

# Trans-a-Gram

Rev. Demetrios T. Costarakis, Pastor

Nicholas G. Pappas, Editor



## Greek Fair '08

It was always time to make the *loukoumathes* for Perry Andricopoulos at last month's Greek Fair, which took place on the weekend of Sept. 13-14. **Story, more photos on Pages 4-5.** (Photo by Nick Pappas)

### Inside this issue

#### Fr. Demetri's message ..... 2

This month, Father Demetri relates a story to illustrate the importance of volunteers to the successful operation of the church – as was demonstrate last month during the parish's Greek Fair.

#### Parish Assembly date set

The Parish Council has set the date for the fall Parish Assembly for Sunday, Nov. 2, after the Divine Liturgy in the church hall. Among the items on the agenda will be a proposed operating budget for 2009 and nominations for candidates for the council election in December.

#### Camp open house ..... 7

Bus transportation was provided for parishioners to attend the Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross and open house on Saturday, Sept. 13, at the St. Methodios Faith and Heritage Center in Contoocook, N.H. The Divine Liturgy was followed by the "Blessing of the Waters" service.

## FATHER DEMETRI'S MESSAGE

# Let's not let this dream become reality

By **FATHER DEMETRI COSTARAKIS**  
Pastor



Allow me to share a story with you:

*A priest had a dream the other night that every volunteer in this land had set sail for another country. He stood smiling on the pier shouting "goodbye phone committees; no information gatherings; no more playground duty, bake sales, three-hour meetings, or helping at the church, teaching Sunday School and taking care of youth."*

*As the priest went on his daily routine, he went to the hospital and found it quiet as he walked around. The reception desk was vacant. Rooms were empty of books, flowers and voices. The children's wing held no clowns, no laughter and no activity.*

*The home of the aged was like a tomb. The blind listened for a voice that never came. The infirm were imprisoned in wheelchairs that never moved. Food grew cold on trays that would never reach the hungry.*

*Social agencies had closed their doors, unable to implement their programs of counseling or drug and alcohol control. Health agencies had signs in their windows: "Cures for cancer, birth defects, multiple sclerosis, heart disease, etc. have been canceled because of lack of interest."*

*The schools were strangely quiet with no field trips and no volunteer classroom aides.*

*Flowers in the church withered and died. Children in day nurseries lifted their arms, but there was no one to hold them, love them or teach them. Children in Sunday School classes sat with their hands folded, waiting to be taught, yet no one entered the classroom door. The poor had no one to help them.*

*The priest fought in his sleep to regain a glimpse of the ship of volunteers just one more time. He knew that this was going to be his last glimpse of a decent civilization.*

My beloved brothers and sisters:

Volunteers, my dear friends, are the backbone of our church. Without them our doors would close. Without the volunteers to serve on the Parish Council, or the volunteers to serve in the Ladies Philoptochos, or the volunteers to serve as chanters or in the choir, or to teach in our Sunday School, or to serve in the Holy Altar, or to advise the youth, or to minister to the old, or to visit the sick – we could accomplish *nothing*.

The reward is knowing that *you are doing something*. Something that no one else but you can do. Our Lord said: "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few." All of us have talents in one area or another. It is up to us to put these talents to work.

At this time, I would personally like to thank all of the volunteers who gave their time, talent and treasure for our Greek Fair. Without all of you, this event would not have been a success. God bless you and your families. Thank you!

## HOW TO REACH US

**Pastor:** The Rev. Demetri Costarakis  
**Secretary:** Jeanne Brady  
**Address:** Father John Sarantos Way, Lowell, MA 01854  
**Telephone:** 978-458-4321  
**Fax:** 978-458-8726  
**Church e-mail:** transfig@hotmail.com  
**Father Demetri e-mail:** demetric@imail.goarch.org  
**Web page:** www.transchurch.org  
**Office hours:** Secretary: Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.;  
 Priest: Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
**Editor:** Nick Pappas  
**Telephone:** 603-886-4717  
**E-mail:** npappas05@comcast.net

## Camp Days Are Coming

Vacation Church Camp (VCC) this summer provided 100 campers the opportunity to learn about their faith. Keeping with the same format, we look forward to offering our children additional day-camp opportunities.

