CHRIST IS RISEN!
TRULY HE IS RISEN!

On the Great and Holy Feast of Pascha, Orthodox Christians celebrate the life-giving Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This feast of feasts is the most significant day in the life of the Church. It is a celebration of the defeat of death, as neither death itself nor the power of the grave could hold our Savior captive. In this victory that came through the Cross, Christ broke the bondage of sin, and through faith offers us restoration, transformation, and eternal life.

Holy Week comes to an end at sunset of Great and Holy Saturday, as the Church prepares to celebrate her most ancient and preeminent festival, Pascha, the feast of feasts. The time of preparation will give way to a time of fulfillment. The glorious and resplendent light emanating from the empty Tomb will dispel the darkness. Christ, risen from the dead, cracks the fortress of death and takes "captivity captive" (Psalm 67:19). All the limitations of our being are torn asunder. Death is swallowed up in victory and life is liberated. "For as by a man came death, by a man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive" (I Corinthians 15:21-22). Pascha is the dawn of the new and unending day. The Resurrection constitutes the most radical and decisive deliverance of humankind.

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the fundamental truth and absolute fact of the Christian faith. It is the central experience and essential kerygma of the Church. It confirms the authenticity of Christ’s remarkable earthly life and vindicates the truth of His teaching. It seals all His redemptive work: His life, the model of a holy life; His compelling and unique teaching; His extraordinary works; and His awesome, life-creating death. Christ’s Resurrection becomes the promise of our salvation. Together with His Ascension it brings to perfection God’s union with us for all eternity. The Resurrection made possible the miracle of the Church, which in every age and generation proclaims and affirms "God’s plan for the universe, the ultimate divinization of man and the created order." The profound experience of and the unshakable belief in the risen Lord enabled the Apostles to evangelize the world and empowered the Church to overcome paganism. The Resurrection discloses the indestructible power and inscrutable wisdom of God. It disposes of the illusory myths and belief systems by which people, bereft of divine knowledge, strain to affirm the meaning and purpose of their existence. Christ, risen and glorified, releases humanity from the delusions of idolatry. In Him grave-bound humanity discovers and is filled with incomparable hope. The Resurrection bestows illumination, energizes souls, brings forgiveness, transfigures lives, creates saints, and gives joy.

The Resurrection has not yet abolished the reality of death. But it has revealed its powerlessness (Hebrews 2:14-15). We continue to die as a result of the Fall. Our bodies decay and fall away. "God allows death to exist but turns it against corruption and its cause, sin, and sets a boundary both to corruption and sin." Thus, physical death does not destroy our life of communion with God. Rather, we move from death to life - from this fallen world to God’s reign.

One of the most symbolic of the Festal Icons of the Orthodox Church is that of the Holy Resurrection. In the center of this radiant event is Christ pulling Adam and Eve up from their tombs. The gates of the Realm of Death are broken and thrown down. Death, personified in human form is defeated, and bound hand and foot at the bottom of the scene. We recall the joyous words of St. Paul: "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" (1 Corinthians 15:55)

In the background stands the host of the departed, so numerous they cannot be depicted. Among them in the front of the multitude are some of the righteous dead, though now invigorated by the Resurrection. King David and his son Solomon are seen on the left wearing crowns. Near the center is Saint John the Baptist. On the other side is Abel, the son of Adam and the first man to ever die. He wears a shepherd's robe and has a cane. Many icons of this subject depict large crowds with a few other recognizable prophets.

Before midnight on Saturday evening, the Odes of Lamentation of the previous day are repeated. The Orthros of the Resurrection begins in complete darkness. The priest takes light from the vigil light and gives it to the faithful, who are holding candles. The priest sings: "Come receive light from the unwaning light, and glorify Christ, who arose from the dead", and all the people join him in singing this hymn again and again. From this moment, every Christian holds the
Easter candle as a symbol of his vivid, deep faith in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ as Savior. In many churches the priest leads the people outside the church, or the priest goes to the front of the church, where he reads the Gospel which refers to the Angels statement: "He is Risen; He is not here." (Mark 16:1-8).

Then comes the breathless moment as the people wait for the priest to start the hymn of Resurrection, which they join him in singing, repeatedly: "Christ has Risen from the dead, by death trampling upon Death, and has bestowed life upon those in the tombs". From this moment the entire service takes on a joyous Easter atmosphere. The hymns of the Odes and Praises of Resurrection which follow are of superb meaning and expression. The people confess, "It is the Day of Resurrection, let us be glorious, let us embrace one another and speak to those that hate us; let us forgive all things and so let us cry, Christ has arisen from the dead". By this hymn they admit that love of one's fellowman is the solid foundation of the faith in the Resurrection of Christ.

The Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom is then officiated. At the end of the Liturgy, a part of the marvelous festival sermon of Saint John Chrysostom is read, which calls upon the people to "Take part in this fair and radiant festival. Let no one be fearful of death, for the death of the Savior has set us free . . . O Death, where is thy sting? O Hades, where is Thy victory? Christ is Risen and Thou art overthrown. To Him be glory and power from all ages to all ages."

