

MONTHLY BULLETIN

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FEBRUARY SERVICES

Friday, February 2

Presentation of Our Lord
Divine Liturgy **9:30 am**

Sunday, February 4

15th Sunday of Matthew
Orthos **8:30 am**
Divine Liturgy **9:30 am**

Saturday, February 10

St. Haralambros
Orthos **8:30 am**
Divine Liturgy **9:30 am**

Sunday, February 11

16th Sunday of Matthew
Orthos **8:30 am**
Divine Liturgy **9:30 am**

Sunday, February 18

Sunday of Caananite
Orthos **8:30 am**
Divine Liturgy **9:30 am**

Sunday, February 25

The Publican & The Pharisee
Orthos **8:30 am**
Divine Liturgy **9:30 am**

BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays 6:15pm – 7:30pm
Feb 6th, 13th and 27th

Thursdays 11:15am – 12:30pm
Feb 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd

“DEDICATION”

Felix was born in the springtime of 1981. At the moment of birth his father Leroy held him in his arms, raised him high and said “one day, my boy is going to be a baseball player like his Daddy. One day, he’ll be great.”

From that day onward, Felix was bred to be a baseball player. On his first birthday his father gave him a toy baseball bat and glove. On his second Birthday, his father gave him a larger bat, glove and baseball helmet. The next year, another bat, glove, helmet but this time there were batting gloves to go with his new gifts.

Leroy trained and molded his young son into a star athlete. Felix, with the support of his Father, attended the best training camps that were available. The young man, from the age of ten had his own personal trainer and nutritionist. His life was *dedicated* to the sport of baseball.

At the age of twenty-two Felix received a phone call from a Major League Scout. Felix was invited to the upcoming team tryouts. He and his entire family were overjoyed.

Felix made the team and lead a successful career in Major League Baseball. As his father had hoped, Felix was remembered as one of the “Great Ones” in the sport of baseball.

Felix’s story is one of a Father *dedicating* his beloved son to the sport of baseball, and I am sure that any loving parent would be proud of their son or daughter succeeding in life.

The Christmas/Epiphany season in the Orthodox Church comes to an end on February 2nd, 40 days after our celebration of Christ’s birth, with the celebration of the feast of *The Presentation of Christ to the Temple in Jerusalem*. One of the 12 great festivals of the Church’s annual liturgical calendar, the events celebrated on this day are recorded in Luke 2:22-38.

It is this event in the life of the Lord Jesus that also forms the basis for the tradition of the 40-day blessing of new mothers and their children. It is yet another step in conforming the pattern of our lives and those of our children to the life of Christ Jesus. At the 40-day blessing, Orthodox parents *dedicate* their newborn child to a life of serving the Lord.

“DEDICATION” continued

In whatever vocation we choose in life or whatever vocation we assist our children with in their lives, we must remember that, first and foremost, we are servants of the one true God. We are Christians. It is to the Lord God that we *dedicate* our lives.

In the story of Felix, we read that his father *dedicated* his son’s entire life to baseball. Everything else in his life came last when compared to the game.

Felix’s discipline to the game of baseball is admirable, but was his dedication to the Lord as great? What came first, service to God or playing baseball?

In our own lives, who or what comes first?

JAMMING WITH FATHER CHRISTOPHER

“You have not had jam until you’ve had our jam!”

My dear brothers and sisters in the Lord,

Please join us on Thursday, **February 29th** for a morning and afternoon of jam making, Bible study and good old fashioned *parea*. This event is scheduled to take place in our Church Hall.

For over two years our Parish has been producing the finest fruit jams that you have ever tasted. Those who have tasted our fruit spreads will attest to their fine texture and mouth-watering flavor. The recipe is simple as is the entire process. What is required is your time and patience. The process cannot be rushed.

Order of events are as follows

11:00am - arrival time and fruit preparation

11:45am – 2:00pm – jam will simmer on low heat

While jam is simmering, we will take turns stirring the pot while holding our Bible study and taking lunch.

2:00pm - ladle jam into sterilized jars

2:15pm - process jars in boiling pot of water.

While jars are processing, we will clean up our tools and work station.

3:00pm - finished!!

Only 10 seats available for this class. Please RSVP to my cell at 774-372-9107.

In His Service,
Father Christopher Kolentsas



CHURCH

TRIVIA NIGHT WAS A SUCCESS!!

Trivia Night was such a fun evening, attended by 90 excited participants!

Thank you to the Events Committee who organized and donated all but the pizza/salad & wine. We appreciate all who continue to attend and enjoy the annual event & to Pomodori's of Ipswich who discounted the pizza and salad! With all this support, the evening raised approx. \$2700 which goes directly to the church funds. Congratulations to "Sink or Swim" the winning team!



Choir News

New choir members needed to join our beautiful choir. What better way to celebrate the Liturgy each week than with singing praises to God?!! Please call or email Paula Foukas if interested. procallplus@aol.com or 339-338-9367. "

The Assumption Choir is happy to introduce the Father John Govostos Church Musician Scholarship Fund. A college scholarship will be given to a high school senior that volunteers in the Assumption

Greek Orthodox Church of Ipswich Choir for a period of at least two years' service. This scholarship will be given only to students that volunteer to chant or sing in the choir. If you have any questions, please call or email Paula Foukas at procallplus@aol.com or 339-338-9367.

If you would like to make a donation to the Scholarship Fund, please make out a check to the Assumption Choir and mail to Stella Spyropoulos 4 Bruce Road, Danvers, MA 01923.

Thank you so much for your support!!

