

S P I R I T

B R E A T H I N G N E W L I F E

How do we keep our children and young people from leaving the church? How do we increase Sunday attendance? How do we attract new members? How do we get more people involved in Festival and other volunteer efforts? These and many similar questions I hear all the time from many sources - not only in our community but in the church at large. They are serious questions.

Apathy and consumer mentality are widespread in most church communities, including our own. We live in a society where people are trained to desire products. So the church itself becomes the source and purveyor of a product. And yet the church - as Jesus and the apostles understood it - *is not a supplier, but a product!* It is the product of people experiencing the gift of divine life and sharing that life with others. The church comes into being when and where people share the love of Jesus and the joy of the Holy Spirit. The church *as an institution, as a supplier*, can indeed exist and survive for 2,000 years. But the church as the living, breathing body of Christ comes into being as a gift.

When is the church a gift? When it is not seen as a supplier of religious needs to consumers of religion. When the church is not turned into the protection of an ethnic identity! When is the church a gift? When the doors of our hearts and minds are wide open to receive everything God puts before us. When our first and foremost desire is to live by the Beatitudes of Jesus, those beatitudes we sing at Liturgy many Sundays of

the year: *Blessed are the poor in spirit... the meek...the peacemakers...those who mourn...the pure in heart...who hunger and thirst for righteousness/justice...the merciful...the persecuted.*

Why am I referring to the church as a gift? Because I believe we, the church that meets to worship at the corner of Park & Pleasant Streets, are a gift. About 28 years ago, I together with you began witnessing a transformation of our church... Today, as the world around us turns increasingly to hatred and exclusion, we the church that meets on the corner of Park & Pleasant Streets, are a beacon of light. In the best Orthodox tradition we are a church that manifests unity and diversity, unity in diversity, diversity in unity. And that, dear friends, is a gift straight from the hand of God. We didn't seek it, we didn't plan for it, we didn't appoint a steering committee to research it. No, none of that. It came, and has been coming for many years now, straight from the hand of God.

Despite the real concerns which the questions represent, I prefer to focus on the gift. The gift came into clear focus at a recent meeting after Liturgy. I was deeply moved by the creative ideas that were offered and the positive energy that filled the room. As a result of that meeting we are taking our first steps toward leaping out of our limitations and embracing the wide horizons of God's leadership in our lives, and being the gift of Christ's beatitude people.

The Beatitudes (*Matthew 5:2-12*) are not only statements about us. They are also invitations to see others the

Father Constantine will be out of the country **Sept. 12-Oct. 13**. For any emergency needs, please contact Luci Nanos at 774-0281 or 756-1824.

way God sees them. *Blessed are the poor...the hungry... those who weep (Luke 6:20-21)*. If God calls them blessed, shouldn't we want to be somehow part of their lives, and they of ours?

I have made bold announcements in the past which have not come to fruition because they depended too much on me, and I'm not always able to carry out what I promise. Though I'm making no bold announcement - yet - about what will result from this meeting, and the meetings that follow(ed) it, I'm much more confident that results will follow; because it's a team effort and it will guide our church community to new horizons. We are about to breathe new life into the church that meets at the corner of Park & Pleasant Streets!

Fr. Constantine Sarantidis

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church
133 Pleasant Street
Portland, ME 04101
207-774-0281
htrinityportland@gmail.com
www.holytrinityportland.org

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 11-2
and by appointment

Fr. Constantine Sarantidis
Cell: 207-831-3016

Email: frcsaran@gmail.com

OUR LORD'S DAY SCHEDULE

MATINS (beginning Oct. 15th)	9:15 AM
DIVINE LITURGY	10:00 AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL (pre-K to 6, beginning Sept. 10th)	10:00 AM
COFFEE HOUR & FELLOWSHIP	11:30 AM

September 10th - Sunday Before the Elevation of the Holy Cross *Beginning of Sunday School Year - Bring a Grandparent to Liturgy Day!*

READINGS: Galatians 6:11-18; John 3:13-17
READERS: Panos Pantelas, Connie Bodley
PROSFORO: Elaine Vorias
PARISH COUNCIL: Team I - Helen Blewett*,
John Cox
FELLOWSHIP: To sponsor this Sunday, call 774-0281.