Later in the day, on Easter Sunday the faithful gather once more for prayer, the Agape Vespers Service, with lighted candles. All sing the hymn, "Christ is Risen from the Dead". The people greet one another joyously, saying: "Christ is Risen", the Easter salutation which is answered, "Truly He is Risen". They sing, "the dark shadows of the Law has passed away by the coming of grace", and standing in exaltation they exclaim, "Who is so great a God as our God?"

The Gospel according to John (20:19-25) is read in various languages, proclaiming the Good News of Resurrection all over the universe without discrimination. The fruit of faith in the Resurrection of the Lord is love in His Name; therefore, this day is called "Sunday of Agape" (love feast), a day dedicated to Christian principles, especially to forgiveness and charity. At this time, Christians seek to end misunderstanding and arguments among those with whom they may be at odds. Apostle Paul firmly interprets the Resurrection of Christ, saying: "If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:14).

At the midnight hour at the Resurrection Liturgy, the total darkness of the church is pierced by the light of a single candle, lit from the sleepless lamp on the altar. It is an invitation to, "Come receive the light from the unwaning light, and glorify Christ Who is risen from the dead." "Δεῦτε λάβετε φῶς ἐκ τοῦ ἀνεσπέρου φωτός, καὶ δοξάσατε Χριστόν, τὸν ἀναστάντα ἐκ νεκρῶν."

In an instant the light is passed from one to another until the church is aglow with light. This is the light that burns brightly in your heart, which burns warmly in your soul, which is your constant reminder of the love, the compassion, and the mercy of Our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

This light however needs to be shared with the world right outside our front doors. What good does it do if it only lights up your world, your home and only warms your heart and your soul with the love and compassion of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This light, this burning love is intended for the world which is in dire need of Christ right now. We all must take Christ’s light, Christ’s love, Christ’s compassion, and Christ’s mercy out to a world that barely knows Him.

During Holy Week we hear that one of Christ’s Apostles betrayed Him. Another denied Him. Another doubted Him. Several had questionings in their hearts. When you come right down to it, only one of His Apostles stayed at the Cross with Him and with His mother. Only one. These were Jesus Christ’s own Apostles, those who were chosen out of the world to follow Him. His contemporaries. It’s so many years later. So then why should we expect anything different from those in the world today if His own Apostles betrayed Him, denied Him, and doubted Him?

Because our Salvation depends on it. Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ died on the cross out of His great love for us, He died so that we may live.

May the unwaning light of Jesus Christ be for you a beacon to guide your footsteps on the pathways of life and may it be the warmth of His love and His compassion on your hearts and on your souls. Christ Is Risen! Truly He Is Risen! With my paternal love in Our Risen Lord,

Father Wilson

Very Rev. Archimandrite Agathonikos M. Wilson
(Father Mike)
Dean of the Cathedral and Presiding Priest
**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

I hope your Lenten journey is going well as we battle the Northeasterns happening on a weekly basis, spring will hopefully be here in more than name only before we know it. Palm Sunday and our annual fish dinner is fast approaching please call the office to reserve a spot or two or ten, April 1 is the date so let’s start off our most special time together as a community. Holy Week will follow and I urge you to take part in the services that only happen once a year, bring the family and be part of your church. Pascha is early this year April 8th so do not let the weather turn you away, its warm inside with your faith again being celebrated as we await the Resurrection.

Following that busy time we will be blessed with a visit from Metropolitan Methodios on the 15th of April, come and great your bishop as he makes his annual visit. The AHEP-ANS are preparing a special luncheon so please pick up a ticket to that as well and join us for a nice meal together, see the announcement in this bulletin. Believe it’s a half chicken so it’s not to be missed.

Our Glendi is off and running as hundreds of letters have already gone out, obtaining the proper permits as well as trying to have the ad book start off strong under the direction of past President George Copadis. If you receive a letter concerning Glendi please be generous as your community kicks off once again the biggest festival, the best festival, your community can possibly host for our friends and neighbors. Did I mention it is also our largest fund raiser, well it is and will be another success with your participation so please be part of it, this is your early invitation.

A reminder of the scholarship applications available in the office, nice packets have been prepared with everything you need to apply. We are blessed at St. George, we are frankly scholarship rich so take advantage of this opportunity, do not be left out and wondering why didn’t your teen apply. It’s just one more advantage of belonging to our community.

