

MONTHLY BULLETIN

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NOVEMBER SERVICES

Sunday, November 2

5th Sunday of Luke
Orthros **8:30 am**
Divine Liturgy **9:30 am**

Sunday, November 9

7th Sunday of Luke
Orthros **8:30 am**
Divine Liturgy **9:30 am**

Sunday, November 16

Matthew the Apostle and Evangelist
Orthros **8:30am**
Divine Liturgy **9:30 am**

Friday, November 21

Entrance of the Theotokos
Divine Liturgy **9:30 am**

Sunday, November 23

9th Sunday of Luke
Orthros **8:30am**
Divine Liturgy **9:30 am**

Sunday, November 30

Andrew the First Called Apostle
Orthos **8:30 am**
Divine Liturgy **9:30 am**

Bible Study

Tuesday, November 4, 11, 18, 25

6:00pm – 7:30pm

Thursday, November 13 & 20

11:15am – 12:45pm

Thursday, November 6

Jamming & Bible Study
11:15am

HE KNEW IT BLINDFOLDED

It was a warm and sunny summer day. An Orthodox Baptism was in progress and the time had come for the Godfather to recite the Nicene Creed.

The Parish Priest, out of habit, turned the sacrament book towards the Godfather for him to recite the Creed aloud. The Godfather said to the priest “No need Father Phil. I could recite the Creed blindfolded.”

Father Phil was, of course, astonished. This was an entirely new experience for him. In all of his fifteen years of ministry, he could not recall one Godparent that knew the Nicene Creed by heart in the English language.

After the Baptism, Father Phil took the Godfather aside and asked him “When did you learn the Nicene Creed?” The Godfather responded “When I went to Church with my parents on Sundays as a child. The Creed is **Orthodoxy 101** Father Phil.”

Brothers and sisters, I am often asked the question “what are some good books and resources for understanding our faith as Orthodox Christians.” My answer is “Start with the Nicene Creed.”

Every **practicing** Orthodox Christian should have the Nicene Creed memorized in his/her own native language and like the Godfather in the story above, he/she should be able to recite the Creed blindfolded without any text provided. When this task is accomplished, then we can focus more on books to read.

Your brother in Christ the Lord,

Father Christopher Kolentsas

UPCOMING EVENTS

"Sip & Spin Greek Martini Night"

Come Spin the Wheel!

The Wheel from the old festival has returned with a new twist

Saturday, November 15th at 6:00pm

At the Hellenic Center

\$50/person in advance - \$60 at the door

Tables of 10 can be reserved

Greek & American appetizers & desserts

Signature Cocktails

Silent Auction

Music & Dancing to Greek DJ George Athans

To donate an auction item (gift certificate to restaurants, tickets to sporting events or shows) or to help with the event (prepare food, setup the day of the event) contact

**Mary Ann Tsoutsouras 978-697-1484 or
mt@tsoutsouras.com. To purchase tickets**

**Venmo: @Denise-DeFrancesco or mail a
check to Denise DeFrancesco, 32 Trowbridge
Circle, Rowley, MA 01969**

SUNDAY SCHOOL

October Recap:

Our Sunday school had a great October and we are now up to 35 students enrolled! We spent the last Sunday of the month learning about Oxi Day. The children decorated Greek Flag cookie kits which were supplied by Presvytera Kristen- From Skcratch!



November News:

Please note: there will be no Sunday school hosted on **November 30th** for Thanksgiving weekend. In November the children will be handmaking Christmas cards for our parish, this is an all-time favorite for all!

December Look Ahead:

The Christmas pageant will be held on Sunday **December 7th** and the Christmas party will be held on Sunday **December 14th**. Details will follow!

Christmas Party

DECEMBER | 14 | 9:45 AM

The Hellenic Center

MARIONETTE SHOW | SLEIGH RIDES
LUNCHEON | DESSERTS
SPECIAL VISIT FROM SAINT NICHOLAS

ENTIRE PARISH INVITED
COMPLIMENTARY TO ALL

RSVP BELOW
OR
TEXT | CALL ELAYNE 978 618 3844

RSVP HERE!

MELISSA NEWS

November Melissa Meeting

The November Melissa meeting and dinner will be held on **Wednesday, November 5th at 6:30 PM** in our church hall. All women are invited to join. Please contact Chris Sarantopoulos at 978-356-3894 for information. Food will be provided.

Melissa Women's Society Ministry Project

During the months of October and November, the Melissa Women's Society will be supporting North Shore Veterans Counseling Services in Beverly, MA. This group "offers support and resources for service members, veterans and their families. Some services include housing, career training/ placement, education, family and adjustment counseling, medical support, and more."

This service is in great need of men's toiletry items, which include shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, body wash, bar soaps, razors, shaving cream, toothpaste, toothbrushes, body and hand lotion and mouth wash. Labeled bins will be set up on the church hall stage. Parishioner donated items would be greatly appreciated. As always, we thank you for your generosity.

January 2026 Raffle Calendar

The Melissa Women's Society will soon be selling **January 2026 Raffle Calendars**. You will have over 31 chances to win. The calendars cost \$10 each. The members generously donated the prizes. We also thank Betsy Frost for her donation.

