

MONTHLY BULLETIN

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January Services

Wednesday, January 1

St. Basil's at St. Vasilios - Peabody
Divine Liturgy **9:30 am**

Sunday, January 5

Sunday before Epiphany
Orthos **8:30 am**
Divine Liturgy **9:30 am**

Monday, January 6

Epiphany
Divine Liturgy **9:30 am**

Sunday, January 12

Sunday after Epiphany
Orthos **8:30 am**
Divine Liturgy **9:30 am**

Friday, January 17

St. Anthony
Divine Liturgy **9:30 am**

Sunday, January 19

12th Sunday of Luke
Orthos **8:30 am**
Divine Liturgy **9:30 am**

Sunday, January 26

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

Thursday, January 30

The Three Hierarchs
Divine Liturgy **9:30 am**

Bible Study

Tuesday January 7, 14, 21 & 28th

6:15pm – 7:45pm

Thursday January 2, 9 & 23rd

11:00am – 12:15pm

Jamming with Father Chris and
Bible Study

Thursday January 16th

11:00am

"Life is Like the Kalamatiano"

Dimitri grew up in a practicing Greek Orthodox Christian home. On Sundays (every Sunday) he and his family went to Church together as well as all major feast days. He and his family celebrated weddings, birthdays, baptisms and even the lives of the departed with their fellow parishioners. The lives of every parish family revolved around the Church.

One day while driving with his father, Dimitri said "Babba, we do everything with the people in our Church." His father replied "you are correct my boy. Christian life is like the Kalamatiano."

Dimitri asked "How is life like dancing the Kalamatiano?" His father responded "My boy, when Greeks dance, they hold hands. Whether we are dancing at the Food festival, a baptism, a wedding or a backyard cookout, we dance the Kalamatiano together while holding hands. We hold hands with each other even though we may not always like each other. When we dance our troubles are forgotten for the time being, and we dance with great joy. So, my boy it's like I said, Christian life is like dancing the Kalamatiano!" Dimitri responded "Babba, you are correct."

Brothers and sisters in the Lord, may we all dance our way *together* into the new year and the new years to come. May we dance to His Glory for all of our days!

Your brother in Christ the Lord,

Father Christopher Kolentsas

MELISSA UPDATES

Assumption of the Virgin Mary Church- Ipswich, MA 2024 Melissa Women's Society Parish Ministry Report

We have approximately 40 active members. The society helps to maintain the needs of the church; renovating the men's bathroom, polishing church candles and candelabras, etc.

January

- *Vasilopeta donated for the service with a pancake breakfast after the service
- *Donation to the Open-Door Food Pantry

February

- *Sponsored the Towers for Newborns drive to collect baby items for needy children
- *Church chandelier cleaning booked for Jan. 2025

March

- *Collected funds for church Easter flowers
- *Members helped to decorate the Kouvouklion
- *Held a bake sale

April

- *Donated a cash prize for the July church festival

May

- *Donated a flag in honor of Father John Govostes for the Rotary Flags for Heroes

July

- *Members participate in group baking and cooking for the July Festival

September

- *Paid the fee and served at the DINNER BELL community meal
- *Foster care (HELPIS) fundraiser where 50 full book bags were donated

October

- *Held a Memorial Service for Father John Govostes and the deceased Melissa Society Members with a parish meal following the service

November

- *Friends of Boston homeless sock drive held to provide unused socks and clothing
- *Bake Sale
- *January Raffle Calendar sales begin.

December

- *Deliver poinsettias to elderly Melissa members
- *Donations made to Philoxenia House, St. Basil's Academy and the Open-Door Food Pantry.

*The Melissa Women's Society provides coffee for all church coffee hours.

*Members bake Prosforon for all church services.

*Coffee hours are held whenever needed.

*Flowers are sent to ill society members

*When necessary, members will clean the church.

The members also support the Greek Independence Day Fish Luncheon and the Children's Christmas Party.

MELISSA continued

Vasilopeta Happy New Year 2025

In honoring St. Basil, the Great and in keeping with the tradition of the cutting of the Vasilopeta, which emanates from his blessed actions, the ladies of the Melissa Society will once again be inviting us all to partake of a special slice of Vasilopeta along with a pancake breakfast immediately following church services on Sunday, January 12. Please attend to celebrate the New Year together as a parish. One lucky person will find the coin within the bread, bestowing good luck on its recipient for the year 2025.

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.

Melissa January Calendar Raffle

The Melissa Women's Society would like to thank everyone who purchased a ticket for the January calendar raffle fundraiser. Thank you for your support. The raffle drawings will be held every Sunday in January after the Divine Liturgy in the church hall. Good luck!

The raffle prizes were generously donated by Melissa members. We also wish to thank the following businesses who kindly donated prizes to help this fundraiser be successful; Betsy Frost Design, Paws With Inn and Tetrault Jewelers.

Melissa Sock Drive

The Melissa Women's Society wishes to thank everyone who donated items to the **Friends of Boston's Homeless Sock Drive**. Many items were collected. Your thoughtfulness will keep many warm and dry. Thank you for your support.