I, along with Bill Hughen and Tom Tsirimokos, accompanied Fr. Mike to the Boston Metropolis to hear firsthand the state of affairs, the financial issues facing our church. It was an event attended by some 50-60 communities each with their priest. It was not a good listen. The church, our church, is in trouble and they gave a litany of the recent problems. Moving money around at will to pay Peter when it was earmarked for Paul. The St. Nicks money, the clergy pensions, the commitment to the seminary. There was a feeling that the bad times are over and the new transparency will be the order of the day going forward. An accounting is underway and everything will come out as to how it happened, why it happened and how to prevent it from happening ever again. We are a major church, a giant nonprofit that was being run like a local pizza place. I can tell you the truth that I was disgusted. No one stole from their church, but it was sloppy, very sloppy. Perhaps His Eminence will address it when he visits and being people of faith we must continue to have that faith that our Lord is protecting us. See the recent Observer for an overview. It is not a pretty picture, but I do remain confident that it is over and better times are ahead. I can assure you that your community does not operate that way, has never operated that way. We require two signatures on our checks, your contributions for the Sunday School or the choir get credited into that account, no one is making major purchases alone. We have and continue to keep excellent books. I just felt as president everyone should know of the problems the Archdiocese was and is experiencing.

On a happier note we have begun the renovation of the large double classroom in the community center. We are putting in a giant flat screen tv and the electrical upgrades to view a movie, have a meeting or seminar in comfort, new carpeting, new furniture, painting--the works. The Anagenesis has made a commitment as well as the Pananos Fund to help finance this long overdue project. We will also begin a more limited revival of the other classrooms to bring them into this century, that work will be over this summer.

Please look at the announcements in this monthly bulletin of the many upcoming events, join us at your church, it is a special time of year. Take part in the services, bring your family. Have a blessed Pascha! See you at the Divine Liturgy, Happy Easter.

Frank C. Comerford - President

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**FATHER’S OFFICE HOURS**

Father’s Office Hours
Monday – Wednesday – Friday
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Thursday 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday and Saturday By Appointment

**FATHER’S CONTACT INFORMATION**

Cell Phone: (603) 856-6749
E-mail: revframwilson@yahoo.com
Dear Saint George Community,

As I write this letter we are still waiting for spring and preparing for Pascha. The students have been learning about Lent and Pascha in the classrooms. Lent is a time to think about Jesus’ life and giving to others. Lent reminds us of what Jesus gave us and what we can give to others, too. It is a time to remember that Jesus died for us, but came back to life. Jesus is still and always will be with us.

In February, the Sunday School students made and decorated Valentine’s Day cards for residents of local nursing homes. We delivered the cards and visited with the nursing home residents, including most Greek residents. I want to thank Father Mike for coordinating with Villa Crest and the Bourassa family for joining my family to deliver the cards. This is our fifth year and it has become a lovely tradition of “spreading the love!”

Sincerely,
Athena Moutsioulis Bevan

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Delivering Valentine’s Day cards to residents of Villa Crest Nursing Home
Pictured left to right: John Bourassa, Ana Liz Bourassa, Alexa Bevan, Lucas Bevan & Athan Bevan
February 11, 2018

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Sunday School Save the Dates

April 1st Palm Sunday
April 8th Easter, Family Sunday, No classes
April 22nd Spring Vacation, Family Sunday, No classes
May 20th Last day of classes, Sunday School sponsored coffee hour
PALM SUNDAY FISH DINNER
APRIL 01, 2018
Broiled Haddock in Special Sauce
Greek Salad, Rice, Dessert and Coffee
$13.00
Children’s Meal
Pasta with Marinara Sauce, Greek Salad
$7.00
Advance ticket sales only
(Please make checks out to Anagiaennesis Ladies Society)

DO YOU SPEAK OR READ FRENCH? GERMAN?
ALBANIAN? CHINESE?
We need volunteers to help proclaim the Gospel on Pascha during the Agape Vespers Service on Sunday, April 8 in the many and various languages of the world. If you are blessed with these skills and are able to help, please contact Father as soon as possible. Thank you.

SAINT GEORGE FEAST DAY CELEBRATION
The Service of Great Vespers and Artoclasia for the Feast of Saint George will be held on Sunday, April 22, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. A light reception will follow in the community center.

The Divine Liturgy for the Feast of Saint George will be held on Monday, April 23, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

Please come to both services and honor our patron saint, Saint George the Trophy Bearer.

ANAGENNESIS LADIES SOCIETY DUES
The dues will be collected during Coffee Hour in the Community Center. The dues this year are $15.00. Please see Dorothy Chakas during coffee hour to pay your dues.

St. George Board of Directors
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1st Vice President
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Christina Dimos
Angela Dion
Tana Kilmer Gustafson
Linda Martin
Veneta Tatakis
Tracy Terrio

GLENDI 2018 PROGRAM AD RATES
Patron (Name) - $25.00
Quarter Page $  75.00  (3.5" w x 4.75" h)
Half Page  150.00  (4.75" h x 7.5" w
OR 3.5" w x 10" h)
Full Page  300.00  (7.5" w x 10" h)

*EXTENDED DEADLINE FOR ADS IS MAY 31ST
Please make checks payable to:
St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral
650 Hanover St. Manchester, NH 03104-5306
Thank you