Parish Council Member Request

Our beloved Church is in great need of Parish Council Members. It is the beginning of a new year and a good time to volunteer and feel the sense of gratification that comes along with it. The Parish Council meets every 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:30 for typically 2-3 hours. As a member, you would assist in church duties on a rotating, predetermined group schedule. Often there are small projects which you may choose to take a role in.

The Parish Council also works closely with the Hellenic Center Committee to assist them in major decision making and support when needed.

To become a member, you must be in good standing. Please consider joining this dedicated, cohesive group to help bring new ideas and life to the church so we can continue to be a thriving congregation. For further information please contact Fr. Chris at 774-372-9107 or Connie at 617-212-5353.

Email Announcements

At this time, Father Chris along with the Parish Council would like to introduce the opportunity for a family member to announce a Funeral, Memorial Service, or 40 Day Blessing of a newborn to the parish via email. If you would like an email sent out to the community, please contact Father Chris at 774-372-9107

MELISSA NEWS

Vasilopeta Coin Winners

Best of luck to our Vasilopeta coin winners. There were 5 good luck coins in 5 loaves of Vasilopeta.

The winners are:

George Karavelas
Christine Sarantopoulos
Christopher Sarantopoulos
Mary Ann Tsoutsouras
Joan Wiendzak



February 7th Melissa Meeting

The next Melissa meeting will be held on Wednesday, **February 7th** in our church hall at **6:30pm**. All women are invited to attend.

Please contact Chris Sarantopoulos with any questions. The women of this group thank our parishioners for their continued support and generosity.

Tower of Gifts for Newborns

The Melissa Women's Society continues to collect brand new baby items to support the Tower of Gifts for Newborns project. Please continue to leave new items with tags attached in the bin on the church hall stage. We appreciate everyone who has already donated. Below you will find a suggested list of donations. Thank You!

All donations must be brand new.

- Baby clothing sizes newborn, 0-3 months, 3 months, 3-6 months and 6 months.
- Diapers (size newborn or 1)
- Baby wipes
- New baby blankets
- Baby bath products (shampoo, baby wash, lotion & diaper rash cream)
- Hooded bath towels
- Wash cloths
- Small new infant toys
- Hats, socks and bibs
- Comb/brush set
- Pacifiers
- Thick baby socks
- Fleece outfits

MELISSA continued

Melissa January 2024 Raffle Calendar Winners

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Andrew Mandragouras | 17. Sandra Titcomb |
| 2. Elaine Kaszuba | 18. Jan Duest |
| 3. Walter Harmen | 19. Alexa Eliopoulos |
| 4. Justin Woodworth | 20. Diane Taylor |
| 5. Denise DeFrancesco | 21. Judi Karvelas |
| 6. Mary Sarantopoulos | 22. Jen Flynn |
| 7. Presvytera Kathleen Govostes | 23. Peter Karas |
| 8. Tracey Liguari | 24. Angela Nikolakopoulos |
| 9. George L. Markos | 25. Marsha Bornstein |
| 10. Christine Sarantopoulos | 26. Peter Argeropoulos |
| 11. Andrew Sinkiewicz | 27. Joan Vontzalides |
| 12. Eugenia Gamatos | 28. Rhea Koshivas |
| 13. Peter Karas | 29. Christine Adams |
| 14. Harry Lampropoulos | 30. Sandra Titcomb |
| 15. Zach Eliopoulos | 31. Jim Squires |
| 16. Christine Sarantopoulos | |

Church Calendars

We wish to thank John Morris and his family of Morris Funeral Home for generously donating our Ecclesiastical Calendars for many years. Their generosity is greatly appreciated.

John Anton's Cleaners

We wish to thank John Anton's Cleaners in Rowley, MA for donating the cleaning fee for Father's Chris' vestments for many years. Their generosity is greatly appreciated.

DONATIONS

In Loving Memory of William Markos

William & Jacqueline Belezos
 Connie James
 Dr. George & Evie Hasiotis
 Margot & Joe Ciccotelli
 Denise DeFrancesco
 Michael & Pamela Carakatsane
 David & Sarah Fyrberg
 Marlene Markos
 Geore & Ann Koshivas
 Denis & Melanie Keenan
 Gavin & Josephine Keenan
 Tanya Markos

In Loving Memory of Jeannie Soffron

Katherine Georgeopoulos
 Marlene Markos

Christmas Donations

Steven Karalias
 Vasiliki Karalias
 James & Janet Squires
 Arthur & Irene Baer
 Paul & Janet Votze
 Michael & Pamela Carakatsane
 Tina Lamson
 Tanya Markos

General Donations

Jay & Mary Ann Tsoutsouras

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Bible Study 11:15am – 12:30pm	2 Presentation of our Lord Liturgy 9:30am	3
4 15 th Sunday of Matthew Orthos 8:30am Liturgy 9:30am Sunday School & Children's Sermon 9:30am	5	6 Bible Study 6:15 – 7:30pm	7	8 Bible Study 11:15am – 12:30pm	9	10 St. Haralambros Liturgy 9:30am
11 16 th Sunday of Matthew Orthos 8:30am Liturgy 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am	12	13 Bible Study 6:15 – 7:30pm	14	15 Bible Study 11:15am – 12:30pm	16	17
18 Sunday of Caananite Orthos 8:30am Liturgy 9:30am No Sunday School	19	20	21	22 Bible Study 11:15am – 12:30pm	23	24
25 The Publican and the Pharisee No Sunday School	26	27 Bible Study 6:15 – 7:30pm	28	29 Jamming with Fr. Chris & Bible Study 11:00am		