

MONTHLY BULLETIN

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September Services

Sunday, September 7

Sunday Before the Elevation of the Holy Cross

Orthos 8:30am

Divine Liturgy 9:30am

Monday, September 8

Nativity of the Theotokos

Divine Liturgy 9:30am

Sunday, September 14

Elevation of the Holy Cross

Orthos 8:30am

Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

Sunday, September 21

Sunday after the Holy Cross

Orthos 8:30am

Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

Sunday, September 28

1st Sunday of Luke

Orthos 8:30 am

Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

Bible Study

Tuesday Sept 2nd, 9th, 23rd & 30th

6:00pm – 7:30pm

Thursday Sept 4th & 25th

11:00am – 12:30pm

Thursday Sept 11th

Jamming & Bible Study

11:00am – 3:00pm

Young Men Are Dropping the Anchor

What is a sea anchor?

Answer: A sea anchor is like a large parachute tethered to the bow that creates enormous drag in the water.

What is a sea anchor's purpose?

Answer: To keep the bow of a vessel pointed into the wind and waves when a traditional anchor cannot reach the bottom or when the ship needs to stay in place in open water. When a storm is encountered in open water or an anchorage isn't available, deploying a sea anchor is crucial for maintaining control and preventing the ship from being turned broadside to the waves. In short, a sea anchor may provide stability for a ship that is trapped in the midst of a violent storm.

How does this relate to the Greek Orthodox Church of America?

Answer: It appears that young men are "dropping the anchor" and that anchor is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Several recent **Pew Research Center** statistics and reports from 2022-2025 show a trend of young men returning to or showing increased interest in traditional Orthodox and Catholic Christianity, reversing previous declines and closing the gap between men and women regarding their participation in the authentic Christian life. A **Pew Research Center** analysis found the generational drop in Christian affiliation has paused, and young men are retaining faith at slightly higher rates than young women. A survey of Orthodox parishes reported a 78% increase in converts in 2022 compared to pre-pandemic levels, with men disproportionately represented among new members. In Catholicism, dioceses have seen substantial year-over-year growth in converts, particularly among Gen Z.

More and more adult men are "dropping the anchor" by seeking stability, and spiritual challenge. They are finding that traditional forms of Christianity offer the "anchor" that they are, most desperately, in need of and searching for.

Brothers and sisters in Christ the Lord, the storms in our lives will come. It is not a question of "if" but rather a question of "when." It is God and God alone that shows us the way in the midst of those storms. It is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit that is the "anchor" of our lives. It is time for us all to drop the anchor!

Your brother in Christ the Lord,

Father Christopher Kolentsas

FESTIVAL

2025 Festival – Thank you

On behalf of the Parish Council, I want to thank EVERYONE who gave their time and energy to, yet another, very successful festival.

I am very pleased to report that our beloved community recognized a net profit from the event in the amount of \$107,000.00 +

A very special THANK YOU to our chairpersons Nate Sotis and Jim Tsoutsouras! The festival would not have been possible without their leadership, dedication and tireless effort before, during and after the event. Also, a huge 'thank you' to all our sponsors who, year after year, contribute to the success of our festival.

Finally, congratulations to all the raffle winners!

Just imagine what the results from NEXT year could be!
Looking forward to 2026....

Donations

General Donations

Avgenia Rooney – In Honor of Kay Bulgaris
Joanne Ziner

In Loving Memory of Helen Sarantopoulos

Avgenia Rooney

In Loving Memory of Marina Aggelakis

Christine Sarantopoulos

In Loving Memory of John Soffron


Lorayne Tsoutsouras
Christine Sarantopoulos
Humphrey Management LLC
Georgia Giannia-Noe
Deborah Johnson
Pauline Petradelis
Jonathan & Sophia Petromelis
Arthur & Patricia Patsios
Michael & Mary Chapman
Julie Vlahos
The Baer Family
Jay & Mary Ann Tsoutouras
David Russell
Richard Becker
Robert Puglisi

In Memory of Pola Roumeliotis

Lorayne Tsoutsouras

Melissa

Veteran Memorial Park

The Ipswich Veteran Memorial Park Dedication Ceremony will be held on **Saturday, September 27 at 1 PM**. The Melissa Women's Society donated an engraved commemorative granite paver in memory of those who served. Please make every effort to attend this event. May their memories be eternal. 

CHURCH NEWS

Assumption of the Virgin Mary

Parish Council Meeting - **Summary**

Wednesday August 20, 2025

Meeting start time: 6:30PM – **VIA ZOOM**

Opening Prayer – Father Christopher Kolentsas & all members

Members in attendance – All but three members were present

Secretary's Report - Minutes of July 31st were reviewed and accepted

Treasurer's Report – Report was reviewed and accepted.

Father Chris' Report – Elaina Berry and Jeannie Donohue wanted to have a Church BBQ on September 14th for the parish. Father Chris will follow up with the Metropolitan if he agrees to us having a church service at the Hellenic Center that day. The TCI will be asked to join us.

October 4th in Weston is a Local Clergy-Laity Conference. Father Chris would like someone from the Parish Council to participate in it along with him.

Church – Insurance Coverage and Appraisals: Parish Council anticipates changing insurance provider as discussed last month at the meeting.

We discussed the Church Duty Roster and Schedule. There needs to be coverage by at least two PC members every week.

Window Replacement/Repair- Heidi said that her contact does not do that type of work himself. We will pursue other potential contractors for the estimate and work. The PC is in agreement to move forward with the work.