I would like to thank the Apokreatiko Committee for helping with the Apokreatiko Celebration. Without your help it wouldn’t have been the success that it was. A special thank you to John Stavropoulos in the kitchen, John Nacos and Maria Dongas at the bar, Eva Stilkey for making the nut free muffins, and Mahi Nakos, Poppy Tsoutsas, Georgia Sousa, Maria Damalas, Sally Argeriou, and Marilyn Motowylak. A special thank goes out to Joyce in the office for all her hard work and Dan for everything he does for the dance. With all my love and appreciation, Toula Barber, Chairperson

ROASTED CHICKEN LUNCHEON

Sponsored by AHEPA
April 15, 2018
Half Roasted Chicken, Rice, Salad, Dessert and Coffee
$15.00
Purchase tickets in advance during coffee hour

EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS

Please consider a donation for our Easter flowers! If you would like to make a donation towards our Lenten and Easter flowers you may do so by mailing a donation to the church office, drop it off at the church office, or give it to any member of the Anagennesis Board. Please make checks payable to Anagennesis. Thank you for your generosity.

Please feel free to drop off a Lenten dish for Coffee Hours.

Palm Sunday Fish Dinner/April 1st.
Tickets are $13 adults/$7 kids.
All are welcome to help decorate on Good Friday morning, April 6th at 9am.

SUNDAY OF THOMAS
SUNDAY, APRIL 15, 2018

Please come and welcome His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios to our beloved Saint George Cathedral May God grant him many years!

PASCHAL POT LUCK DINNER

Immediately following the Resurrection Divine Liturgy, everyone is invited to enjoy a Paschal Pot Luck Meal in the community center. Please let Tom and Ginny Tsirimokos know what your contribution of food will be and if you would be willing to help with the preparations and or clean up. All contributions should be ready to serve to facilitate easy clean up at this early morning hour.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If your address changes, please give the Cathedral Office a call at 622-9113 and let them know of the change.
STEWARDSHIP 2018

Michael & Donna Aboshar
Mark & Elaine Adam
Arthur Adamakos
Anastasia Ambargis
Alex Anagnost & Amy Cloutier
Diakaios & Demetria Anagnost
Stavros Anagnost
Panagiota Arfanakis
Sally Argeriou
Dana & Ashley Arsenault
James & Lynne Arvanitis
William & Cheryl Athanas
Bradley & Katerina Atkinson
Christos & Alexandra Babis
Christine Ballas
Toula Barber
Jaime & Ashley Bardwell Moufarge
Curtis & Erika Barnes
George & Joy Bentas
Joan Bentas
Diane Bobotas
Peter & Kate Boisvert
Richard & Georgiann Boisvert
Arthur Boujoukos
William & Nancy Brennan
Fanny Canotas
Brian, Cathy & Alexis Carr
Daniel & Amanda Casey
Gregory & Meagan Chadis
Steve Chakas
William & Maria+ Chaloge
Daphne Chiavaras
Fran Chiavaras
Robert & Mary-Ann Choquette
Christos & Barbara Chrisafides
Dean & Evangeline Christon
William C. Christy
Marie Clapsaddle
Ronald & Marion Cole
Brian Comerford
Frank & Alice Comerford
George Copadis
Nick Copadis
Lynn Cross
Jenny Dakos
Maria Dakos
Julia Damalas
Maria Damalas
Athanasios & Christine Dellas
Vivi Desjardins
Michael & Demetra Dillon
George & Linda Dimakis
Harry Dimos
Michael & Christina Dimos
Tom & Carol Dionis
Nicholas & Artemis Donis
Effie Dovas
Susan Duffy
Jim & Stephanie Ferro
Franceen Ballas Flynn
Nancy Folis
Kristine Gagne
Matthew Gatsas
Michael Gatsas
Pauline Gatsas
Theodore & Cassandra Gatsas
Kostas & Visaria Gekas
Alexander Georgeou
Stephen & Brenda Gikas
Aphrodite Giotas
Evangelos & Grace Griburas
George & Georgia Karafotias Harb
Louise Hart
Nicholas & SeSun Hartofilis
William & Jennifer Hughes
William & Joan Hughes
John Ine
Alice Ivos
John & Kathryn Jaskolka
Nicholas Jaskolka
Betty Kacavas
Nola Kalantzis
Angeliki Kanellos
Christos & Haido Karageorgos
Emilianos & Theodora Karagiannis
Theodore & Panagiota Karametos
John & Barbara Karanasi
Eva Karandianis
Rigas & Maria Karoutsos
John & Elaine Katsooupis
Chris & Helen Kehas
Anna Kennefick
George & Elizabeth Kitsis
Andrea Kokolis
Ernie Kotekas
William Kotekas
Dennis & Anita Kounas
Johny & Katelyn Kuttab
George & Dafnoula Lalopoulos
Philip Liakos
Stephen & Maureen Liakos
Mary Lianos
Daniel & Maria Lustenberger
John & Marie MacArthur
William & Claire Macenas
Stamatia Malatras
Helena Malik
Effie Mandelos
Pamela Manolakis
Anthony & Karen Massahos
Mark McCue & Vasiliki Canotas
Harry & Imelda Mehos
Socrates & Evdoxia Merisotis
Aspa Michalopoulos
Olga Mikolaities
Spirou & Maria Miliou
Nikolas & Lyndsay Mitsopoulos
Spirou & Sharon Mitsopoulos
Timothy Mitsopoulos
Zachary Mitsopoulos
Soutlana Mokas
Marilyn Motowylak
Bess Moussseau
Elia Moutsouli
Kosta & Nikki Moutsouli
Theodora Nakos
Charles, Iris & Nick Newdorf
Michael & Elaine Oleniak
Demetrios & Maria Palangas
Nicholas Palangas
William Pananos
Costas & Mary Papachristos
Frank & Athanasia Papanicolaou
Arthur & Dawn Pappas
Christopher Pappas
Jason & Heather Parent
Evangelos & Brenda Pervanas
George Petrikas
Eugenia Pleat
Greg & Beth Plentzas
Evangelos & Pauline Poulos
Giorgio & Denise Ricciardi
Georgia Saitas
Christos & Jackie Samaras
James & Christine Samaras
Joanna Samaras
Maria Samaras
George Sioras
Joyce Skaperdas
Georgia Sousa
Costas & Tina Spanos
Stergios Spanos
Eva Stilkey
Angelo Suciu
Olga Sysyn
Thomas Sysyn
Lisa Tagalakis
Andrea Tartas
Vasilios & Nancy Tatsis
Theodora Thanos
William Theodosopoulos & Charlene Matthews
Arthur N. Tolios
Vasiliki Tolios
George & Joyce Trapotsis
Vasso Tsingos
Thomas & Ginny Tsirimokos
Hercules & Constance Tsirovakas
Vasilios & Christos Tsourvakas
Alexandra Tsoutsas
Despina Tsoutsas
George Tsoutsas
Despina Tziros
Peter & Ashley Tziros
Christos Veziris
Stergios & Christine Vizakis
James & Constance Vlangas
Matthew & Darcie Vlangas
Theofilos & Angela Vougias
Vasilios & Christina Vougias
Edward & Cynthia Wade
Matthew & Mary Wade
Jeremy & Argy Walker
Timothy & Kristen Wheeler
Michael & Ellen Whitney
Fr. Agathanikos Wilson
Arthur Zetes
George & Ourania Zogopoulos
Please join us for the Greek Independence Day Parade in Boston

