



METROPOLIS
OF BOSTON

The Monthly Publication of the

REJOICE!

ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

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

Beloved in Christ,

Each September we make mention, in one way or another, of the beginning of the new ecclesiastical year on September 1 – the Church’s “New Year’s Day,” if you will. Many parish priests use this opportunity to remind their flock of the importance of centering one’s life around the Church; in other words, making *Christ* central in our lives. Priests will speak of the importance of *regular* church attendance – not the “hit or miss” approach. We will also bring to mind the importance and great blessing of celebrating the great feast days of the Church – the feasts of our Lord and the Theotokos, as well as those of many great saints and martyrs of our Church celebrated throughout the liturgical year. Being that our concern is the spiritual health and well-being of our flocks, we consistently bring these important spiritual issues to everyone’s attention.

Sharing these annual “spiritual reminders” is really no different than our physicians constantly reminding us of important issues concerning our health and well-being – losing weight, exercising, eating nutritious and balanced meals, stopping smoking, drinking in moderation, etc., etc. They tell us these things because they *truly care* about seeing us stay healthy. How much more then, does the hospital of the soul – the Church of Christ – care about our *complete* well-being, starting with the soul?

This new ecclesiastical year, let us all try to become spiritually healthier through the life of the Church. To do this, we must first prioritize the health of the soul *over* the body. Those who are work-out fanatics wouldn’t even consider missing a day at the gym, unless it was beyond their control. **This is the approach an Orthodox Christian should have toward church attendance on all Sundays and major feast days.**

For those with children who wish to play sports on Sunday mornings, it is the parents’ responsibility to set priorities in the home. Now, some may remark,

“what’s so wrong with sports?” The point is that there is nothing wrong with healthy competition and exercise of the body through sports. The problem is that the secular world does not consider people’s faith convictions and their Sunday obligations. Why not try to guide our children toward sporting activities that only occur on Saturdays, or at least Sunday afternoons? Why do we give in to our children’s requests that interfere with Sunday church attendance? Remember, when raising children, it is *not* all about pleasing them 100% of the time. If we *consistently* bring them to church and keep the faith alive *in the home*, then we will have planted the correct seeds that will remain in them throughout their lives.

Regarding sporadic, or almost non-existent church attendance in general, many will say that even though they don’t come to church often, they haven’t forgotten about God; that they can pray to God anytime and anywhere; that they do not need to come to church to be close to God, among many other justifications. Here we must remind ourselves that we are *Orthodox Christians*, who by definition do not espouse *individualism* and *personalized* theology with no accountability to the Body of Christ – the Church. Even though personal prayer throughout each day is an *integral* part of our spiritual lives, it cannot replace the liturgical worship experience. Our obligation as members of the Body of Christ, is to gather in worship of the living God on all Sundays as well as major feast days, as much as possible (with the exception of illness, mandatory work obligations, and other such hardships). We should seek *sanctification* and *unity* with God and one another, through frequent receipt of the holy mystery of the Eucharist, which is only possible by being part of the worshipping community of believers gathered in church.

In his book, *Liturgy and Life*, by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann of blessed

memory (Orthodox Church in America, 1983), he says the following regarding Orthodox worship:

The Church as life and grace is realized through her worship. The Greek word for worship – ‘leiturgia’ – means more than common prayer: it means corporate action, in which everyone takes an active part, is a participant and not only an ‘attendant.’ The nature of this action is both corporate and personal. It is corporate because through the unity and faith of its participants it realizes and fulfills the reality of Church, i.e. the presence of Christ among those who believe in Him. It is personal because this reality is every time conveyed to me, given me for my personal edification, for my own growth in grace. Thus, in worship I am both an active ‘builder’ of the Church – and to be this is my Christian duty – and I am also its ‘beneficiary’ – for the whole of the Church’s treasure is offered to me, is a Divine gift to me.