Melissa January Meeting

Happy New Year! The January Melissa monthly meeting will be held on **Wed., January 8** in the church hall at **6:30 PM**. We have recently welcomed new members. Please contact Chris Sarantopoulos at 978-356-3894 or at cesarantopoulos@hotmail.com to join.

Choir News

On November 10th our Choir hosted a breakfast for the Veterans from the AmVets Post 201, Polish Legion of American Veterans and the VFW of Ipswich to honor them for Veterans Day.



4 members of our choir, Paula Foukas – Choir Director, Stella Spyropoulos, Ginny Rooney and Vicky Hoey attended The Choir Federation at St George Church in Lynn on November 3rd. His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios was in attendance with many choir members of The New England Choir Federation.



DONATIONS

Annual Church Fund

Vera Bombardiere Trust

General Donations

Panagiotis Manginis & Anne
 Michael & Catherine Sarantopoulos
 Sophia Fowler
 Kevin & Kathy Dyer
 Pamela Scangas
 Arthur & Antonia Sotis
 Prudence Markos/Boston Foundation

In Loving Memory of George Bouzianis

John & Christine Galanis
 George Galanis
 Katherine Georgeopoulos

In Loving Memory of Christin Vallis

Katherine Georgeopoulos

In Loving Memory of Gail Pappas

Katherine Georgeopoulos

In Loving Memory of Doug Woodworth

Maureen Woodworth

In Loving Memory of Ann Vlahos

Maureen Woodworth

In Loving Memory of Linda Lachman Downey

Maureen Woodworth

In Loving Memory of Father John Govostes

George & Eugenia Hasiotis
 Marlene Markos

In Loving Memory of Peter Nicholson

Kevin Donahue

In Loving Memory of Florence Lalikos

Joan Wiendczak

**In Loving Memory of George & Sophie
Georgeopoulos**

Katherine Georgeopoulos

Christmas Party Donations

John Govostes
 John Kolentsas
 Nick & Layne Markos
 James & Christine Georgoulakos
 Jessica Forres
 Peter & Angela Nikolakopoulos
 Louis Constantine
 Peter Georgoulakos
 Robert & Elaina Berry
 Matthew Lamson
 Katherine Lamson
 Elaine Tibbetts
 Arthur & Antonia Sotis
 Alexander Lemany
 Connie James
 Peter Contompasis
 Bill McKay
 Chris Tsoutsouras
 Joseph Spaulding

Christmas Donations

Charles & Stella Nahatis
 George & Jill Markos
 James Sagris
 Malcolm & Johanna Kadra
 Peter Argeropoulos
 George & Connie Markos
 Dr. George & Evie Hasiotis
 Virginia Kandris
 Christine Sarantopoulos
 Nicholas & Joan Vontzalides
 Stanley & Robin Treantos
 Dana & Marcia Karas
 Chrissi Pappas
 Bette Tsoutsouras
 Michael & Pamela Carakatsane
 Nicholas Votze
 Stella Spyropoulos
 John & Christine Galanis
 Katherine Georgeopoulos
 Andrew & Elaine Kaszuba
 Jay & Mary Ann Tsoutsouras
 Antonia Baer
 Joseph Spaulding
 Gelasakis Family

Trivia Night

TRIVIA NIGHT is back by popular demand once again!

The holidays are over but there is still an upcoming fun time to be had!

Question- Which reindeer was Rudolph's father in the 1964 movie- "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer"?

Mark your calendar!

Saturday January 18th, 2025 -6:00 at the Church Hall- Games begin promptly at 6:30
(tentative snow date- Saturday, Feb 1st)

Join in or bring your own team, no skills or practice needed to play!

The evening starts off with some light appetizers - soda, beer & wine.

Each group chooses a fun team name and the games begin.

There will be pizza and salad and the evening finishes up with delicious homemade desserts and prizes for the winning group!

\$35.00 per person - (pls bring cash or check that evening)

All proceeds from this fundraiser go towards the church general expenses.

Answer-"Donner"

JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 St. Basil at St. Vasilios in Peabody 9:30am Liturgy	2	3	4
5 Sunday before Epiphany 8:30am Orthos 9:00am Liturgy	6 Epiphany 9:30am Liturgy	7 Bible Study 6:15 – 7:45pm	8	9 Bible Study 11:00am – 12:30pm	10	11
12 Sunday after Epiphany 8:30am Orthos 9:00am Liturgy	13	14 Bible Study 6:15 – 7:45pm	15	16 Bible Study & Jamming with Fr. Chris 11:00am	17 St. Anthony 9:30 Liturgy	18
19 12 th Sunday of Luke 8:30am Orthos 9:00am Liturgy	20	21 Bible Study 6:15 – 7:45pm	22	23 Bible Study 11:00am – 12:30pm	24	25
26 15 th Sunday of Luke 8:30am Orthos 9:00am Liturgy	27	28 Bible Study 6:15 – 7:45pm	29	30 The Three Hierarchs 9:30am Liturgy	31	