Sunday, April 22nd, 2018
Bus will be leaving from the Assumption Church parking lot at 11:15am

We will arrive in Boston and join in the parade as a group, representing all three Manchester, NH parishes

Children should be dressed in Traditional Greek Costumes if possible

Bus fare is: $15 for adults/FREE for children (includes snacks & drinks)

Limited seating available. Seats will be reserved on a first-come basis.

Reservations can be made at the Greek School celebration on Thursday, March 29th by submitting names and adult busfare to Mr. Kitsis or Mrs. Alexandra or any Parish Council member or weekdays at both church offices

For more information, please contact the Assumption Church office at: 603-623-2045 or the St. George Cathedral office at 603-622-9113

EASTER BREAD – TSOUREKIA

Will be available for purchase on Palm Sunday during the fish dinner and Holy Wednesday in the lobby of the Community Center. All breads are $10 each.

MAY BULLETIN

The May Bulletin will be a couple of days late being mailed. Sorry for the inconvenience.

COMMUNITY NEWS

New Members
Mr. & Mrs. Dana Arsenault, William Theodosopoulos, Charlene Mathews and Angelo Suciu.
Welcome to the Family!

Funerals
Angelyn Christon, Maria Chaloge, and Nicholas Kalipolites
May their memories be eternal!

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral Beautification Fund in memory of:

Deta Hashem $100.00
Constance Viscarola $50.00
Eric Palangas $50.00
Angelyn Christon $50.00

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Papanicolau generously donated $200.00 to the St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral Beautification Fund in loving memory of their parents.

Mr. & Mrs. Costas Pontidis generously donated $250.00 to the St. George Greek Orthodox Coffee hour fund in loving memory of Elaine Magerias.

Mrs. Eudoxia Lazos generously donated $200.00 to the St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral Beautification Fund in loving memory of her husband, John Lazos.

Correction: Mrs. Georgia Sousa donated $100.00 in loving memory of her brother, Milton Argeriou to the Senior Choir. It was listed in the March monthly as $200.00.

John & Marie Dovas donated $30.00 to the Senior Choir Fund in memory of Deta Spiro Hashem.

Nicholas & SeSun Hartofelis donated $100.00 to the Senior Choir Fund.

RED EASTER EGGS NEEDED!

We want to make sure everyone gets an egg this Easter. Our goal is 30 dozen red eggs. Can you help? Please drop them off in the church office or the Narthex from Holy Thursday through Holy Saturday morning.
DATING OF EASTER (PASCHA) IN THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

One of the most frequent questions asked by and to Orthodox Christians is “Why does the Orthodox Church celebrate Easter on a different day than other Christians?” This difference has a long history related to Christianity itself, the complex nature of calendars, and the use of astronomical data.