September 17th - Sunday After the Elevation of the Holy Cross

READINGS: Galatians 2:16-20; Mark 8:34-9:1
READERS: Demo Varipatis, Diana Dowd
PROSFORO: Regat Mebrahtu
PARISH COUNCIL: Team II - Angela Moustrouphis*,
Paul Ureneck, Agathi Haxhi-Kirtchev
FELLOWSHIP: **Festival Committee, in appreciation of
all the volunteers who made the Festival a big success.**

September 24th - First Sunday of Luke (Saint Thekla)

READINGS: 2 Timothy 3:10-15; Luke 5:1-11
READERS: Angela Varipatis, Tom Peterson
PROSFORO: Bettie Moustrouphis
PARISH COUNCIL: Team III - Mark Butler*, Kim
Kapothanasis
FELLOWSHIP: Mirela Tucci, in memory of her mother,
Marianthi Cala, twenty years since her death.

October 1st - Second Sunday of Luke (Apostle Ananias)

READINGS: Acts 9:10-19; Luke 6:31-36
READERS: Stacy Gikas, Diana Dowd
PROSFORO: Regat Mebrahtu
PARISH COUNCIL: Team IV - Mark Rand*, Regat
Mebrahtu, Mirela Tucci
FELLOWSHIP: To sponsor this Sunday, call 774-0281.
Influenza Clinic after Liturgy

October 8th - Third Sunday of Luke (18th Sunday)

READINGS: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11; Luke 7:11-16

READERS: Angela Varipatis, TBA
PROSFORO: Bettie Moustrouphis
PARISH COUNCIL: Team I - John*, Helen
FELLOWSHIP: Helen Blewett.

October 15th - Fourth Sunday of Luke (Seventh Ecumenical Council)

READINGS: Titus 3:8-15; Luke 8:5-15
READERS: Panos Pantelas, Greg Tselikis
PROSFORO: David Smith
PARISH COUNCIL: Team II - Paul*, Agathi, Angela
FELLOWSHIP: **Philoptochos Chicken Dinner.**

October 22nd - Sixth Sunday of Luke (20th Sunday)

READINGS: Galatians 1:11-19; Luke 8:26-39
READERS: Angela Varipatis, Lucas Jasonides
PROSFORO: Elaine Vorias
PARISH COUNCIL: Team III - Kim*, Mark B
FELLOWSHIP: To sponsor this Sunday, call 774-0281.

October 29th - Seventh Sunday of Luke (21st Sunday)

READINGS: Galatians 2:16-20; Luke 8:41-56
READERS: Stacy Gikas, Andrew Jasonides
PROSFORO: Regat Mebrahtu
PARISH COUNCIL: Team IV - Regat*, Mirela, Mark R
FELLOWSHIP: To sponsor this Sunday, call 774-0281.

November 5th - Fifth Sunday of Luke (22nd Sunday)

READINGS: Galatians 6:11-18; Luke 16:19-31
READERS: Demo Varipatis, Diana Dowd
PROSFORO: Bettie Moustrouphis
PARISH COUNCIL: Team I - Helen*, John
FELLOWSHIP: To sponsor this Sunday, call 774-0281.

November 12th - Eighth Sunday of Luke (23rd Sunday)

READINGS: Ephesians 2:4-10; Luke 10:25-37
READERS: Panos Pantelas, Connie Bodley
PROSFORO: David Smith
PARISH COUNCIL: Team II - Agathi*, Angela, Paul
FELLOWSHIP: To sponsor this Sunday, call 774-0281.

Baptisms:

Quinn Everly Markos, daughter of Stephen Markos & Katherine Kane, was baptized on March 4th, 2017. Godparent was Kristen Parker.

Yoel Okube Fсахatsion, son of Okube F. Gebregergs & Alem Tekle, was baptized on August 5th. Godparent was Yohannes Tesfai.

Marriages:

Dianne Gionis & Efstathios Papanikolaou were united in the Sacrament of Marriage on July 2nd. Angelo Georgoussis was the koumbaro.

George Angelo Sotiropoulos & Kathryn Elizabeth Dyer, were united in the Sacrament of Marriage on August 19th. Nicoletta Vaghena was the koumbara.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLY BAPTIZED & MARRIED!