Beloved in Christ, please accept all the above as a *loving invitation* into the life of grace and spiritual fulfillment in Christ, and not as an *admonition*. We can leave our doctor’s office upset after hearing his/her words of warning, but the reality is that the future health of our body remains questionable at best, if we choose to ignore our physician’s guidance. May we begin this new ecclesiastical year on a *positive* note by being honest with ourselves, and seek to continually grow in Christ. With our eternal destiny directly affected by our life in the Church, one should clearly understand the priority of the matter at hand!

In Christ’s love,

+Fr. Anthony



Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church

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Bookstore.....	Cyprian Fresh
Cemetery.....	(open)
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Please send submissions to: annunciationdover@gmail.com,

and state "Newsletter Submission" in the subject line.

FROM FR. ANTHONY

Reflections on the Feast of the Holy Cross

The following is taken from *The Year of Grace of the Lord*, by a Monk of the Eastern Church, St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1992.

Let us look beyond the wood of the cross, and concentrate on all that is spiritual and eternal in the very idea of the cross of Jesus....St. Paul says that a Christian does not know how to glorify himself 'save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world'. In the gospel (John 5:13-17) we read: 'As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life'.

As the feast of the Cross draws near, it is not useless to remember that the cross which it concerns is the cross on which Jesus Christ was crucified for our salvation. The decision to 'bear our cross' – which is so deeply evangelical, and without which this feast of the Cross would somehow remain an abstract idea – is an essential aspect, though a secondary one, of the mystery of the cross. The principal aspect, is that we are saved by the Passion of Jesus...The feasts of the Cross give us an opportunity to meditate on what the Blood of Christ means in our spiritual life, on the death of the Saviour as a reparation for our sins, and on the relationship between the cross and love. They are precious as an opportunity for us to deepen our understanding of that article in the Nicene creed when we confess that Jesus died 'for us men and for our salvation'...

Three of the chants for this day call specially for our attention. While the congregation kisses the cross, the choir sings: 'We fall down before Thy Cross, O Master, and we praise Thy holy Resurrection'. The Church is concerned never to dissociate the cross from the tomb, the crucifixion from the resurrection, death from life. The grief of Holy Friday ends in the joy of Easter. Another chant connects the elevation of Christ on the cross and the shining forth of divine light: 'The light of Thy countenance, O Lord, spreads out over us'...Finally, another chant associates Mary with the cross. For Mary is the 'mysterious paradise' in whom was brought about the growth of Christ, and Christ himself 'planted on earth the life-giving tree of the cross'...

Each one of us must take up his own cross; not the cross of his choice, but the cross – that is to say the portion of suffering and trial – that God has assigned to him especially, and which is one of the aspects of the cross of Jesus himself. In the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, let us exalt and enthrone in our heart the cross of Jesus, let us apply to the Passion of our Lord, and even to our poor efforts (which are our share in the Passion) this saying, through which the mystery of the cross receives its highest and most complete interpretation: 'Greater love hath no man that this, that a man lay down his life...'



FROM FR. ANTHONY

From the Writings of the Saints

The following is taken from a collection of sacred poetry by St. Ephraim the Syrian, collectively known as *Hymns on Paradise*.

HYMN II

1. Blessed is he for whom Paradise yearns. Yes, Paradise yearns for the man whose goodness makes him beautiful; it engulfs him at its gateway, it embraces him in its bosom, it caresses him in its very womb; for it splits open and receives him into its inmost parts. But if there is someone it abhors, it removes him and casts him out; this is the gate of testing that belongs to Him who loves mankind.

3. When people see that they have lost everything, that riches do not endure and carnal desires no longer exist, that beauty and power disappear and vanish, then they recollect themselves and are filled with remorse, because, choked with care, they heard with contempt those words, 'Your possessions are but a passing dream, your inheritance, darkness.'