Almost from the very beginning of the existence of the Christian Church, the issue regarding the date of our Lord’s death and resurrection presented variations. Although the New Testament relates these events to the Jewish Passover, the details of this relationship are not clear. On the one hand, the tradition of the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke identifies the Lord’s Last Supper with His disciples as a Passover meal. This would place the death of our Lord on the day after Passover. On the other hand, the tradition of the Gospel of John situates the death of our Lord at the very hour the paschal lambs were sacrificed on the day of Passover itself. This variation in the interpretation of the Scriptures led to two different practices. The one observed Pascha on the day of Passover, regardless of the day of the week, that is a fixed date. The other observed Pascha on the day following Passover. By the fourth century, the latter practice prevailed throughout the Church universally; nevertheless, differences continued to exist.

In response to this ongoing problem, the First Ecumenical Council, convened at Nicaea in 325 A.D., took up the issue. It determined that Pascha should be celebrated on the Sunday that follows the first full moon after the vernal equinox – the actual beginning of spring. If the full moon happens to fall on a Sunday, Pascha is observed the following Sunday. The day taken to be the invariable date of the vernal equinox is March 21. Hence, the determination of the date of Pascha is governed by a process dependent on the vernal equinox and the phase of the moon.

Another factor that figures prominently in determining the date of Pascha is the date of the Jewish Passover. Originally, Passover was celebrated on the first full moon after the vernal equinox. Christians, therefore, celebrated Pascha according to the same calculation - that is, on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the vernal equinox. The correlation between the date of Pascha and the date of Passover is clear. Our Lord’s death and resurrection coincided with Passover, thereby assuring a secure point of reference in time. This assurance lasted, however, only for a short time.

Events in Jewish history contributing to the dispersion of the Jews had, as a consequence, a departure from the way Passover was reckoned at the time of our Lord’s death and resurrection. This caused the Passover to precede the vernal equinox in some years. It was, in fact, this anomaly that led to the condemnation reflected in Canon 1 of Antioch (ca. 330 A.D.) and Canon 7 of the Holy Apostles (late 4th century) of those who celebrate Pascha “with the Jews.” The purpose of this condemnation was to prevent Christians from taking into account the calculation of Passover in determining the date of Pascha.

Most Christians eventually ceased to regulate the observance of Pascha by the Jewish Passover. Their purpose, of course, was to preserve the original practice of celebrating Pascha following the vernal equinox. Thus, the Council of Nicaea sought to link the principles for determining the date of Pascha to the norms for calculating Passover during our Lord’s lifetime.

Despite the intervention of the Council of Nicaea, certain differences in the technicalities of regulating the date of Pascha remained even thereafter. This resulted occasionally in local variations until, by the sixth century, a more secure mode of calculation based on astronomical data was universally accepted. This was an alternative to calculating Pascha by the Passover and consisted in the creation of so-called “paschal cycles.” Each paschal cycle corresponded to a certain number of years. Depending upon the number of years in the cycle, the full moon occurred on the same day of the year as at the beginning of the cycle with some exceptions. The more accurate the cycle, the less frequent were the exceptions. In the East, a nineteen-year cycle was eventually adopted, whereas in the West an eighty-four-year cycle. The use of two different paschal cycles inevitably gave way to differences between the Eastern and Western Churches regarding the observance of Pascha.

A further cause for these differences was the adoption by the Western Church of the Gregorian Calendar in 1582 to replace the Julian Calendar. This took place in order to adjust the discrepancy, then observed between the paschal cycle approach to calculating Pascha and the available astronomical data. The Orthodox Church continues to base its calculations for the date of Pascha on the Julian Calendar, which was in use at the time of the First Ecumenical Council. As such, it does not take into account the thirteen-day difference between the Julian and Gregorian Calendars.

Practically speaking, this means that Pascha may not be celebrated before April 3, which was March 21, the date of the vernal equinox, at the time of the First Ecumenical Council. In other words, a difference of thirteen days exists between the accepted date for the vernal equinox then and now.
DATING OF EASTER (PASCHA) IN THE ORTHODOX CHURCH (CONTINUED)

Consequently, it is the combination of these variables that accounts for the different dates of Pascha observed by the Orthodox Church and other Christian Churches. If anything, this review of the complexities surrounding the issue of the date of Pascha underscores the compelling need to revisit it with patience and openness. This topic has long been a concern of ecumenical dialogue. This was the spirit that predominated at a consultation on the matter held in Aleppo, Syria in 1997. One of its conclusions was that the underlying reason for the differences in the date of Pascha was the differences in the calendars and lunar tables (paschal cycles) employed rather than any theological disagreement between Eastern and Western Christians. In view of the fact that today both the Julian and Gregorian modes of calculation diverge from the astronomical data, it behooves all Christians to return to the norms determined by the Council of Nicaea, taking advantage of the most up-to-date astronomical data for the vernal equinox and the phase of the moon.