Hellenic Center-Father Chris was asked by a parishioner if they could hold a fundraiser for an auction (nonprofit). It would require further detail as what they request and if it aligns with Church Values). This topic will be discussed further once all details are available to the PC.

Other Business to come before the PC- General Assembly/Parish Council Elections: Dates/Schedule needed. After discussion the board agreed to consider November 16th as a meeting date.

Closing Prayer/Adjournment-Father Christopher Kolentsas

NEXT MEETING DATE – WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH, 2025

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are excited to announce that our 2025-2026 Sunday school program is officially starting on **Sunday, September 21st**. Please arrive at our church hall for **9:30 AM**. Our classes will always be held in our church hall between 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM. We ask that children bring \$1.00 each week for their weekly offering for candle lighting. After class, we will join the community for the remainder of the Divine Liturgy, Holy Communion and Father's sermon.

I will send email reminders for all special events throughout the year and any schedule changes that may arise will be communicated to the parish and families as soon as possible.

We look forward to a blessed & fulfilling year and welcome all to join. If you have not registered and are looking to do so, please reach out to me at your earliest convenience.

SEPTEMBER 2025	
Sunday, September 21	FIRST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 AM – WELCOME BACK!
Sunday, September 28	Regular Sunday school 9:30 AM
OCTOBER 2025	
Sunday, October 5	Regular Sunday School 9:30 AM
Sunday October 12	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL (Columbus Day Weekend)
Sunday, October 19	Regular Sunday school 9:30 AM
Sunday, October 26	Regular Sunday school 9:30 AM
NOVEMBER 2025	
Sunday, November 2	Regular Sunday school 9:30 AM- Daylight Savings Time Ends (Fall Back) 11/2/25
Sunday, November 9	Regular Sunday school 9:30 AM
Sunday, November 16	Regular Sunday school 9:30 AM
Sunday, November 23	Regular Sunday school 9:30 AM
Sunday, November 30	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL (Thanksgiving Weekend)
DECEMBER 2025	
Friday, December 5	Set up manger Friday evening (help needed)
Saturday, December 6	CHRISTMAS PLAY REHEARSAL IN CHURCH 9:30 AM
Sunday, December 7 ready	CHRISTMAS PLAY – IN CHURCH (following Divine Liturgy) – no lesson, get kids
Sunday, December 14*	CHRISTMAS PARTY AT HELLENIC CENTER 10:00 AM (No Sunday School)
Sunday, December 21	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL – CHRISTMAS BREAK
Sunday, December 28	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL – CHRISTMAS BREAK
JANUARY 2026	
Sunday, January 4	Regular Sunday school 9:30 AM
Sunday, January 11	Regular Sunday school 9:30 AM
Sunday, January 18	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL (MLK Weekend)
Sunday, January 25	Regular Sunday school 9:30 AM

FEBRUARY 2026	
Sunday, February 1	* **GODPARENT'S SUNDAY** all children attend Divine Liturgy with Godparent & families- No lesson
Sunday, February 8	Regular Sunday school 9:30 AM
Sunday, February 15	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL- FEBRUARY SCHOOL VACATION
Sunday, February 22	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL -FEBRUARY SCHOOL VACATION (Great lent begins on Monday 2/23/26)
MARCH 2026	
Sunday, March 1	Regular Sunday school 9:30 AM
Sunday March 8	Regular Sunday school 9:30 AM
Sunday March 15	Regular Sunday school 9:30 AM
Sunday March 22*	GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY MARCH 25TH - MEET AT HELLENIC CTR (No Sunday school)
Sunday March 29	Regular Sunday school 9:30 AM
APRIL 2026	
Sunday April 5	* ** PALM SUNDAY** - all children attend Divine Liturgy with families – No lesson
Friday April 10	OLDER GIRLS NEEDED FOR HOLY FRIDAY MIROFORI
Sunday April 12*	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL- **PASCHA** - all children attend Agape service & Egg hunt*
Sunday April 19	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL- April School vacation Sunday April 26 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL- April School vacation
MAY 2026	
Sunday May 3	Regular Sunday School 9:30 AM
Sunday May 10	Regular Sunday school 9:30 AM
Sunday May 17	Regular Sunday School- GRADUATION DAY & LAST SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

GREEK SCHOOL

Our Greek school program will begin on **Monday, October 6th**. Classes will be held in the church hall on **Mondays 4:00pm – 6:00pm** with potential of adding days.

Yearly fees are as follows and must be paid prior to the 1st day of class.

\$200 for the first child
 \$100 for each additional child
 \$400 maximum per family

Families are required to pre-register children First grade+ (ages 6+), prior to the commencement of the program.

To register please contact Marina Catalini at 978-810-0910.

As always, if there is a family hardship, please contact Father Christopher privately at 774-372-9107.

September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Sunday Before the Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthos 8:30am Liturgy 9:00am	8 Nativity of the Theotokos Liturgy 9:30am	9 Bible Study 6:00 – 7:30pm	10	11 Jamming with Fr. Chris/ Bible Study 11:00 am - 3:00pm	12	13
14 Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthos 8:30am Liturgy 9:30am	15	16 Bible Study 6:00 – 7:30pm	17	18	19	20
21 Sunday after the Holy Cross Orthos 8:30am Liturgy 9:30am 1st Day of Sunday School 9:30am	22	23 Bible Study 6:00 – 7:30pm	24	25 Bible Study 11:00 am - 12:30pm	26	27
28 1 st Sunday of Luke Orthos 8:30am Liturgy 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am	29	30 Bible Study 6:00 – 7:30pm				