5. The righteous, too, perceive that their own affliction no longer exists, their suffering does not endure, their burden no longer remains, and it seems as if no anguish had ever assailed them. Their fasts appear as though a mere dream, for they have woken as it were from sleep to discover Paradise and the Kingdom's table spread out before them.

6. By those who are outside, the summit cannot be scaled, but from inside, Paradise inclines its whole self to all who ascend it; the whole of its interior gazes upon the just with joy. Paradise girds the loins of the world, encircling the great sea; neighbor to the beings on high, friendly to those within it, hostile to those without.

In Appreciation

As of the publication of this issue of the *Rejoice*, we have just completed another successful Greek festival! As we do each year, we wish once again to extend our sincere gratitude to our co-chairs, Robert Mitropoulos and Rebecca MacNamee, as well as all the instrumental people who comprise the well-tuned festival committee. A big "thank you" goes to all the cooking/ baking workshop leaders and volunteers who produce all the popular items we sell, as well as all the kitchen crew, technical support, and on-site volunteers that makes it all happen. In addition, it was a pleasure to see many of our young adults and newer parishioners volunteering their time during the festival. May God bless all of you and your families, for everyone's time and effort!

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

Parish Chronicle

Baptisms & Chrismations

7/6 - the Hill family as follows:

Chrismations - Keith, who took the name *Ephraim*; Arlo, who took the name *Stephen*; and Arthur, who was given the name *Seraphim*. Godparents, Mark and Sarah Canney.

Baptisms - Sedona, who took the name *Anna*; Scarlet, who took the name *Agnes*. Godparents, Mark and Sarah Canney.

7/13 - Ethan, son of Adam and Lilly Lirette, who was given the name *Demetrios*. Godparent, Jameson Savage.

8/24 - Vincent, son of Georges & Jessica Awad. Godparents, Nikola Blagojevic and Konstantina Macheras.

Weddings

7/3 - Patrick Hoeing and Casey Gemas. Sponsor, Eleana Panagos.

Memorials

8/3 - Cosmas Evangelatos, 22 years

Parish Prayer List

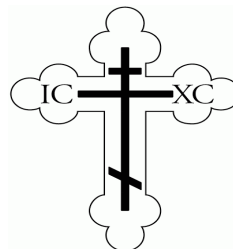
Please pray for our brothers and sisters:

Elizabeth, Deborah, Demetrios, Dionisia, Labrini, James, Corrine, Stefanie, Nicole, Keirsten, Rosalee, William, Stacey, Rosalie, Rick

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

- Coffee Hour supplies - anonymous
- Decoration of Icon of the Transfiguration (8/6) - Nick & Georgia Blougouras
- Decoration of Icon of the Dormition of the Theotokos (8/15) - Christos & Nancy Kastrisios
- Decoration of following icons: Nativity of the Theotokos (9/8) - for health and well-being of Maria Machado; Elevation of the Holy Cross (9/14) - in memory of Carlos Machado

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

Basil for the Holy Cross

Being that the feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross falls on a Sunday this year (9/14), we will need much more fresh basil than usual. If you have been growing basil this summer, it would be a great blessing if you could share some for this great feast of Our Lord.

For those who wish to contribute, **please bring your basil to the office no later than Friday, 9/12.** This way, we can know how much needs to be purchased on Saturday, if necessary. May this be a blessing to those who will participate!

Newest Centenarian

We are pleased to announce that our long-time parishioner, Constantine Chrysafidis, turned 100 years old on August 13th! Many of you may not know Constantine, since he has been a nursing home resident for a number of years. Congratulations, Constantine!!

Coffee Hours for September

At the time of publication of this issue, following is the status of September coffee hours:

9/7 – Lalas family

9/21 – no host

9/14 – Canney family

9/28 – no host

ANNUNCIATION YOUNG ADULTS

The Annunciation Young Adults have enjoyed a busy summer, ending off with helping at Greek Fest. We have been adding new members regularly, and look forward to planning more group events with our new young adults. We periodically visit other parishes to meet other young adults, and may try to plan some events with other churches as well. Have a blessed autumn!



STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Why Do We do it?

On behalf of the stewardship committee, I would like to welcome everyone to the start of a new liturgical year. As we think about giving and serving in the coming year, I offer a simple question for our reflection. To put it simply, why do we do it? Why do we give, help, and serve? Do we do it out of a sense of duty, or obligation, or worse, guilt? It is not uncommon to think this way, but there is a much better way to think about it.

- *Think about how much you love the Lord.* We support the church, not because we are being guilted, taxed or recruited, but because we genuinely love God. Christ loves the Church, and we love Christ. It is only natural to love what He loves and to care for what He cares for. Love is the reason why we do what we do.
- *Think about how grateful you are.* Giving and serving is a tangible way of saying “thank you” to the One who freely provides us with “life, and breath, and all things” (Acts 17:25). Pure and simple gratitude is what motivates all our giving.

So, when you think about stewardship, don’t think about pledges, “dues”, or obligations - think about God. Think about how good he has been. Think about how grateful you are. Think about how much you love him. At the end of the day, love and gratitude are the best and the only good reasons for all of our Stewardship.

Steve Poole

For your Stewardship Team



ALKISTIS NEWS



September, 2025

Dear Parishioners,

As summer draws to a close and we prepare to welcome the fall season, we are reminded how fortunate we are to still enjoy warm afternoons outdoors and peaceful walks along the beach.

In our last issue of *REJOICE*, I shared that Alkistis hosted its annual **5K Walk-A-Thon**. I'm thrilled to report that it was a wonderful success! We had **25 enthusiastic participants** and, thanks to your generosity, raised **\$1,840.00**. A heartfelt thank you to our sponsors and walkers for making this event possible. This year's proceeds will be shared between **Alkistis** and **Autism Speaks**, supporting both our parish efforts and a cause close to many of our hearts.


We've included a few photos from the day—these are the “after” shots, and let's just say some of us were ready for a nap! Next year we'll have to remember the “before” pictures too.



Up-

coming Event – Save the Date!

 **Saturday, November 1st**

 In celebration of OXI Day

Plans are already underway for an unforgettable evening filled with lively dancing, delicious food, and the joy of fellowship. Please mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details in the weeks ahead.

As always, thank you for your continued support, encouragement, and love. We are truly blessed to be part of such a vibrant and caring parish family.

With warmest wishes,

Vula Z. Lalas

President, Alkistis Ladies Association

CHURCH SCHOOL

Hello Church School Families & Welcome to the 2025-2026 school year!

We are thrilled to have you all back after a long, and hopefully eventful, summer holiday! We have many exciting things happening this year and we cannot wait to share them all with you.

The first day of Church School this year will be **Sunday, September 21st**. Because of our strong and ever-growing participation last year, your Church School team is excited to be kicking off our year with four classes:

Preschool (Ms. Jess)

Elementary I (Ms. Laura)

Elementary II (Mr. Mark)

Teen Youth (Ms. Nancy)

We are also excited to announce that this year Ms. Jess will be joined by Mr. Nikola as co-director of our Church School! A big thank you to Mr. Nikola, and all of the volunteers who make up our Church School staff. We appreciate you very much, and look forward to another wonderful year together.

Church School signup forms will be available at the HOPE/JOY ministry's end-of-summer Ice Cream Social on **Saturday, September 6th, at 2:00 PM** in the church hall. We hope to see you there!

Lastly, as a reminder to EVERYONE - there is **absolutely no food or drink** permitted in the Church School classrooms. We have children with anaphylactic food allergies who attend our program, and we want to keep them healthy and safe in an environment that they can trust. This list includes all drinks INCLUDING water, any and all snacks (even allergy friendly snacks), coffee hour treats/foods, candies, etc. If you are unsure, please ask a teacher. There are no exceptions to this rule!