- **Advent Camp:** Saturday, Nov. 22, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- **Lenten Camp:** Saturday, Feb. 28, on the second Saturday of Souls, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- **Good Friday Retreat:** Friday, April 17, 2009, at 11 a.m.

If you are interested in planning or helping in any way, please contact Father Demetri at church or Olivia Sintros at osintros@comcast.net or by calling 978-902-6152.

# Church Services

## Schedule of Services

Orthros ..... 9 to 10 a.m.  
 Divine Liturgy ..... 10 to 11:30 a.m.

## Special Services

Oct. 6 (Monday) ..... St. Thomas  
 Divine Liturgy: 9 a.m.  
 Oct. 20 (Monday) ..... St. Gerasimos  
 Divine Liturgy: 9 a.m.  
 Oct. 22 (Wednesday) ..... St. James  
 Divine Liturgy: 6 p.m.  
 Oct. 25 (Saturday) ..... St. Demetrios  
 St. Demetrios Church / Weston  
 Great Vespers: 7 p.m.

## Sacraments

### Baptisms:

**Brooke Helena** and **John Kenneth**, daughter and son of Tim and Maria Lightfoot. Godparents: Victoria Tsatsis and Amanda Pacelli. (Sept. 6)

## Monthly Trisagia

Names of the deceased are read the first Sunday of each month. Please send the names to be read in advance, listing the month you would like them read. If you would like the name to be read in Greek, please include the Greek spelling along with the English. If you have any questions, call Dyanne Mitropoulis at 978-256-2056.

### SEPTEMBER TRISAGIA (Additional Names)

Cynthia Sigalos                      Alyce Giavas

## OCTOBER TRISAGIA

Anastasia Baltas	John G. Laganas
Vaios Baltas	Kostoula Loupis
Alexandra P. Bouras	Yianni Manelas
Demetrakis G. Bouras	Paraskevi Manolis
Eugenia Contovonisis	Martin P. Martakos
John Contovonisis	John Pappas
Stella Contos	Angelo Papulis
George A. Danas	Virginia Raras Rabias
Stephen A. Danas	Alice Raras
Catherine Jais	Constantine Raras
Anna Kanell	Peter Rodopoulos
Soultana Kapsouris	Bessie Strombos
Panayis Karatassos	George Strombos
Theony Karatassos	Marigo Tsatsios
Katie Katscounis	Stergios Tsatsios
Pericles Katscounis	Steve Xifaris
Dr. Arthur Kennedy	John S. Zamanakos
Rita Kennedy	Nicholas G. Zamanakos
Stergios Koravos	Elpida Zeppos

## Greek Fair Volunteers



Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

I want to thank all the volunteers who worked so hard to make Greek Fair 2008 a success. A special thank you to Mike Fokas, who ran the kitchen and never stopped all weekend long.

I'm grateful to all the parishioners who participated in any way either by making food donations, purchasing raffle tickets or by simply joining us to enjoy a delicious meal. God bless you all.

– Ioannis Zaralidis  
 Greek Fair Chairman

## Book Store Open



The Transfiguration Book store is now open on Sundays at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy in the upstairs lobby. If you have any interest in a particular item, please see parish secretary Jeanne Brady.

## GREEK FAIR '08



Parishioner Eleni Spandagos displays some of her icons in one of the classrooms during Greek Fair '08, the parish's two-day fundraiser on Sept. 13-14. Most of the fair took place indoors, though some of the children's activities took place on the church grounds. (Photo by Nick Pappas)

# Greek Fair '08

September two-day affair mixed faith with fun

**By NICK PAPPAS**  
Trans-a-Gram Editor

If early impressions are any indication, the parish's initial venture into staging a food fair in late summer was a success – both in bringing the parish family together in a common cause and as a way to replenish the church treasury.

While the final numbers may not be known until later this year, early indications are that Greek Fair '08 grossed more than \$35,000. Until all the expenses are determined, how-



Chris Tournas, left, and Michael Eliopoulos team up to sell raffle tickets to visitors. (Photo by Yiota Simoglou)

ever, the actual profit margin won't be known.

The fact that parishioners stepped up to donate more than \$2,000 toward the purchase of food should certainly help the bottom line.

"I want to thank all the volunteers who worked so hard to make Greek Fair 2008 a success," said Ioannis Zaralidis, chairman of the two-day event that took place on the weekend of Sept. 13-14.