The drawings will be held on Sundays in January. The calendars will make great Christmas, birthday or any occasion gifts. Please contact Melissa members to purchase calendars. They will also be sold after church services. Please email cesarantopoulos@hotmail.com to have calendars mailed to you. Good luck!

Melissa Bake Sale

On **Saturday, November 15th**, the **Melissa Society's biannual bake sale** will be held at the Ipswich Town Hall during the Ipswich Council on Aging Craft Fair. If you are contributing baked goods, please bring your items between **8:00AM** and **9:00AM** during our set up.

The sale will begin at 9 AM and end at 1PM. We welcome the community as well as parishioners to come and purchase delicious desserts! January 2026 Raffle Calendars filled with wonderful prizes will also be sold. The remaining pastries will be sold after church on Sunday, Nov. Thank you for your continued support.

Veteran's Visit

On **Sunday, November 16th**, our Ipswich veterans have been invited to attend the Divine Liturgy in honor of Veteran's Day. Their sacrifices have not gone unnoticed. We wish to offer our gratitude.

After the service, a brunch will be hosted by the Jam Committee with food provided with jam fund monies. Thank you for support in purchasing jam. All are welcome to attend.

CHOIR NEWS

Congratulations to all the Choir raffle winners!! Thank you to all who donated! We raised \$1515.00!

This **Sunday, November 2nd**, three members of our choir will be singing in Andover for the Annual Choir Federation Conference.

Christine Georgoulakos will be directing our choir this Sunday, November 2nd.

Choir Raffle Winners

\$200 GC	Boathouse Grille, Essex	Denise DeFrancesco
\$200 GC	CK Pearl, Essex	Pam Scangas
\$200 GC	The Clambox	Anna Maria Montano
\$200 GC	Northshore Music Theater, Beverly	Alex Tragakis
\$100 GC	Luna Mare, Ipswich	Helen Grant
\$100 GC	Renew Massage Studio & Spa, Ipswich	Andrew Marken
\$100 GC	Ipswich Shellfish Co, Ipswich	Peter Manos

\$100 GC Ipswich Shellfish Co, Ipswich
1 ceramic copy of Classical (530 BC) Museum Piece
\$100 GC Pomodori Restaurant, Ipswich
\$ 50 GC Bradford Tavern, Rowley

Matt Coon
Christine O'Connor
Stephanie Kokenizis
Jim Tsoutsouras

THRIVING CONGREGATION UPDATES

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We hope this message finds you well and filled with the joy and peace of our Lord. Over the past few months, the **Thriving Congregations Initiative (TCI) Team** has been working diligently behind the scenes, meeting with parish and ministry leaders, and developing plans to support a more vibrant and connected parish life.

We're excited to share a few highlights from our work this summer:

- **Weekly Parish Bulletin:**

With Joanne's tremendous help, we've launched a weekly bulletin to keep everyone informed about upcoming church events and announcements. Ministry leaders, please remember to send any event details to Joanne in a timely manner so they can be included.

- **Metropolis Microgrants:**

We applied for—and received—two microgrants from the Metropolis, which will support our outreach and ministry efforts. These funds are a great blessing and will help us grow in service and fellowship. They are a **First Responders & Military Appreciation Dinner**: Plans are underway to host a special dinner to honor and thank our local first responders and military personnel. Date to be announced soon! If you're interested in helping make this event a success, please reach out to Elaina at elainakberry@me.com. Many hands make light work!

- **Youth Ministry Grant:**

We're thrilled to have received **an additional \$2,500** dedicated to youth ministries. We'll be partnering with GOYA to plan an outreach event led by our youth, offering them a meaningful opportunity to serve and grow in faith.

- **Parish Retreat – Save the Date!**

We've secured the Methodios Faith and Heritage Center for a parish retreat on **May 1–3, 2026**. Please mark your calendars! We hope many of you will join us for this special weekend of faith, fellowship, and fun. Transportation and carpooling will be coordinated as needed.

Lastly, we're always looking to grow our team! If you have ideas, a joyful spirit, and a heart for building up our parish community, we'd love to hear from you.

With gratitude and hope in Christ,

The Thriving Congregations Team



Save The Date!

Faith & Fellowship Retreat

Details to Follow

May 1-3 2026

A weekend to rest, renew, have fun,
and connect as a parish

St. Methodios Faith and Heritage
Center, Contoocook NH

NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 5 th Sunday of Luke Orthos 8:30am Liturgy 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am	3 Greek School 4:00pm – 6:00pm	4 Bible Study 6:00pm – 7:30pm	5 Melissa Meeting 6:30pm in Church Hall	6 Jamming with Father Chris & Bible Study 11:15am 	7	8
9 7 th Sunday of Luke Orthos 8:30am Liturgy 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am	10 Greek School 4:00pm – 6:00pm	11 Bible Study 6:00pm – 7:30pm	12	13 Bible Study 11:15am – 12:45pm	14	15 Sip & Spin Greek Martini Night! 6:00pm 
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23 9 th Sunday of Luke Orthos 8:30am Liturgy 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am	24 Greek School 4:00pm – 6:00pm	25 Bible Study 6:00pm – 7:45pm	26	27 	28	29
30 Andrew the First Called Apostle Orthos 8:30am Liturgy 9:30am No Sunday School						8