

# MONTHLY BULLETIN

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## Progress Reports and Mom's Stifatho

Phil came home one day and was furious with his math teacher. Phil's mom asked "what is wrong Agape mou?" He answered "I don't like my math teacher and I hate math!" Phil then pulled out a copy of his progress report given to him by his mathematics teacher and gazed upon it with contempt.

With bated breath Phil explained to his mother that he struggles greatly with learning mathematics and that math class is just too difficult for him at times. Indeed, his progress report contained an exhaustive list of his mathematical struggles. "It's just not fair" he exclaimed!

Phil's mother then reminded him, as many Greek mothers do, of the time when she tried a new recipe for his favorite Greek dish; stifatho. She explained that after making the stifatho and serving it to the family she then asked Phil, his brother, his two sisters and his father how they liked the new recipe. "What was your response Agape mou" asked Phil's mother? Phil Responded "Go back to Yiayia's recipe."

Phil's mother instantly snapped her fingers and shouted "bravo sou (well done)! Do you see now? "That was your progress report for me, agape mou." Phil understood his mother's point and begrudgingly trudged his way to his desk to finish his homework.

Brothers and sisters in the Lord, Lent is upon. It is a time when Orthodox Christians focus on examining their lives, repenting for their sins (remember we all sin), and preparing spiritually for the celebration of Pascha by engaging in practices like prayer, fasting, and acts of charity. In simple terms it is a time that we examine our own "Spiritual Progress Report" while attempting to improve our efforts.

May we all examine our lives with open hearts while desiring to please the Lord our God.

Καλή Σαρακοστή (Good Lent)!

Your brother in Christ the Lord,  
Father Christopher Kolentsas

## March Services

**Saturday, March 1**  
Saturday of the Souls  
Divine Liturgy **9:30am**

**Sunday, March 2**  
Forgiveness Sunday  
Orthos **8:30 am**  
Divine Liturgy **9:30 am**

**Wednesday, March 5**  
Presanctified Liturgy  
Divine Liturgy **9:30am**

**Friday, March 7**  
Akathist Hymn with Parish Family Dinner  
Divine Liturgy **5:30pm**

**Sunday, March 9**  
Sunday of Orthodoxy  
Orthos **8:30am**  
Divine Liturgy **9:30 am**

**Friday, March 14**  
Akathist Hymn with Parish  
Family Dinner  
Divine Liturgy **5:30pm**

**Sunday, March 16**  
St. Gregory Palamas  
Orthos **8:30am**  
Divine Liturgy **9:30am**

**Wednesday, March 19**  
Presanctified Liturgy  
Divine Liturgy **9:30am**

**Friday, March 21**  
Akathist Hymn with Parish  
Family Dinner  
Divine Liturgy **5:30pm**

**Sunday, March 23**  
Sunday of Holy Cross  
Orthos **8:30 am**  
Divine Liturgy **9:30 am**

**Tuesday, March 25**  
Annunciation  
Divine Liturgy **9:30am**

**Wednesday, March 26**  
Presanctified Liturgy  
Divine Liturgy **9:30am**

**Friday, March 28**  
Akathist Hymn with Parish  
Family Dinner  
Divine Liturgy **5:30pm**

**Sunday, March 30**  
John Climacus  
Orthos **8:30 am**  
Divine Liturgy **9:30 am**

### Bible Study

Tuesdays **6:15pm – 7:30pm**  
March 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>

Thursdays **11:15am – 12:30pm**  
March 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>

Bible Study & Jamming with Father Chris  
March 27<sup>th</sup> starting at **11:15am**

### Donations

**In Loving Memory of Julia Pappas Burke**  
James & Janet Squires

**In Loving Memory of Nicholas Votze**  
Katie Hedrington

**General Donations**  
Jay & Mary Ann Tsoutsouras  
Christopher Tsoutsouras

**Annual Church Fund**  
Prudence Markos

**Christmas Party Donation**  
William & Charlene Nicholson

**Easter & Easter Flowers**  
Presvytera Kathleen Govostes

### Greek Independence Day Luncheon

Our annual Greek Independence Day Luncheon is scheduled to be held on **Sunday, March 23<sup>th</sup>** at the Hellenic Center. Please join us as our Sunday School and Greek School children recite their poems and perform traditional Greek dancing. Tickets are available for sale in advance, contact Heidi DiCicco 978-808-6884 or Ellie Todd at 978-618-7540. Ticket price is \$20, children and Sunday school age younger are free. A dessert is welcomed. Please bring it that day. Thank you!



### Festival

#### **FESTIVAL AND RAFFLE SPONSORSHIP!**

*IT IS NOT TOO SOON!*

Meetings have begun and there is much to do before our 2025 annual festival, which will be held on **July 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Please consider the request below if you would like to and are able to donate, please reach out asap!**

The festival raffle and sponsorships combined generate a huge amount of the net profit of our festival, in recent years, averaging about 1/3 of our proceeds! This is our rain insurance, as it assists in all of the upfront costs. Thank you in advance for the generous donations of items and sponsorships. We appreciate the support of our parishioners, parishioner businesses and area businesses.