*(Continued on page 5)*

## GREEK FAIR '08

## Greek Fair ...

(Continued from page 4)

Father Demetri echoed the chairman's remarks.

"At this time, I would personally like to thank all of the volunteers who gave their time, talent and treasure for our Greek Fair," he said.

"Without all of you, this event would not have been a success. God bless you and your families."

Here are the winners of the raffle prizes, all of which were donated by either members or friends of the parish:

- ◆ **George Alexakos:** Bose portable stereo donated by Iris Mitropoulis.
- ◆ **James Chachas:** A Magnavox 19-inch high-definition television donated by the Manolis family.
- ◆ **George and Marina Balkas:** Portable DVD player donated by the Zaralidis family.
- ◆ **Elizabeth Tournas:** A \$200 gift certificate to Grassfield's Restaurant donated by the Murphy family.
- ◆ **Penelope Hamourgas:** A weekend adventure to the 57 Restaurant donated by Louis Vinios.
- ◆ **Tom and EJ Amick:** Gold jewelry donated by the Ladies Philoptochos Society.
- ◆ **Alice Danas:** A \$200 gift certificate to Home Depot donated by the Men's Guild.
- ◆ **Louis Heliotis:** A \$100 gift certificate to Burtons Grill of North Andover donated by Spike and Olivia Sintros.



Among the many volunteers helping out at the Philoptochos-run pastry booth at Greek Fair '08 were, from left, Kathy Allen, Diane Pappas, Alice Danas and Dyanne Mitropoulis. (Photo by Yiota Simoglou)

- ◆ **Mildred Nicholas:** A \$100 gas card donated by Jack and Pat Mahoney.
- ◆ **Ellen Dobi:** A \$100 gift certificate to Cobblestones donated by Nick and Susan Pappas.
- ◆ **Corrine Dubay:** A leaf blower donated by Glenn and Voula Shanks.
- ◆ **A.G. Danas:** A digital camera donated by the DiBenedetto family.
- ◆ **Steven Goulas:** \$200 in cash donated by Chris and Vito Selvaggio.
- ◆ **Charlene:** A \$200 gift certificate to a Simon Mall donated by Chris Tournas.
- ◆ **Kristina Ansara Stachowski:** A gift basket worth \$300 donated by Peter and Voula Danas.
- ◆ **Susan Pappas:** A \$150 gift certificate to a Simon Mall donated by the Fokas family.
- ◆ **Tina Dzedulonis:** \$100 in cash donated by Dyanne and Karen Mitropoulis.
- ◆ **Peter Costarakis:** A \$100 gift certificate to the Olympia donated by the Olympia.
- ◆ **William Zounes:** \$150 in cash donated by Harry Stamas.
- ◆ **Louis Stylos:** A \$125 gas card donated by the Karagianes family.
- ◆ **George Economou:** A \$100 gift card to Macy's donated by Jeanne Brady.
- ◆ **M. Karagianes:** \$100 donated by Chuck and Martha Sintros.
- ◆ **Ernest Deveres:** A \$100 gas card donated by Anonymous.

## PHILOPTOCHOS NATIONAL CONVENTION

# Philoptochos looking forward

By **PATRICIA MAHONEY**  
and **OLIVIA SINTROS**

Clergy-Laita Philoptochos Delegates

The Transfiguration Ladies Philoptochos Society was well represented at the 39<sup>th</sup> Biennial Clergy-Laita Congress held recently in Washington, D.C.

Patricia Mahoney and Olivia Sintros, first and second Philoptochos vice presidents respectively, attended as delegates, as well as Transfiguration Philoptochos past presidents and national Philoptochos board members Yiota Simoglou and Daphne Zaralidis.

The theme of the 2008 National Philoptochos Biennial Convention was "Looking Forward: The future is something we create, not something we enter."

National President Georgia Skeadas culminated her third, two-year journey with an impressive report. She announced all the major disbursements to Philoptochos programs and projects and to hospitals and research programs throughout the United States amounting to \$715,258.

The national Philoptochos also disbursed nearly \$2.27 million over the past two years and more than \$8 million to its many charitable programs and activities during President Skeadas' six-year term of office.

Like our sister chapters all over the country, our Transfiguration Philoptochos has proudly played an important part in accomplishing this outpouring of funds through our support of our national and discretionary commitments.