We look forward to seeing you all very soon! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

In Him,
Annunciation Church School Team

“Of all the holy works, the education of children is the most holy.” ~ St. Theophan the Recluse

HOPE/JOY

HOPE & JOY Families!

Please join us for an ice cream social on September 6th in the church hall, to kick off the new Church School year. Register for the first time, or re-register for the year, meet your classmates and enjoy some yummy ice cream!

Please send your RSVP to Laura at: 19lb88@gmail.com by August 30th.



OUTREACH

SAVE THE DATE -- Outreach Chili/Chowder Contest

When: Saturday, October 4, 2025 - 6:00 PM

Where: *Father Arthur Athans Hall, Dover Greek Orthodox Church*

Join us for the *Chili/Chowder Contest* hosted by Outreach! We're inviting everyone to showcase their culinary skills and compete for the title of Best Chili and Best Chowder. The event will be held in Father Arthur Athans Hall, starting at 6:00 PM.

How It Works:

- **Chefs:** We're seeking volunteers to prepare a *crockpot-sized* portion of either chili or chowder. Previous winners are welcome to join in the fun as well.
- **Attendees:** All attendees will receive a "Best Chili" ticket and a "Best Chowder" ticket before the tasting begins. You can cast one vote in each category to help determine the winners!

What's Provided:

Outreach will provide paper products, utensils, water, coffee, fruit juice, soda, and a variety of appetizers, coleslaw, cornbread, and desserts to complement the chili and chowder.

Who's Invited:

The event is open to church members, their families, and friends. Come enjoy the tasty competition, and don't miss out on the trivia challenge to test your knowledge!

How to Participate:

A sign-up sheet for both chili/chowder cooks and food-tasting attendees will be available in the Narthex starting September 7, 2025.

Cost:

This event is a free-will donation for Outreach, so your generous contributions will support our efforts.

Additional Questions:

Please feel free to reach out to any of the following people: Sharon Lampros, Althea Coussoule, Pam Byers, Paul Koutroubas, Evelyn Savage, Georgia Blougouras or Paula Maskwa

We look forward to seeing you there for an evening of fun, food, and fellowship!

2025 DOVER GREEK FESTIVAL



2025 DOVER GREEK FESTIVAL



2025 CONFIDENTIAL STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE

Dear Parishioners,

First of all, we want to thank you all for your generous support of our church over the years. Without you, none of this would be possible.

We are excited to announce the launch of our new online donation portal!

Donating online saves hundreds of hours of volunteer time compared to cash or check. When donating online, money is safely, securely, and automatically transferred to our church's bank account.

Please visit our donation portal at:

<https://annunciation.raiselysite.com/>

You can make one-time or recurring donations - no need to write checks! You can specify the intended purpose for the donation right in the online form.

We also ask our PayPal users to begin using the new donation form instead, because it is integrated with our new church management software, Aplos.

(If you continue to donate via check, cash, or PayPal, we will continue to be grateful for your generosity.)

Thank you so much for your help!

Connor Haywood, Treasurer



September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>Please note that all Sunday & weekday Orthros & Divine Liturgies are at 8:45 am & 10:00 am, respectively</i></p>	<p>1</p> <p>New Ecclesiastical Year begins</p> <p>(no services)</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>HOPE/JOY Ice Cream Social 2:00 pm</p> <p>Great Vespers 6:00 pm</p>
<p>7</p> <p>Orthros & Liturgy</p>	<p>8</p> <p>The Nativity of the Theotokos</p> <p>Orthros & Liturgy</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Parish Council 6:00 pm</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Great Vespers 6:00 pm</p>
<p>14</p> <p>The Universal Exaltation of the Holy Cross</p> <p>Orthros & Liturgy</p> <p>(fast day-relaxed, not strict)</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>The Holy Martyrs St. Sophia & Her Daughters</p> <p><u>Orthros only 10:00 am</u></p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Great Vespers 6:00 pm</p>
<p>21</p> <p>Orthros & Liturgy</p> <p>Church School resumes</p>	<p>22</p> <p><i>Fr. Anthony away through Thursday, 10/2</i></p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p><u>No Vespers</u></p>
<p>28</p> <p>Orthros & Liturgy</p> <p>(pending with visiting priest)</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>				