Deaths:

Aspasia Maren Van Wyck, died in a tragic accident on July 20th. Her funeral was on July 28th at St. Nektarios Church in Roslindale, MA, Father Constantine Sarantidis officiating. Sia was a child of light and lightness of heart and mind, inquisitive, full of divine energy - but also a child with a serious, meditative side. At the age of seven, she was taken from her deeply grieving parents, Effie Eraklis and Erik Van Wyck, and her brother, Niko, who shared every moment of adventure and love with her. The wake and funeral in Roslindale were the most profound experience of death, grief and remembrance in Father Constantine's 30 years in the priesthood.

Margaret "Peggy" Handlin, beloved mother of Meg Handlin, died on August 5th. We extend our sympathies to Peggy's husband, Ed, and their entire family, including our own Meg, her husband Chris, and their two sons, Lucas and Andrew.

Richard C. Hurd, father of Darlene Koukos, died on August 9th. We share the grief of his wife, Marylou, and their entire family, including our own Darlene and her husband George and daughters Emma, Haley and Sydney.

MAY THEIR MEMORY BE ETERNAL.

ALTAR OIL OFFERINGS

- ◇ September 3, Lola Dadiotes, in memory of her father, William, and mother, Constantina.
- ◇ September 11, Stacy Gikas, in honor of Marina & Jeffrey's wedding Anniversary.
- ◇ September 17, Luci Nanos, in memory of her brother, Bill, on his 74th birthday.
- ◇ September 24, Stacy Gikas, in memory of her family members and in-laws.
- ◇ October 1, No sponsor.
- ◇ October 8, No sponsor.
- ◇ October 15, No sponsor.
- ◇ October 22, No sponsor.
- ◇ October 29, No sponsor.
- ◇ November 5, Bettie Moustrouphis, in memory of her brothers Charles and Angellus Karantza.
- ◇ November 13, Alex Gikas, in memory of her husband Mino on his nameday.

Donations are \$10 per week. No other sponsors for the rest of the year.

GREEK DINNER DANCE*

*Greek and American Dancing
Everyone welcome!*



Saturday, October 28, 2017

6 to 11 p.m.

Fireside Inn & Suites

81 Riverside Street, Portland, ME 04103



Music by John Iakomides

\$40/Adult

\$10/Children under 12

Tickets:

Demos

207-799-6485

Sophia

207-284-7435

Joanna

jhb07mm@gmail.com



SPONSORED BY Hellenic Society Paideia of Maine

**** NO TICKETS SOLD AT THE DOOR
ALWAYS A SELL OUT – BUY TICKETS EARLY!***

Influenza Clinic Parish Nurse, Jackie Tselikis, will administer flu shots on Sunday, October 1st, during Coffee Hour after Liturgy.

There will be a **Wellness Wednesday** presentation on Wednesday, Oct. 18th, 11am - 1pm, in the Parish House. Contact Jackie Tselikis RNMS for more information about both events, 939-2260.

Welcome Agathi Haxhi-Kirtchev to the Parish Council! We have other vacancies, which we will fill with election in December. Please consider joining our hard-working, very capable parish council.

THANK YOU FOR ANOTHER GREAT YEAR
(A message from Greg Tselikis)

I am delighted to report that despite intense competition from other major events throughout the City, 2017 was another great year for our Festival. Our Festival Committee members started planning for this year in January. For weeks before we opened, the food prep crews worked to produce the finished food and pastries our customers love and wait for all year. In June, it all came together flawlessly.

Each of you who worked for the Festival's success by giving of your time, your financial assistance or your support should be very proud. On behalf of our Church, I want to thank each of you. The Parish is indebted to each of you. It is no exaggeration to say that the Festival keeps Holy Trinity going strong.

God once again gave us great weather, and you all made the most of it. Old hands and young hands worked smoothly to serve the crush of people. The band music brought on the dancing and that special charm we offer that is not duplicated anywhere else in Maine. Our own dancers were great as usual. They are a big crowd favorite.

Many of you worked long hours for three busy days with little rest. I know some of you even took vacation time from work to help. And once again we were greatly assisted by our youngsters. They cleaned trays, made salads, served spinach pie, sold raffles, and performed many other tasks with great enthusiasm. They showed what community service really is about. We owe them all our special thanks. Words are not sufficient to thank you all for your incredible efforts.