#### **FESTIVAL RAFFLE**

Donations of a cash prize, gift cards to restaurants, local businesses, sports events, concert or theater tickets are great! These prizes make for an enticing raffle. If you wish to donate an item, please contact Connie at 617-212-5353 or [bananagtce@comcast.net](mailto:bananagtce@comcast.net)

The deadline is April 15<sup>th</sup> but if we receive enough items sooner work can begin in advance of our deadline and it would be great!

#### **FESTIVAL SPONSORSHIP**

Consider sponsoring the festival: individually, through your business or share this info with someone you feel may be interested! A formal sponsorship request letter can be sent as well. Please reach out by email or phone to the contacts listed below.

## FESTIVAL

### SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

#### **\*PLATINUM\* \$5,000.00**

- Customized sponsor banner (72 x 36) to be prominently displayed on festival grounds
- Recognition of sponsorship on radio ads
- Full page ad in booklet
- Placemat recognition
- (12) complimentary entry tickets to festival

#### **GOLD \$2,500.00**

- Full page ad in booklet
- Placemat recognition
- (6) complimentary entry tickets to festival

#### **SILVER \$1,000.00**

- ½ page ad in booklet
- Placemat recognition
- (4) complimentary entry tickets to festival

#### **BRONZE \$500.00**

- ¼ page ad in booklet
- Placemat recognition
- (4) complimentary entry tickets to festival

#### **PATRON \$250.00**

- 1/8-page ad in booklet
- Placemat recognition
- (2) complimentary entry tickets to festival

Please respond via email/phone call with the level you wish to support or any questions:

Connie at 617-212-5353 ([bananagtce@comcast.net](mailto:bananagtce@comcast.net)) Christine at 978-500-6248

([cesarantopoulos@hotmail.com](mailto:cesarantopoulos@hotmail.com))

Ad assistance- (create, update or confirm ad)- Design Director - [peterlmanos@gmail.com](mailto:peterlmanos@gmail.com)

Deadline is May 1, 2025, however an early commitment is hugely helpful!

Thank you!

Checks should be payable and sent to below:

Assumption of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church- P.O.Box 6, Ipswich MA 01938

## Melissa

### March 5 Melissa Women's Society Meeting

The March 5 meeting will be held at the Ipswich Ale Brewery at 6:30pm. New members are always welcome. Please contact Chris Sarantopoulos at 978-356-3894.

### Melissa Society Sock Drive

Thank you to everyone who generously donated to the Melissa Sock Drive. 347 Pairs of socks, 13 T-shirts and 24 briefs were delivered to Rosie's Place in Boston. As always, your support is appreciated. These clothing items will help to keep others warm during these cold winter days.

### Melissa January Raffle Calendar 2025 Winners

1. Macy's and Hart House – Marcia Karas
2. Ithaki & Pomodori – Jennife Lamson
3. Giuseppe's Restaurant – Katherine Georgeopoulos
4. Ipswich Bottle Shop – Eleftherios Gomas
5. Tendercrop Farm & Azorean Restaurant – Katina Karafotis
6. Tendercrop Farm – Maria Hamel
7. Ann Taylor & Market Basket – Chris Adams
8. Tidal Pages Bookstore – Christopher Sarantopoulos
9. Curran's Flowers – Rhea Koshivas
10. Market Basket – Christopher Sarantopoulos
11. Tetrault Jewelers – Jennifer Lamson
12. Butcher Boy & Paws With Inn – Steve Kous
13. Boat House – Peter Karas
14. Ithaki – Alexa Strauch

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## Melissa continued

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15. TJ Maxx & Agawam Diner – Ed Dolan
16. Cellar Door – Joann Sikora
17. Amazon Gift Card
18. Ithaki & Gordon Florist – Katina Karafotis
19. Tonno Gloucester – Margot Ciccotelli
20. Betsy Frost – Dakota Pappas
21. Amazon Gift Card – Michael Sarantopoulos
22. Choate Pub & Market Basket – Patricia Scangas
23. Three Sweet Peas Bakery – Matthew Korda
24. Three Sweet Peas Bakery – Christine Sarantopoulos
25. Tidal Pages Bookstore – John Morris
26. Betsy Frost Design – Kathy Lampropoulos
27. Burton's Grille & Zumi's – Dana Karas
28. Cape Ann Whale Watch – Georgia Smith
29. Betsy Frost Design – Presvytera Govostes
30. Marini Farms & Wardhurst Restaurant – Kathie Eliopoulos
31. Market Baster – Esther Ingram

### **Epitafio and Easter Flowers**

The Melissa Women's Society will once again collect donations to be used toward the Epitafio and Easter flowers, as they have faithfully and lovingly done throughout the years. The requests for donations will be mailed to the homes of parishioners. Please make checks out to **Assumption of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church** and return the check in the enclosed envelope. **Your name will be posted in our church bulletin once your check has been received.** Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions, please contact Chris Sarantopoulos at 978-356-3894.