2025 PARISH STEWARDS - *AS OF JUNE, 2025*

Evangelatos, Rev. Anthony &
 Presvytera Themmi
 Abbott, Tim & Sophia
 Anestis, Peter & Lydia
 Anestis, John "Peter"
 Atkinson, Shawn & Heidi
 Awad, George & Jessica
 Blagojevic, Nikola & Laura
 Blougouras, Nicholas & Georgia
 Bonnias, Thomas & Georgia
 Boudreau, David & Elene
 Brackett, Michael
 Byers, William & Pamela
 Canney, Mark & Sarah
 Charos, Evangelos & Maryann
 Clairmont, Richard
 Cousoule, George & Althea
 Danie, Kyle & Kiki
 Delintsiotis, Anthi
 Delintsiotis, Claire
 Delintsiotis, Demetrios
 Demopoulos, Nickolis
 Demopoulos, Ted
 Demopoulos, Vasilike (Zeff)
 Elde, Nils & Anna
 Elios, Victor
 Frangos, Peggy
 Fresh, Cyprian
 Frudakis, Hope
 Frudakis, Michael
 Gemas, Mark & Lorie
 Happnie, Joseph & Maria
 Hoeing, Patrick & Casey
 Kageleiry, Gregory
 Karabelas, Argeris & Eloise
 Karabelas, Arthur & Donna
 Karoutas, Paul & Eleni
 Kastrisios, Christos & Nancy
 Kazimierski, James & Christina
 Kostis, John & Stacey
 Kottaridis, Kathy
 Koutroubas, Paul
 Krishnan, Kulin
 Labanaris, Nicholas & Fotine

Lalas, Kimon & Vula
 Lalas, Yanni
 Lampesis, Peter & Rea
 Lampros, John & Sharon
 Lark, James & Margaret
 Lazarus, George & Sandy
 Lewis, Mack & Nina
 Lirette, Adam & Lilly
 Maskwa, Paul & Paula
 McMahon, Jo Anne
 MacNamee, Colin & Rebecca
 Melitus, James & Kathleen
 Mitropoulos, Nick & Shana
 Morris, Bea & Howard, Rob
 Murphy, Ed & Ahn
 Nelson, Mark & Melanie
 O'Hearne, James & Rosanne
 Oschman, Nora
 Panasis, Charles & Paula
 Paschalidis, Joy
 Passas, Costance
 Polychronopoulos, George
 Polychronopoulos, Zoe
 Poole, Emily
 Poole, Steve & Alice
 Primes, Stephen & Lisa
 Quigley, Josh & Jessica
 Rallis, Ekaterini
 Rosetti, Robert & Paschalidis-Rosetti,
 Ilianna
 Rouman, James
 Savage, Jameson
 Savage, Jeffery & Evelyn
 Schumaker, Robin & Judy
 Skaltsis, Debra
 Sousane, Deborah
 St. Peter, Michael & Demetra
 Strangas, Peter
 Strangas, William
 Stamelos, Paraskevi
 Thomas, George & Denise
 Trudeau, Nancy
 Tsopas, Michael
 Tsoukalas, George

Venetos, Jim & Nanine
 Veziris, Kosmas & Christina
 Vomvoris, William & Cynthia
 Webber, Daniel & Polly
 Weir, Anthony (Toby)
 Xydias, Panagiotis & Eleni
 Zisis, Elizabeth

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

For stewardship pledges made later in the summer, those names will appear in our October issue.

**If you do not see your name,
perhaps you have not filled out
your 2025 Stewardship form!**

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