advertisement book together.

Also thank you to committee members Sophia and Tim Abbott, Jameson Savage, Colin MacNamee, George and Althea Coussoule, Kimon Lalas, Dan Huppe, and Paula Maskwa. A VERY special thank you to Hope Frudakis as well, for always putting up with our wants, needs, and requests with a smile on her face!

Without our volunteers, we would not have a festival. The committee is so thankful to those who put on an apron and helped at the food line, in the kitchen, at a baking session, working the bar, and selling raffle tickets (thank you Joanne!), you really made this all happen! We hope all of our volunteers got the same enjoyment and satisfaction that we do when we see how appreciated this event is by our community. The festival is something that we look forward to every year and we hope that it continues to be a tradition for the many years to come. We hope to see familiar faces and new ones next year when we do it again!

Best,

ALKISTIS NEWS

An error in numbers was made in the August Rejoice when quoting the number of Children with food insecurities in Dover. The number was not 44, but at the time was over 400. Since then, *Grab'n Go* numbers escalated to *over 500* served this past summer. We thank all our parishioners for their donations to *the program*. Alkistis women approved a substantial donation to Grab 'n Go in the Spring. According to the 2021 Dover statistics costs had risen 25% since the inception of Grab 'n Go in 2014. *Imagine how those costs have escalated in the past year!!*

Alkistis women also recently approved a donation be made to Dover's *68 Hours of Hunger* that started this month when Grab'nGo ended & goes to the end of school in June.

Our commitments in the next three months take us to January. We make a Thanksgiving donation to **Philoxenia House** in Boston, **sponsor a luncheon to honor our veterans on Remembrance Sunday on November 13th,** and donate to the **Dover Children's Home at Christmas**.



Thanks to *Abby & Periklis Karoutas* for once again donating a bit of beauty to the front of our church. Abby & Periklis planted summer flowers & *Cynthia Vomvoris* set up a team of people to water the plants over the summer. *Thank you*, Cynthia, and thanks to those who watered. It was a brutally hot summer & the plants did not thrive as well as in past summers, but the flowers in one of the planters soldiered on until recently. Alkistis gives a huge thank you to the Karoutas' for once again taking on the responsibility of buying and planting a beautiful Fall display for us.

If there are any women in the church who are not on the Alkistis email list and would like to be, please send your address to beamorris@comcast.net.



Orthodoxy on Tap for Young Adults

Monday, October 31st at 6pm.

Father Constantine Newman will be our guest speaker.

Anatolia Mediterranean Restaurant 2 Main Street, Somersworth, NH 03878 Feel free to join and bring a friend!

2022 PARISH STEWARDS AS OF SEPTEMBER 2022

THESE FAMILIES HAVE RETURNED THEIR NEW STEWARDSHIP FORMS

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Day
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October, 1, 2022
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https://www.facebook.com/
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REMINDER: Our Facebook page can be accessed regardless of whether you have a Facebook account. If the live feed doesn't show up right away, please refresh and keep checking back.



Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church 93 Locust St., Dover, NH 03820 Rev. Anthony Evangelatos e-Fr. Anthony's office hours:

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annunciationdover@gmail.com
e-mail: FrAnthony@annunciationdover.org

Tuesday-Friday 10 am-3 pm
Emergency Contact: (401) 662-5259

DATES TO REMEMBER IN OCTOBER

Saturday, 10/1 DOVER APPLE HARVEST DAY ~ Visit our Baklava Booth! (9AM-4PM)

Saturday, 10/8 GOYA bowling night at Dover Bowl 6pm

Tuesday, 10/25 Great Vespers at St. Demetrios in Saco, ME 6pm

Wednesday, 10/26 St. Demetrios the Great Martyr (Orthros 8:45 am, Divine Liturgy 10:00am)

Monday, 10/31 Orthodoxy on Tap at Anatolia Mediterranean Restaurant 2 Main Street, Somersworth, NH 6pm

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