

S P I R I T

O U R S T R E N G T H S A R E M A N Y

It seems that every year when September rolls around I'm motivated to write something motivational. Motivated to write something motivational? Precisely! True motivation in the Christian sense should never be about me or about you in isolation of everyone else. We are in this together. I'm inspired, motivated by you and the good that I see in our community. And I in turn inspire and motivate you to contribute your own talents and energy to the good of our church community and thus motivate me and others in turn. You see how the circle closes? I call it the Motivation Circle.

Perhaps my greatest pleasure comes from doing the Liturgy every Sunday morning. Or should I say, leading the Liturgy? Because, really the Liturgy is a joint effort; I'm only the leader. But I could not and would not stand in front of the holy table without a congregation present. Notice that I wrote "holy table" and not altar table. Altar is not Orthodox terminology. In Greek we say, *αγία τράπεζα* = holy table. Altar is pagan language, and we really should eliminate it from our American Orthodox terminology. An altar separates people from each other, from the priest, and from God! Holiness is what pervades at every Liturgy. It's not just the table in front of which I stand; it's everything and everyone present. The Liturgy sanctifies and unites us with our holy God. I cannot fathom how many of our parishioners absent themselves from this holy encounter.

I venture to say that our Liturgy at Holy Trinity Church in Portland,

Maine, is about as good as Liturgy can be in any of our American churches. I know that I take great care in my own task. But we also have a marvelous choir. Or should I say, two choirs? Our senior choir has been faithfully singing the praises of our God for all the years that I've been here. And they have learned so much of our Liturgy in English in the years that I've been here. I will always be grateful for their grace and love of church and Liturgy!

In the past couple years our Liturgy has also been enriched by a small youth choir of angelic voices who have learned some truly inspiring music which they contribute at some key moments in our Liturgy. And how steadily the congregation has learned to sing the Beatitudes, those amazing words of Jesus that have dropped out of use in all Greek churches except our own! And let's not forget the short Matins that prepare us for Liturgy, so beautifully read and sung.

I am proud to say that Liturgy is our greatest strength. And so it should be. Nothing else has value if Liturgy is not done prayerfully and beautifully. Beauty is of the essence in our Orthodox tradition. Other churches may have huge crowds and hi-tech Sunday gatherings, but I doubt that they experience the beauty of worship and the beauty of the Lord as we do Sunday after Sunday. Yes, we're not perfect, and there are many things we can do better. But I think I can speak for the Orthodox Church as a whole when I say that beauty is at the core of who we are and how we relate to each other and to our Lord and Savior.

Sermons are essential parts of the Liturgy and I think we're doing quite well in that department. I see people spending longer at coffee hour, enjoying fellowship, sometimes going off in the classrooms for meetings to plan activities that enhance our community life. And we are very much a community. As I said in a recent Liturgy, we are a community of people from diverse backgrounds who have been brought together by the Spirit of the Lord. Our liturgical music reflects that diversity as we have enriched our worship with chants and music from the Russian, Serbian, Antiochian, Bulgarian traditions. And Georgian soon? Community is very much a strength. And it is a community that is alive, vibrant and growing in diversity and enthusiasm.

Am I being idealistic? Perhaps, but I really feel the strength of who we are and what we do. We are known in Portland for our Festival and our bake sales. It is time that Portland also gets to know us as a church that honors the past but lives in the present and aspires to a higher future. Are you with it?

Fr. Constantine Sarantidis

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www.holytrinityportland.org

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and by appointment

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Email: frcsaran@gmail.com

OUR LORD'S DAY SCHEDULE

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

September 9th - 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: Demo Varipatis, Diana Dowd
PROSFORO: David Smith
PARISH COUNCIL: Team III - Theo Hassapelis*,
Kim Kapothanasis, Mark Butler
FELLOWSHIP: Philoptochos, in honor of
Grandparents Day.

September 16th - Sunday After the Elevation of the Holy Cross

READINGS: Galatians 2:16-20; Mark 8:34-9:1
READERS: Panos Pantelas, Angel Spiller
PROSFORO: Elaine Vorias
PARISH COUNCIL: Team I - Helen Blewett*,
John Cox, Nona Tsotseria
FELLOWSHIP: The Choir.