The following are some highlights of the accomplishments of Philoptochos from her detailed report:



Keynote speaker Genevieve Piturro, founder and executive director of the Pajama Program, addresses delegates at the Philoptochos convention banquet. (Photo courtesy of the Philoptochos Web site)

- ◆ Disbursing the \$523,000 realized from the Children's Medical Fund Luncheon among the Children's Hospital and Children's Medical Programs in the Metropolitan of San Francisco and a donation of \$25,000 for the Autism Speaks Program.
  - ◆ Establishing scholarships for deserving females of the Holy Cross School of Theology.
  - ◆ Establishing the Philoptochos website [www.philoptochos.org](http://www.philoptochos.org).
  - ◆ Developing "Philoptochos Voice" in The Orthodox Observer. one page that features one metropolis in each issue to share information and ideas.
  - ◆ Supporting the development of a "Directory of Services for Older Adults" by the Philoptochos Department of Social Services (to borrow a copy, contact Susan Pappas, Philoptochos president).
  - ◆ Establishing "Go Red Sunday" to increase awareness of Heart Disease (Yiota Simoglou and Daphne Zaralidis received kudos for this very important campaign).
- As delegates and members of Philoptochos, we were honored to have represented our chapter.
- We are very proud of our accomplishments as a national organization, as a chapter in the Metropolitan of Boston, but more importantly as members of the Transfiguration Philoptochos, which has worked tirelessly not only to meet all its commitments on the national and metropolis levels, but also to make a difference in meeting the needs of our parish family and our local community.
- ◆ Continuing support of care facilities, which serve the aging Greek Orthodox population, as well as St Basil's Academy.
  - ◆ Establishing the Philoptochos Emergency Fund as a discretionary national commitment enabling Philoptochos to immediately respond to those in need in times of national and international disasters.
  - ◆ Promoting literacy through the Philoptochos Literacy Outreach Program.
  - ◆ Continuing the Philoptochos' Wheelchair Foundation Project by sending wheelchairs to the Republic of Georgia and to Greece.
  - ◆ Sending \$50,000 to the Hellenic Red Cross for fires in Greece with an additional \$160,000 in response to Archbishop Demetrios' appeal. An additional \$25,000 was also sent to Southern California to assist for the devastating fires.

**CHURCH NEWS**

**PEOPLE IN THE NEWS**



**Daphne Zaralidis and Yiota Simoglou** have accepted their reappointment to another two-year term on the national board of the Ladies Philoptochos Society.

Yiota and Daphne were first appointed to the national board four years ago and have served two, two-year terms.

Currently, they serve as co-chairpersons of the Cardiac Subcommittee, whose mission is to help fund cardiac programs in nationally recognized hospitals.

\* \* \*

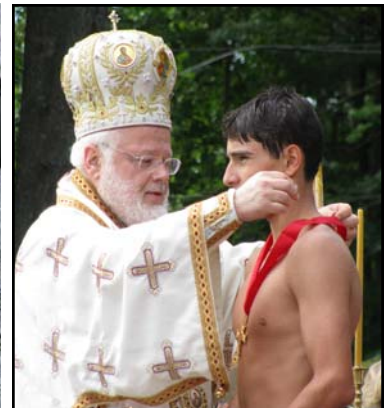


**Cassandra Garibaldi**, 17, daughter of Tony and Andrea Garibaldi of Dracut, was accepted to the CrossRoad program this past summer at

Hellenic College/Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline.

The 10-day summer program is for Orthodox Christian high school juniors and seniors around the country. Students from the United States and Canada are invited to participate in what is described as a "summer vocations exploration program."

Cassandra plans to attend Hellenic College in the fall of 2009 and major in elementary education.



**Camp open house makes a big splash**

**H**is Eminence Metropolitan Methodios of Boston, assisted by the clergy of the Metropolis, presided at the Divine Liturgy in the St. George Chapel on the grounds of the St. Methodios Faith and Heritage Center in Contoocook, N.H., on Saturday, Sept. 13, the day of this year's annual open house.

More than 500 faithful of all ages gathered in the waterfront and cheered Christopher Makrides, who retrieved the Cross from the lake. The 16-year-old Cape Elizabeth, Maine, high school junior is an altar

boy at the Holy Trinity Church in Portland.