We really do have "The Best Three Day Party in Town". Now it is time to rest and enjoy our success for a little while. We have earned the trust of the Greater Portland community and they have rewarded us with their support by coming to dine and dance with us. Congratulations to you all.

And finally, one more plea to those who are able to help but choose not to help. We need you. Don't sit on the sidelines any longer. Give your Church the help we need. Carry your share of the load by joining us. No help is too little. Younger hands must pick up when our older parishioners finally rest. Make time. You won't regret it.

The Festival Committee welcomes any advice on how we might improve the Festival. Send your comments to Father or Greg Tselikis.

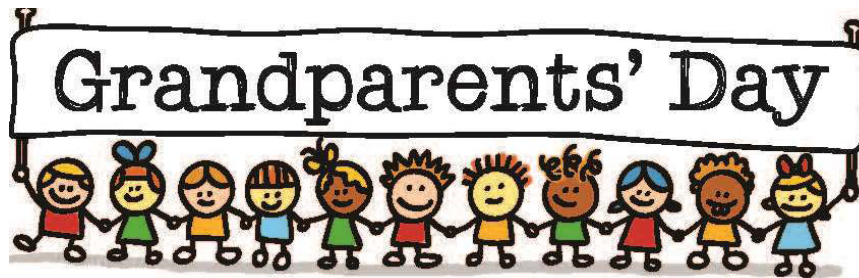
Greg Tselikis, Festival Committee Chairman

AND THANK YOU GREG FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK OVER THE YEARS. YOU AND THE FESTIVAL COMMITTEE DO EXTRAORDINARY WORK IN PLANNING AND MANAGING OUR FESTIVAL FLAWLESSLY YEAR AFTER YEAR! THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY RECOGNIZES YOUR EFFORTS, AND WE ALL THANK YOU AND THE FESTIVAL COMMITTEE!

Sunday School Starts September 10th. There is nothing more beautiful than helping our children to know and love our Lord Jesus Christ! Through a variety of learning tools the children this year will experience the love of Christ and will understand how important they are in God's eyes. Please don't deprive the children in your family the blessing of being together on Sunday!

Classes Begin September 10th.

**Sunday, September 10th, is National Grandparents Day.
We encourage the children of Sunday School to bring grandparents to
Liturgy, so they can receive a blessing together!**



GREEK SCHOOL YEAR 2017-18

**AGIASMOS for the beginning of the new school year will take place on
Monday, September 11, 2017, at 4:00p.m. in the Parish House.**

All children of Greek School and their parents are requested to be present for this special service. Any child 6 years or older can attend Greek school. For more information please call Mrs. Varipatis at 799-6485.

PLEASE NOTE: There is a Tuition of \$300. If there are more than one child from the same family enrolled, there is an added fee of \$100 per additional child. Current Stewards will have their 2017 Stewardship applied toward the tuition fee. Call 774-0281 for details.

Classes begin on Monday, September 18th. Class times remain the same, 4:00-6:00 pm daily.

STUDENTS WILL ATTEND CLASSES AS FOLLOWS:

MONDAY: Alexia Kostopoulos, Despina Pashos.

TUESDAY: Alex Kirtchev.

WEDNESDAY: Alexia Dede, Thea Dugas, Sofia Kirtchev, James Vorias.

THURSDAY: Rodas & Raphael Kahasay, Arsema Muleat, Allias Perry, John Sprague.

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΣΧΟΛΕΙΟ

Ο ΑΓΙΑΣΜΟΣ για την έναρξη του νέου σχολικού έτους θα γίνει την Δευτέρα, 11 Σεπτεμβρίου, 2017 στις 4:00μ.μ. στην κοινοτική αίθουσα. Όλα τα παιδιά του Ελληνικού Σχολείου παρακαλούνται να έρθουν με τους γονείς τους στην ειδική αυτή τελετή.

Παιδιά ηλικίας έξι ετών και άνω γίνονται δεκτά στο Ελληνικό Σχολείο. Για περισσότερες πληροφορίες τηλεφωνήσατε εις την Κα Βαρυπάτη, 799-6485.

Μαθήματα αρχίζουν την Δευτέρα, 18 Σεπτεμβρίου.

Οι ώρες της λειτουργίας των μαθημάτων παραμένουν οι ίδιες, 4 έως 6 μ.μ.