September 23rd - First Sunday of Luke (The Forerunner)

READINGS: Galatians 4:22-27; Luke 5:1-11
READERS: Angela Varipatis, Lucas Jasonides
PROSFORO: Regat Mebrahtu
PARISH COUNCIL: Team II - Agathi Haxhi*,
Regat Mebrahtu, Dean Krestos
FELLOWSHIP: To sponsor this Sunday, call 774-0281.

September 30th - Second Sunday of Luke (18th Sunday)

READINGS: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11; Luke 6:31-36
READERS: Stacy Gikas, Andrew Jasonides
PROSFORO: Bettie Moustrouphis
PARISH COUNCIL: Team III - Kim*, Mark, Theo
FELLOWSHIP: To sponsor this Sunday, call 774-0281.
Influenza Clinic after Liturgy

October 7th - Third Sunday of Luke (19th Sunday)

READINGS: 2 Corinthians 11:31-12:9; Luke 7:11-16
READERS: Angela Varipatis, Tom Peterson
PROSFORO: David Smith

PARISH COUNCIL: Team I - John*, Nona, Helen
FELLOWSHIP: To sponsor this Sunday, call 774-0281.

October 14th - Fourth Sunday of Luke (Seventh Ecumenical Council)

READINGS: Titus 3:8-15; Luke 8:5-15
READERS: Demo Varipatis, Merilla Michael
PROSFORO: Elaine Vorias
PARISH COUNCIL: Team II - Regat*, Dean, Agathi
FELLOWSHIP: To sponsor this Sunday, call 774-0281.

October 21st - Sixth Sunday of Luke (21st Sunday)

READINGS: Galatians 2:16-20; Luke 8:26-39
READERS: Panos Pantelas, Angel Spiller
PROSFORO: Regat Mebrahtu
PARISH COUNCIL: Team III - Mark*, Theo, Kim
3-Year Memorial for Kassiani Gikas
FELLOWSHIP: Steve Gikas and family in memory of
Kassiani Gikas.

October 28th - Seventh Sunday of Luke (22nd Sunday)

READINGS: Galatians 6:11-18; Luke 8:41-56
READERS: Stacy Gikas, Joe Pollak
PROSFORO: Bettie Moustrouphis
PARISH COUNCIL: Team I - Nona*, Helen, John
FELLOWSHIP: To sponsor this Sunday, call 774-0281.

November 4th - Fifth Sunday of Luke (23rd Sunday)

READINGS: Ephesians 2:4-10; Luke 16:19-31
READERS: Demo Varipatis, Diana Dowd
PROSFORO: David Smith
PARISH COUNCIL: Team II - Dean*, Agathi, Dean
FELLOWSHIP: To sponsor this Sunday, call 774-0281.

Most of the Sundays here listed have no Fellowship sponsor. And after October 21st we have no sponsors for the rest of the year! Sponsoring a Sunday Fellowship and Coffee Hour is a beautiful form of stewardship and building community. If you are among those who enjoy hanging out after Liturgy, please consider returning the joy to others by sponsoring a Sunday Fellowship!

Let's talk about some more of our strengths:

Community Business Directory. As part of our efforts to increase the sense of community among our members, we aim to publish a list of all our business owners. So if you own a business, give us the information that could interest members of our church community to support your business. Call Agathi Haxhi at 207-239-6914 or email her at agathihaxhi@yahoo.com. It is important that you call or email Agathi, because that way you will be giving your permission to list your business. We do not want to and will not list anyone's business without their express permission. So if you are **a business owner and a member of our church**, call or email Agathi. We look forward to response from everyone who owns a business.

A Much-Needed Gift! The Kapothanasis Family donated a very fine camera to the church. Our community is very grateful to the Kapothanasis family for this thoughtful and generous gift. It will enable us to take quality pictures and videos for our future new website.

New Website. Speaking of our future new website, the project hit a snag this summer and did not move forward. A new effort will be made soon.