His proud parents are John and Carol Makrides. His proud grandparents are Chris and Emily Makrides of Portland and Sam and Freda Samaras of Lowell, Mass.

The day's events included a delicious barbecue luncheon for all, under the tent and in the beautiful dining room of the Faith and Heritage Center.

*Story courtesy of the Metropolis of Boston Web site; photos by Nick Pappas.*

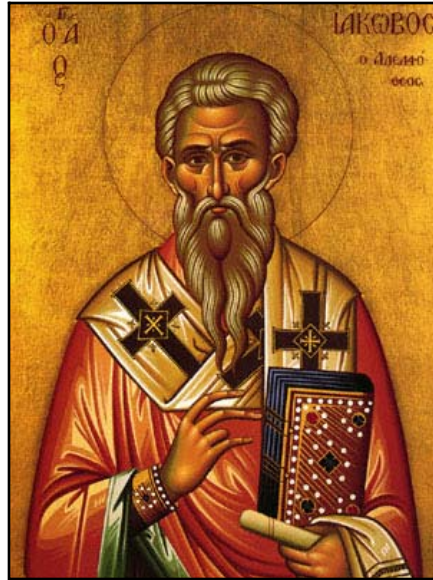
## FEAST DAY OF THE MONTH

# October 23: James the apostle

According to some, this saint was a son of Joseph the Betrothed, born of the wife that the latter had before he was betrothed to the Ever-virgin. Hence he was the brother of the Lord, Who was also thought to be the son of Joseph (Matt. 13: 55).

But some say that he was a nephew of Joseph, and the son of his brother Cleopas, who was also called Alphaeus and Mary his wife, who was the first cousin of the Theotokos. But even according to this genealogy, he was still called, according to the idiom of the Scriptures, the Lord's brother because of their kinship.

This James is called the Less (Mark 15:4) by the Evangelists to distinguish him from James, the son of Zebedee, who was called the Great. He became the first Bishop of Jerusalem, elevated to this episcopal rank by the Apostles, according to Eusebius (Eccl. Hist., Book II: 23), and was called Obliah, that is, the



Just, because of his great holiness and righteousness.

Having ascended the crest of the Temple on the day of the Passover at the prompting of all, he bore testimony from there concerning his belief in Jesus, and he proclaimed with

a great voice that Jesus sits at the right hand of the great power of God and shall come again upon the clouds of heaven.

On hearing this testimony, many of those present cried, "Hosanna to the Son of David." But the Scribes and Pharisees cried, "So, even the just one hath been led astray," and at the command of Ananias the high priest, the Apostle was cast down headlong from thence, then was stoned, and while he prayed for his slayers, his head was crushed by the wooden club wielded by a certain scribe.

The first of the Catholic (General) Epistles written to the Jews in the Diaspora who believed in Christ was written by this James.

\* \* \*

*Courtesy of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Web site.*



## Elevation of Cross

Father Demetri, assisted by Michael Karagianes, prepares to observe the Feast Day of the Elevation of the Holy Cross on Sunday, Sept. 14. The day commemorates the finding of the Cross by the Empress Helen, the mother of St. Constantine the Great, on Golgotha in 326 AD.

(Photo by Nick Pappas)



# Church News

## Parish Council

By **CHRISTOPHER SELVAGGIO**  
Parish Council Secretary

The Parish Council addressed the following issues when it met on Sept. 17:

**Assembly date set:** The fall Parish Assembly has been scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 2, after the Divine Liturgy in the church hall. Parishioners should receive the formal notice in the mail later this month.

**Budget update:** Treasurer James Murphy reported that the balance of the operating budget stood at \$5,007.33 at the end of August. Expenses are \$21,000 higher than a year ago at this time, he said, and stewardship continues to lag behind last year's pace. The current amount due on the parish's building loan with Enterprise Bank is \$502,538.59.

**Rain damage:** President Nick Manolis reported that the heavy rains during the week of the Greek Fair resulted in new areas of leaks in the choir loft. To make matters worse, the towers continue to leak and cause problems. Nick said he would have more information in time for the council's next meeting.

**Protective columns:** Treasurer James Murphy reported he is waiting to hear from the city about the guidelines for installing protective columns at the bottom of the hill in front of the church before winter.