### **Easter Flowers**

Our parishioners have appreciated the opportunity to donate individual floral arrangements and items during Holy Week. If you're interested in donating one of the specific items listed below, please call Christine Sarantopoulos at 978-356-3894. Checks should be made out to the **Assumption of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church**. Donor's names will be published in the bulletin, **once your check has been received.** Thank you for your continued support, if you have any questions contact Christine Sarantopoulos at 978-356-3894.

Salutations to the Theotokos Arrangements (Friday nights)	\$150.00/each (8 needed)
Akathist Hymn Arrangements (Friday nights)	\$150.00/each (2 needed)
Palm Sunday Altar Arrangements	\$210.00/each (2 needed)
Palm Sunday Calla Lilies	\$8.00/each (15 needed)
Holy Thursday Wreath	\$100.00
Holy Thursday Arrangements	\$210.00 (2 needed)
Basket with Rose Petals	\$35.00/each (6 needed)
Head Wreaths	\$35.00/each (6 needed)
Anastasi Flower Arrangements	\$210.00 (2 needed)
Anastasi Icon	\$100.00
Anastasi Altar Arrangements	\$125.00/each (2 needed)
Easter Lilies	\$15.00/each (12 needed)

**Melissa Society Pots and Pans Project**

Melissa members are supporting The Pots and Pans Project, organized by our own parishioner, Alexander Manos Lemay. Her project aims to reduce barriers to home cooking for those moving into homes of their own after transitioning out of shelters. By providing essential kitchen equipment, utensils, plates, cups and more, these individuals can prepare healthy and cost-effective meals for themselves and their families. They are helped to get back on right track. If you have any questions, please contact Christ Sarantopoulos at 978-356-3894.

**How does it work?**

The Pots and Pans Project collects donations and assembles them into starter baskets. Alex Lemay partners with local community organizations that then share the baskets with their clients when they move into their new housing.

**How to help**

New kitchen items listed below will be collected in bins on the church hall stage from **March 1 to April 30**

- Pots
- Pans
- Baking sheets
- Cutting boards
- Knives
- Plates (sets of 4) (non-pastic and must be microwave safe)
- Bowls (sets of 4) (non-pastic and must be microwave safe)
- Glasses/cups (sets of 4)
- Mugs (sets of 2 or 4) (must be microwave safe)
- Utensils
- Measuring cups and spoons
- Can openers
- Dish towels

Your donations will be greatly appreciated. Thank you

**\*Additional Note:**

At this time, the Pots and Pans Project is not an official nonprofit in MA so cannot offer tax deductions for donors.

# ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY



Let's learn and  
grow together in a  
supportive and  
uplifting  
atmosphere



**MONDAY EVENINGS 3/3 - 4/21**



**6:00- 7:30PM**

Guided by Yianno Pantazelos, M.Div.  
Assumption of the Virgin Mary  
Greek Orthodox Church  
8 Lafayette Road, Ipswich, MA

To register for the class or if you have any questions, please contact Yianno via email at [Yiannop@gmail.com](mailto:Yiannop@gmail.com)

# March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Saturday of the Souls Divine Liturgy 9:30am
2 Forgiveness Sunday Orthros 8:30am Liturgy 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am	3 Greek School 4:00-7:00pm Orthodox Spirituality 6:00 – 7:30pm	4 Bible Study 6:15pm-7:30pm	5 Presanctified Liturgy 9:30am	6 Bible Study 11:15am- 12:30pm	7 Akathist Hymn with Parish Dinner 5:30pm	8
9 Sunday of Orthodoxy Orthros 8:30am Liturgy 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am	10 Greek School 4:00-7:00pm Orthodox Spirituality 6:00 – 7:30pm	11	12	13	14 Akathist Hymn with Parish Dinner 5:30pm	15
16 St. Gregory Palamas Orthros 8:30am Liturgy 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am	17 Greek School 4:00-7:00pm Orthodox Spirituality 6:00 – 7:30pm	18 Bible Study 6:15pm-7:30pm	19 Presanctified Liturgy 9:30am	20 Bible Study 11:15am- 12:30pm	21 Akathist Hymn with Parish Dinner 5:30pm	22
23 Sunday of The Holy Cross Greek Orthros 8:30am Liturgy 9:30am  Independence Day Luncheon 	24 Greek School 4:00 - 7:00pm  Orthodox Spirituality 6:00 – 7:30pm	25 Annunciation 9:30am	26 Presanctified Liturgy 9:30am	27 Bible Study and Jamming with Fr. Chris 11:15am	28 Akathist Hymn with Parish Dinner 5:30pm	29
30 John Climacus Orthros 8:30am Liturgy 9:30am  Sunday School 9:30am	31 Greek School 4:00 - 7:00pm  Orthodox Spirituality 6:00 – 7:30pm					7