Dr. Lewis J. Patsavos, Professor-Emeritus of Canon Law, Holy Cross School of Theology First published, October 2001 Edited, March 2009

ST. GEORGE RUMMAGE SALE

We will be having a parish-wide rummage sale on Saturday, April 28.

Proceeds from the sale will benefit the ministries of our parish.

Now is the time to be putting aside the items you want to donate. We will be accepting gently used clothing and household items, toys, books, tools and any other miscellaneous items that we will be able to sell.

Please bring your items to the Church Office. If you are unable to bring your items to church please call the office and we will make arrangements for it to be picked up.

If you have any questions regarding the Rummage Sale please see Alice Lylis.

PASchal homily of saint gregory the theologian

We are all familiar with the Paschal Sermon of Saint John Chrysostom, which is read at the Resurrection Divine Liturgy on Pascha, however, many may not realize that Saint Gregory the Theologian also wrote and delivered a beautiful sermon of Pascha, which I share with you.

“Yesterday I was crucified with Christ; Today I am glorified with Him. Yesterday I died with Him; Today I am made alive with Him. Yesterday I was buried with Him; Today I am raised with Him. Let us become like Christ, since Christ became like us. Let us become divine for His sake, since for us He became man. He assumed the worse, that He might give us the better. He became poor, that by His poverty we might become rich. He accepted the form of a servant, that we might win back our freedom. He came down, that we might be lifted up. He was tempted, that through Him we might conquer. He was dishonored, that He might glorify us. He died, that He might save us. He ascended, that He might draw to Himself us, Who lie prostrate, having fallen into sin. Let us give all, offer all, to Him who gave Himself, A ransom and reconciliation for us.”

For forty days we have been tested in the “Lenten desert”, praying: “Enable us....to emerge victorious over sin and, without reproach, to come to the worship of Your Holy Resurrection.” THE VICTORY IS WON!! CHRIST IS RISEN!! TRULY HE IS RISEN!!

UPCOMING FUTURE FAMILY NIGHTS

Friday, April 20th 6pm. – 9pm.

Friday, May 11th 6pm. -9 pm.

Friday, June 22nd End of Year Barbeque More info to Come!
April 2018

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

First, let me thank each and every one of you for your generous donations over the years for our GLENDI Ad Book. The book has grown from $10,000.00 in 1997 to between $50,000.00 and $70,000.00 over the past few years and the success of this book is due in large measure to the generosity of each and every one of you!

Our joint goal should always be to exceed any previous goal that has been reached in previous years and that’s exactly what I have my sights set on in 2018.

This goal is a lofty goal and in order for us to succeed not only do I have to be all in but all of us together as a team need to be all in. This is an attainable goal as long as we all do our part. How can we exceed last year’s ad book total, $50,000.00?

1. If you haven’t participated in past years please consider a patron ad for $25.00, a quarter page ad for $75.00, a half page ad for $150.00, or a full-page ad for $300.00. Please give according to your means.

2. For those who have bought ads in past years please participate again. If it is financially feasible for you to purchase a more expensive ad this year please do so.

3. All of us have vendors we use. This might be your local car repair shop, a restaurant that you frequent, a dry cleaner’s, a grocery store etc. The next time you are there please bring a copy of the cost of the ads with you (included in this letter with your mailing) and ask if they might be willing to contribute. If you don’t know if they’re contributed in the past please call me at 361-3259 and I will check for you.

4. Just 100 new patron ads at $25.00 each is $2,500.00.

5. If you are aware of someone you think might want to be a GLENDI sponsor at a higher dollar amount, please reach out to them or give me their name and phone number and I will make the call.

Thank you for ALL that you do to insure the success of our community. Our community is a strong vibrant community and the GLENDI is the gold standard of events here in New Hampshire! We truly have made our grandparents and parents proud and we have succeeded in keeping the legacy they have left us stronger than ever.

Thank you for your consideration of my request and thank you for taking the time to read this. I’m sure you will be hearing from me again over the next few months. Wink Wink Wink!

This year our GLENDI Celebration will take place September 14th, 15th, and 16th.

My best to each of you,

George N. Copadis
2018 GLENDI Ad Book Chair
NEW YORK – The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America announces that applications for the Scholarship and Fellowship programs administered by the Archdiocese are now available. Applications can be accessed by visiting . For more information, please email or call 212-774-0283. The deadline for submitting an application for any of these scholarships is May 4, 2018.

George & Naouma (Gioule) Gioles Scholarship
Katina John Malta Scholarship
Paleologos Scholarship

Applications and instructions for these three scholarships administered by the Department of Philanthropy of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America are available for awards to be made for the 2018-2019 academic year. The George & Naouma (Gioule) Gioles Scholarship and the Katina John Malta Scholarship are for undergraduate studies, and the Paleologos Scholarship is awarded for graduate work of a non-theological nature. Each of these scholarships was established through generous gifts from dedicated Greek Orthodox Christians who wanted to provide financial assistance towards the education of young people from our Orthodox Christian community.