**Next meeting:** The council will next meet on Wednesday, Oct. 8, at 7 p.m. in the boardroom.

## Treasurer's Report

Here is a brief summary of income and expenses as of Aug. 31 and how they compare to the same period last year:

Category	2008	2007	Change
Stewardship	114,105.72	124,465.00	-9.08%
Other income	117,537.90	118,127.13	-0.50%
Total Income	231,643.62	242,592.13	-4.73%
Expenses	226,636.29	205,284.18	+9.42%
Balance	5,007.33	37,307.95	-645.07%

## Stewardship 2008

By **NICK PAPPAS**  
Trans-a-Gram Editor

The end of summer brought with it a trickle of stewardship cards – 10 to be exact – but not nearly enough to reverse a negative trend that threatens to make the parish's 2008 stewardship program the least successful in decades. With only a few months left to go this year, the number of families or individuals who had returned their stewardship cards as of mid-September was 408, 33 less than last year at this time for a decrease of 7.5 percent; likewise, stewardship income was down more than \$10,000 or nearly 7 percent.

Stewards (2007)	472
Cards Returned	408
Cards Outstanding	64
Return Rate	86 percent
Average Pledge	\$343.29 (+\$2.18)

Specifically, the 408 stewards had contributed or pledged \$140,061.24 so far this year, which breaks down to an average pledge \$343.29. That's up only slightly (\$2.18) from the same time last year.

Given the parish's operating budget was carrying a balance of only \$5,000 at the end of August – the lowest at this time of year in recent memory – it is imperative that parishioners with outstanding stewardship cards return them to the church office as quickly as possible. If you have any questions or have misplaced your card, please contact church secretary Jeanne Brady during normal business hours at 978-458-4321.

## Stewardship Summary

FAMILIES	AMOUNT
241	\$25 to \$300
127	\$301 to \$600
17	\$601 to \$900
17	\$901 to \$1,200
2	\$1,201 to \$1,500
3	\$2,000 and up

## CHURCH NEWS

### Philoptochos Society

By **SUSAN PAPPAS**

Philoptochos President



**Greek Fair 2008:** A thank you goes to Yiota Simoglou, Olivia Sintros, Eleni Stavrou and Daphne Zaralidis for coordinating this year's pastry booth at Greek Fair 2008. And a special thanks to all the ladies who baked and worked at the booth. Through

your efforts we raised more than \$2,400 for the church. You should all be proud.

**No Bake Cake Sale:** Thank you to Alice Danas and Dyanne Mitropoulis for coordinating this annual commitment to Hellenic College/Holy Cross. As you know, many of our own young men have gone to this school. Thanks to the generous donations of parishioners, we have raised more than \$1,500 so far this year to send to the school. If you have not turned in your envelope, it is not too late.

**Feast Day of the Elevation of the Cross:** Thank you to all who brought in basil and to Mary Nicholaides for decorating the tray.

**St. Sophia:** Thank you to Elizabeth de la Torre, Annmarie and Iris Tsitsipas who coordinated with Frank Stevens and the Men's Guild to provide a light supper after the Vesper service on the Feast of St. Sophia. All were surprised at the turnout. Great job everyone.

**St. Basil's Academy:** Thanks go to Martha Sintros for coordinating this wonderful trip. Close to 40 men and women attended. We had a wonderful tour of the grounds of the academy in Garrison N.Y., had a barbecue luncheon with the children of the academy, met with the staff and enjoyed much fellowship on the long bus ride. It was great to see everything firsthand after having heard so



### Feast Day Preparation

Ladies Philoptochos Society member Mary Nicholaides, left, and President Susan Pappas display the tray of basil that was used by Father Demetri during the Feast Day of the Elevation of the Cross observance on Sunday, Sept. 14. (Photo by Nick Pappas)

much about the academy, as it is one of the national commitments the Philoptochos supports annually.

**Retreat:** Save Saturday, Oct. 18, for the ladies retreat sponsored by the Philoptochos. All ladies of the parish, as well as those of the area churches, are invited to attend. Father Demetri will lead the retreat, which has as its theme "Five Senses, One Message." Lunch will be provided. The retreat will run from 9:30 a.m. until 2 p.m.

**Fall calendar raffle:** The Philoptochos is sponsoring a money raffle card again this year. Elizabeth de la Torre and Annmarie Tsitsipas have mailed out the tickets for this annual fall fundraiser. Remember that you can win more than once in the month. The cost of each card is \$5, and they will be sold during October to be drawn every day in November. The largest prize will be drawn for Thanksgiving.

