

MONTHLY BULLETIN

greekchurchips@verizon.net | 978-356-9730 | www.greekorthodoxchurchipswich.org

FEBRUARY SERVICES

Sunday, February 2

Presentation of Our Lord

Orthos **8:30am**

Divine Liturgy **9:30am**

Sunday, February 9

The Publican and the Pharisee

Orthos **8:30am**

Divine Liturgy **9:30am**

Monday, February 10

St. Haralambros

Divine Liturgy **9:30am**

Sunday, February 16

16th The Prodigal Son

Orthos **8:30am**

Divine Liturgy **9:30am**

Saturday, February 22

1st Saturday of Souls

Divine Liturgy **9:30am**

Sunday, February 23

Meatfare Sunday

Orthos **8:30am**

Divine Liturgy **9:30am**

BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays **6:15pm – 7:45pm**

Feb 4, 11, 18 and 25th

Thursdays **11:00am – 12:30pm**

Feb 6, 13 and 27th

Thursday **Feb 20th 11:00am – 3:00pm**

Bible Study & Jamming with Father
Chris

“THE WAY WE ARE”

Some of the worst advice that a Christian can give is to tell someone “God loves you the way you are.” Let me explain.

It is true, that God loves us *where* we are in life; at every stage. It is also true that God loves us for the Saint that we are called to be. Just as a mother loves her child at every stage; within the womb, during infancy, childhood and adulthood, so does our Father in Heaven love us at every stage. But, just as a mother’s desire that her own child grow up and mature, so does the Lord desire that we grow up and mature.

Babies and toddlers, at times, will throw temper tantrums when they do not get their own way. It is by the loving guidance of father and mother that tantrum throwing babies grow into civilized adults that possess control over their own emotions. To put it simply, it may be acceptable for babies and toddlers to throw temper tantrums. It is completely unacceptable for young children and adults to throw temper tantrums.

It is true that God loves the sinner; we are all sinners. But the Lord also calls everyone one of us to “Grow Up.”

In the Gospel of John, we read;

But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Now early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people came to Him; and He sat down and taught them. Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst, they said to Him, “Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?”

This they said, testing Him, that they might have something of which accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger, as though He did not hear.

So, when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, “He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first.” And again, He stooped down and wrote on the ground. Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one,

“THE WAY WE ARE” continued

beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, “Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?”

She said, “No one, Lord.”

And Jesus said to her, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.”

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”

John 8:1-12

Brothers and sisters in the Lord, we do no good by encouraging our fellow man to continue to walk in darkness; to walk proudly in a sinful life. It is every Orthodox Christian’s duty to spiritually “grow up;” to strive to walk in the light of Christ and to go and sin no more.

Your brother in Christ the Lord,

Father Christopher Kolentsas

DONATIONS

In Loving Memory of Nicholas Votze

- Paul & Janet Votze
- Katie Hendrington
- George & Connie Markos
- Maureen Woodworth
- Bruce & Lisa Bial

SUNDAY SCHOOL

March Upcoming Events

Please mark your calendars for our Greek Independence Day Celebration hosted on **Sunday, March 23rd**. Children will recite Greek Poems with a luncheon to follow.

GOYA

Our Goya sponsored the Ipswich Dinner Bell on Monday, January 27th. We are proud to have the youth of our parish give back to the community. A special thanks to the Melissa members and Father Chris’s daughters for their assistance. It was a lovely event.



CHURCH NEWS

Hello Beloved Parish Family,

I'm excited to share some incredible news about our church's participation in the Thriving Congregations Initiative, a wonderful opportunity gifted to us through the generosity of the Metropolis. This initiative comes with a significant grant given to the metropolis to strengthen parish engagement and empower us to build an even stronger, more vibrant church community so that we may glorify the Lord and live out his teachings.

For quite some time, I've been eager to deepen my involvement with the church and find ways to serve our parish. I'm thrilled to be leading this initiative with Father Chris' blessing, and together, we've started mapping out a plan to ensure that our church doesn't just survive but *thrives*.

The ancestors of the church built a strong foundation with love, faith, and perseverance. Now, it's our turn to carry that legacy forward, to ensure our church stands strong for our children, grandchildren, and generations yet to come.

To do that, we need to approach this challenge with a clear vision, boundless love, and a willingness to work together. Just as it took effort and commitment to build this church, so too will it take our collective energy and heart to ensure it continues to grow and flourish.

This is where YOU come in.

We're beginning by assessing what's working well and identifying areas where we can grow. This will be an ongoing, step-by-step process, but I promise you that the seeds we plant today will bear fruit for many years to come. For this to happen, we need every hand on deck, every heart full of hope, and every voice lifted in unity.

We're putting together a committee of passionate, creative, and optimistic individuals who are ready to breathe new life into our church through new ministries, community gatherings, outreach projects, and fresh ideas.

We're not just hoping to sustain what we have—we're here to build something extraordinary, something that will echo through generations.

Here's where you can help:

- **If you're passionate about the future of our church**, we'd love for you to be part of this exciting initiative.
- **If you have new ideas**, whether it's about ministries, groups, events, or evangelism, we want to hear from you!
- **If you have an optimistic spirit**, we need you to help spread hope and energy throughout our parish.

- **If you're unable to actively participate**, we need your support and encouragement, too. The power of positive reinforcement is immeasurable.

If you're interested in getting involved or have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me in church or by email at elainakberry@me.com

As we embark on this exciting journey, let us remember the words of Jesus **in Luke 6:38**:

"Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you."

Together, we can give abundantly to one another and our church, knowing that our efforts will return to us in blessings beyond measure.

With faith, hope, and excitement for what lies ahead,
Elaina Ketrelakes Berry

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Presentation of Our Lord Orthos 8:30am Liturgy 9:30am Godparents Sunday 9:30am	3	4 Bible Study 6:15 – 7:45pm	5	6 Bible Study 11:00am – 12:30pm	7	8
9 The Pulican and the Pharisee Orthos 8:30am Liturgy 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am	10 St.Haralambos Liturgy 9:30am	11 Bible Study 6:15 – 7:45pm	12	13 Bible Study 11:00am – 12:30pm	14	15
16 The Prodigal Son Orthos 8:30am Liturgy 9:30am No Sunday School	17	18 Bible Study 6:15 – 7:45pm	19	20 Jamming with Fr. Chris & Bible Study 11:00am	21	22 1 st Saturday of the Souls Liturgy 9:30am
23 Meatfare Sunday Orthos 8:30am Liturgy 9:30am No Sunday School	24	25 Bible Study 6:15 – 7:45pm	26	27 Bible Study 11:00am – 12:30pm	28	