The Christos and Georgia Trakatellis Fellowship

Applications are also available for a fellowship from The Christos and Georgia Trakatellis Fellowship Fund for the 2018-2019 academic year. This Fund was established in 2011 by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios and his brother, Prof. Antonios Trakatellis, in memory of their parents, Christos and Georgia. The Fund, overseen by the Chancellor’s Office, offers fellowships to graduates of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology to study Greek language, Hellenic culture and liturgical practice. These studies can take place in the United States or, preferably, in Greece or at the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. The study could be part of an established academic program (Doctoral or Master Levels) or part of a free program, which should be well structured and clearly defined in view of the above stated purpose of the Fund. Candidates shall be chosen based on merit and need. The amount of the fellowship is $3,000 per semester for up to two semesters. One or more full or partial fellowships will be awarded annually.
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<td>1.</td>
<td><strong>Palm Sunday</strong></td>
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<td>10 am. Palm Sunday Fish Dinner in CC.</td>
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<td>&amp; Distribution of Holy Unction 7 pm. No</td>
<td>Service of the 12 Gospel Readings 7 pm.</td>
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<td>Vesperal Div. Lit. of St. Basil 6 am.</td>
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<td>Royal Hours 8 am.</td>
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<td>Apokathilosis Service 3 pm. Lamentations</td>
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<td><strong>Happy Pascha</strong></td>
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<td>Agape Vespers 11 am. Easter Egg hunt</td>
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<td>Orthodox Life Class at 6:15 pm at Annex.</td>
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<td>12.</td>
<td>**Feast of the Life Giving Font Div. Lit.</td>
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<td>13.</td>
<td><strong>Spring Family Night 6-9 p.m. in CC.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Zorba Class 11 a.m in CC.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Orthros 9 a.m. Div. Lit 10 a.m. Sun. Sch.</strong></td>
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<td>10 am. Bishop Visiting St. George Cathedral.</td>
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<td>AHEPA Luncheon after services</td>
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<td>16.</td>
<td><strong>Greek Pre-Sch.</strong></td>
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<td>17.</td>
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<td>20.</td>
<td><strong>Rumage Sale set-up in CC.</strong></td>
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<td>21.</td>
<td><strong>St. George Rumage Sale in CC</strong></td>
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<td>22.</td>
<td><strong>Orthros 9 a.m. Div. Lit 10 a.m</strong></td>
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<td>No Sun Sch. 40-Day Mem. for Maria Chaloge.</td>
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<td>Greek Ind. Day Parade 1 pm in Boston.</td>
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<td>Great Vespers &amp; Artoclasia for Feast of St. George 6 p.m.</td>
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<td>23.</td>
<td><strong>Feast of St. George Div. Lit 10 a.m.</strong></td>
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<td>26.</td>
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<td>27.</td>
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<td>28.</td>
<td><strong>St. George Rumage Sale in CC</strong></td>
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<td>29.</td>
<td><strong>Orthros 9 a.m. Div. Lit. 10 a.m.</strong></td>
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<td>30.</td>
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<td>5th/6th BB 6-7:30 p.m. in CC.</td>
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<tr>
<td>31.</td>
<td><strong>Orthros 9 a.m. Div. Lit. 10 a.m.</strong></td>
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Joyce on Vacation. Church Office Closed
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<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
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<th>Wed</th>
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<th>Fri</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>2. Bible Study 11 am &amp; 6:15 pm at Annex</td>
<td>3.</td>
<td>4.</td>
<td>5. St. George Dance 7 pm in CC.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Orthros 9 am Div. Lit. 10 am. Sun. Sch. 10 am. 1st General Assembly in</td>
<td>7. Pre-Sch 4:30-5:30 pm in CC. Adult Greek Sch. 6-7:30 pm in CC</td>
<td>8.</td>
<td>9. Bible Study 11 am &amp; 6:15 pm at Annex</td>
<td>10.</td>
<td>11. Family Night 6-9 pm in CC.</td>
<td>12.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Happy Mother's Day Orthros 9 a.m. Div. Lit 10 am. Sun Sch. 10 am. Mother's Day coffee hour in CC.</td>
<td>14. Pre-Sch 4:30-5:30 pm in CC. Adult Greek Sch. 6-7:30 pm in CC BOD Mtg. 7 p.m. at</td>
<td>15.</td>
<td>16. Bible Study 11 am &amp; 6:15 pm at Annex</td>
<td>17. Feast of Ascension Div. Lit. 10 am.</td>
<td>18.</td>
<td>19.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27. Orthros 9 a.m. Div. Lit. 10 am.</td>
<td>28. Memorial Day Office Closed. Pine Grove Cemetery 9 am –1 pm. NH State Veteran’s Cemetery 4:30—5:00pm</td>
<td>29.</td>
<td>30.</td>
<td>31.</td>
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St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral- Manchester NH

Metropolis-Clergy Laity Award Nomination:

Name of nominee: ________________________________

Your name (optional): ________________________________

Brief summary of why you nominated this person:

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