**Feast of Sts. Cosmos and Damian:** On Sunday, Nov. 2, Philoptochos members are reminded to sit together in the front pews for the memorial service of our deceased members. We also will be holding a basket for the Patriarchate, one of our national commitments.

**Thanksgiving pastry trays:** Once again, we will be selling pastry trays for Thanksgiving. They are a little smaller than the Easter trays of the past few years and contain different pastry. The proceeds will benefit the Family Literacy Program, which donates bags and books for a local elementary school. Orders will be taken soon.

(Continued on page 14)

### Save the Date



55th Annual  
Philoptochos Benefit Tea

Sunday, Dec. 7

2-5 p.m.

Reservations begin Oct. 26

Adult tickets \$25

## CHURCH NEWS

(Continued from page 10)

Watch for the order forms. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Pappas.

**Christmas card:** If you would like your name to be included in the Transfiguration Christmas Card this year, watch for the mailing that will go out in mid-October. Corrine Dubay and Cathy Economou are co-chairing the event again this year.

**Annual Benefit Tea:** Plans are in the works already for our largest fundraiser of the year. This year's tea will take place on Sunday, Dec. 7. Our energetic co-chairpersons are Patricia Mahoney and Olivia Sintros. The first meeting took place Wednesday, Sept. 17, and all committee chairs are in place. If you are interested in working on this wonderful project in any way, please let Olivia, Pat or Susan know.

**Next meeting:** Our next meeting will be Thursday, Nov. 13, at 6:30 p.m. in the Philoptochos room, where we will learn the art of making a Christmas wreath.

### Men's Guild

By **FRANK STEVENS**  
Men's Guild President



**Previous meeting:** The Men's Guild conducted its first meeting of the ecclesiastical year on Tuesday, Sept. 16. Guild and Philoptochos members, 60 of the faithful, joined together following the Vesper service celebrated in the chapel to honor the name-day of St. Sophia.

Following the meal, Guild members held their business meeting, welcoming new members Panayiot Stanchev and George Tsoukalas to their first meeting.

Members heard reports from the secretary, treasurer and president, and adopted a motion to support this year's golf tournament that was to be held at the Andover Country Club on Sept. 29.

Members were encouraged to participate in this year's "Project Helping Hands," which is conducted for Thanksgiving by Nick and Voula Manolis of Dracut House of Pizza.

Our special thanks and a tip of the Guild *capello* go to Elizabeth de la Torre and Annmarie Tsitsipas for all the work they contributed in preparing and hosting the evening honoring St. Sophia.



### Tea Committee

The initial planning meeting for this year's annual Benefit Tea took place on Wednesday, Sept. 17. Among the committee members in attendance were, seated, President Susan Pappas and Angela Hastings; and standing, left to right, EJ Amick, co-chairperson Patricia Mahoney, Georgia Dristiliaris, co-chairperson Olivia Sintros and Eva Dukakis. Committee member Melanie Pappas took the photograph.

**Greek Fair:** Everywhere – that's where Guild members were at this year's Greek Fair held on Sept. 13 and 14. From prepping *loukoumathes* to serving on the food line to working on KP duty, Guild members did their part to make this fair a great success. John Zaralidis, chairman of the event, has been seen smiling quite a bit since the middle of September!

**125 Club:** In order to minimize confusion for participants, this year the 125 Club will open on Jan. 1, 2009. Drawings will be conducted in March, April and May with the final grand drawing on Father's Day. Plan now to support this popular and worthwhile charitable endeavor.

**Membership:** Those members who have not yet submitted their stewardship offering for 2008 should do so by seeing Treasurer Marc Gulezian at the earliest opportunity. Two new members joined us in September. Anyone interested in joining us may confer with Frank at any coffee hour or by joining us at any meeting.

**Guild elections:** In compliance with Guild bylaws, elections for positions on the Guild Executive Board are held annually in December. However, nominations must be submitted no later than the November meeting. At least two officers have announced that they will not seek re-election. Any member wishing to be considered for election should submit his name no later than the November

(Continued on page 12)

## CHURCH NEWS

(Continued from page 11)

meeting (Nov. 11). We encourage new people with new ideas to become involved in the Guild.