Our church is here for the long haul - or at least until the Lord returns! There is amazing generosity all around us: people see what's needed and step forward to help. As the Kapothanasis family did with the camera. As Mrs. Vorias is doing by buying new robes for the Sanctuary Assistants (also known as "Altar Boys"). As another member of our church has offered to donate a new Gospel book. As another member of our church met with me over coffee and offered to donate some item that is needed now or in the near future. And as another member of our church told me in very moving words that as long as his family is around, our church will never close its doors. That kind of confidence in our future and commitment to our future is awe-inspiring. And how about the extraordinary effort put in every year by Greg Tselikis and the Festival Committee! And the Philoptochos. And the Parish Council. I'm deeply grateful to the donations I've mentioned here and all the efforts at community-building. God is with us and God will continue to guide us into the fullness of grace and faithfulness. Are you invested in our future and in what God is doing in our midst?

Father Constantine

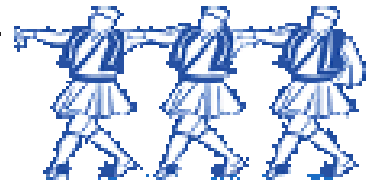
ALTAR OIL OFFERINGS

- ◇ September 2, Luci Nanos, for the health of her family.
- ◇ September 9, Melpo Shamos, in memory of her husband Stavros Shamos and his nameday.
- ◇ September 16, Stacy Gikas, in honor of Marina & Jeff's anniversary.
- ◇ September 23, No sponsor.
- ◇ September 30, No sponsor.
- ◇ October 7, Alex Gikas, in memory of her husband, Mino, on their anniversary.
- ◇ October 14, No sponsor.
- ◇ October 21, No sponsor.
- ◇ October 28, No sponsor.
- ◇ November 4, No sponsor.
- ◇ November 11, Olga Hasiotis, in memory of her husband, Photios, 34 years since his death.

Donations are \$10 per week. We have no other sponsors to the end of the year.

GREEK DINNER DANCE*

Greek and American Dancing
Everyone welcome!



Saturday, October 13, 2018

6 to 11 p.m.

Fireside Inn & Suites

81 Riverside Street, Portland, ME 04103

OPA!

Music by John Iakomides

\$40/Adult

\$10/Children under 12

Tickets:

Demos

207-799-6485

Sophia

207-284-7435

Agathi

207-239-6914



SPONSORED BY Hellenic Society Paideia of Maine

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



Sunday School Starts September 9th.

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 Sundays!

Classes Begin September 9th!

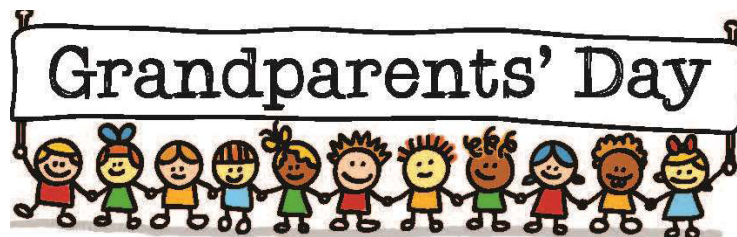


Sunday, September 9th, is National Grandparents Day.

**We encourage the children of Sunday School to
bring their grandparents to**

Liturgy, so they can receive a blessing together!

Children should also bring their school backpacks to church.



**The Philoptochos will offer a Fellowship and Coffee Hour on
Sept. 9th in honor of Grandparents Day!**

Influenza Clinic: Parish Nurse, Jackie Tselikis, will administer flu shots on Sunday, September 30th, during Coffee Hour after Liturgy. Contact Jackie Tselikis RNMS for more information about both events, 939-2260.

The Festival Committee is looking for new members! The work of the Festival Committee is essential to the success of our Festival and to the wellbeing of our parish. If you are interested in joining, contact Greg Tselikis or Father Constantine.

THANK YOU FOR ANOTHER GREAT YEAR

(A message from Greg Tselikis)

I am delighted to report that 2018 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. For the first time ever, we sold absolutely everything we made. Nothing was left ! To give our customers more value for their money, we increased the serving sizes of many of our traditional offerings. The crowds responded by buying all of it.

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 you. The Parish is indebted to each of you. It is no exaggeration to say that the Festival keeps Holy Trinity going strong. A recent change in Maine law requires non profits who sell wine or beer to pay the 8% sales tax on all items sold. This new cost will diminish our net profit significantly.

We had two days of great weather with great sales. Rain came in on Saturday. But the crowds kept coming, 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 anyplace 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. Professors, doctors and busy people made time to work for the Festival. 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. The Festival Committee will meet in the fall to review this year and start the planning for 2019. 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.

As we do every year, we once again plead with those of you who do not help to understand the importance of the Festival to the continuation of our Church and the enormous task the Festival has become. Stewardship would have to increase dramatically without Festival revenues. Over ten thousand items are made and sold. Thousands of people are our guests. It takes many hands to set up, service and shut down this huge operation. No assistance is too little. Please get on board for next year. Don't sit on the sidelines any longer. Carry your share of the load by joining us. 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

FESTIVAL DONORS

Michael Abraha & Regat Mebrahtu
Misrak Adane
AHEPA
Anonymous
Atlantic Services
Connie Bodley
Emil & Helen Budri
Thanas & Marianna Budri
Paul Burgess & Polly Moutevelis-
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Fotaq & Mirela Cala
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Domna Giatas & Edmund McCann
Matthew & Suzanne Gikas
Stacy Gikas
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Good Table Inc.
Dimitri & Anilda Gribizis
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Olga Hasiotis
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Helen Heel
Hellenic Society Paideia of Maine
Elaine & H Draper Hunt
Christopher Jasonides & Meg
Handlin
Athena Kalyvas (In memory of
her parents)

Constantine & Effie Kapothanasis
Svetoslav Kirtchev & Agathi Haxhi
Emmanuel & Nicolle Kourinos
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Margarita LaRosa
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of their Parents)
Prompto Inc
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Sotirios & Antonia Sotiropoulos
Michael & Elaine Spiller

Emily Stratis
Greg & Jackie Tselikis
Barbara Tsonis
Andrew & Mirela Tucci
Nicoletta Vaghena
Tass & Soula Varaklis
Demo & Angela Varipatis
Alex Vorias
Elaine Vorias
Nicholas & Doreen Vorias
Rhea Williams
Semere Yehdego & Asmeret Teklu

Total cash donations received:

\$22,420 (Average: \$284)

All the men, women, teens and youngsters who do the planning for the Festival, prepare the food and pastries before the Festival begins, work the three days of the Festival, and do the countless other chores needed to have the Festival take place are also hereby recognized for their donations of time and effort. Their names are too numerous to list but their efforts are most definitely not forgotten!

Most of the above listed individuals, families and corporate donors made monetary donations. Some donated food and items essential to the success of our Festival.

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO ALL!

It is possible that some donors have been left out because of office error. If there is any omission or mistake, please forgive the error and contact the church office, at 207-774-0281, or send email to frcsaran@gmail.com.

GREEK SCHOOL YEAR 2018-19

AGIASMOS for the beginning of the new school year will take place on
Monday, September 17, 2018, 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 2018 Stewardship applied toward the tuition fee and will be asked to pay any difference. Call 774-0281 for details.

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

STUDENTS WILL ATTEND CLASSES AS FOLLOWS:

MONDAY: Despina Pashos., Andrew Jasonides.

TUESDAY: Florentia & Nektaria Mendros, Michaela Vlasopoulos.

WEDNESDAY: Alexia Dede, Nika Dede, Thea Dugas, Sophia and Alex Kirtchev, James Vorias.

THURSDAY: Rodas & Raphael Kahasay, Arsema Muleat, Allias & Alithia Perry, Anna Topkins.

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΣΧΟΛΕΙΟ

Ο ΑΓΙΑΣΜΟΣ για την έναρξη του νέου σχολικού έτους θα γίνει την Δευτέρα, 17 Σεπτεμβρίου, 2018, 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 Τρίτη, 18 Σεπτεμβρίου.

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

Sunday School News

Hello, everyone! A new school year will soon begin. Here are some of the highlights of the first half:

September 9: First day of Sunday School classes. The children will be honoring their grandparents, as it is **National Grandparents' Day**. Please, have your child/children bring his/her school backpack to church on this day as part of a school blessing by Father Constantine.

The lesson plans for the younger and older children an exciting mixture of Bible stories and lessons to increase the children's awareness of being active members of the church.

The older children will also be singing in the Choir once a month for part of the Liturgy. They will be rehearsing with Madeline every Sunday after Communion in the music room.

October 14: Picnic at The Audubon in Falmouth.

December 23: Christmas Program titled, The Light of Joy and Wonder.

May God's light shine in our lives, and upon your children as they walk with Him in faith and love. Thank you,

Mary Gianibas