**Next meeting:** Plan now to be with us on Tuesday evening, Oct. 14, at 6:30 p.m. in the church hall. As usual, a great Guild meal will be served, and members will join in fellowship to conduct the business of the Guild.

**Remember This:** Bring sunshine to the lives of others, and it will surely reflect on you!

### President's Message

By **NIKOLAOS MANOLIS**  
Parish Council President



Hello everyone. I hope everyone had a great summer. The repair project has been completed and looks good as new.

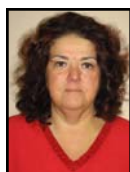
**Greek Fair:** We have also just finished a very profitable Greek Fair. Our thanks go out to Ioannis Zaralidis – without him there would not have been a food fair this year. Thank you, John Z, and thank you to all our dedicated volunteers.

**Greek School:** We are also starting our second year of Greek School with Nikki Ladakos as the teacher.

**Kitchen update:** Our next big project will be the remodeling of the kitchen and hall. There will be a Parish Assembly for the presentation of the kitchen project soon. All will be notified. As you all saw, we came together as a family to support the Greek Fair. Let us all come together for the kitchen and hall project. Let us make it a project we can all be proud of. God bless.

### Sunday School

By **CONNIE GKOLIAS**  
Sunday School Director



**Back in session:** There's an old saying "time flies when you're having fun." And can you believe that Sunday School already has been in session a few weeks, and our children are having fun while learning about our Lord. We are missing some children, however, and it's never too late to register. Please come and join us and join in on the fun and the great learning experience. To all our young people, please come and join our Grade 10-12 class and explore many wonderful paths with our seminarian. Please remember: We all need to work together as a family for

our children – now and always.

**Volunteers needed:** We are always looking for volunteers. If you would like to help the Sunday School, please see Connie or Hariklia.

**Coming events:** Please mark your calendars for the annual Sunday School brunch on Nov. 16.

### Choir

By **LOUIS STAMAS**  
Choir Director



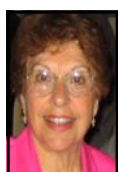
**New member:** The senior choir is happy to have gained a new member, Cassandra Garibaldi, who, along with choir members Toula Sparages and Melanie Pappas, chanted and led the congregation in the hymns and responses of the Divine Liturgy this summer. We hope that more parishioners will follow Cassandra's lead and come up and join us in the choir loft.

**Choir party:** A big thank-you goes to Christine and Harry Stamas, who hosted our annual choir party in their beautiful new home in Tyngsborough last month. As usual, their hospitality was par excellence, and everybody had a wonderful time.

**Church Music Sunday:** National Church Music Sunday is Oct. 5. Hug a choir member (or two) and thank them for assisting in our worship each and every Sunday.

### Youth Choir

By **TOULA SPARAGES**  
Director



**Music lessons:** After much discussion regarding the continuation of a Youth Choir at the Transfiguration Church, a decision was made to teach liturgical music to *all* the Sunday School children in Grades 3 and up at least once a month just after the students receive Holy Communion and just prior to going downstairs to their classrooms.

The students will meet in the chapel for a 20- or 30-minute lesson focusing on a special hymn that eventually will be sung during the liturgy at a designated date.

The meeting times for October, November and December are on Sundays as follows: Oct. 19, Nov. 16 and the first three Sundays in December, at which time the Christmas

(Continued on page 13)

## CHURCH NEWS

(Continued from page 12)

carols will be reviewed in preparation for the Sunday School pageant.

It is our plan to extend the music meeting times to twice a month beginning in January. More information will be available at a later date.

Please encourage your children to learn the hymns of our church by following along in the hymnals each Sunday morning. Plan to arrive by 10 a.m. so they can be present for the small entrance that includes the special hymns of the day. By participating, your children will be a part of the liturgy and will learn to praise God through singing.

### GOYA

**Cancer walk:** Roughly a half-dozen GOYA members participated in the third-annual Fall Festival for Life Cancer Walk on Sept. 20, which was hosted by Saints Medical Center. The GOYAnS walked as part of the Dracut House of Pizza team.

**Apple pies:** The GOYA is making plans for its annual apple pie fundraiser this month. Please watch the weekly Trans-Notes for the date, time and additional information.

**Invitation for new members:** The GOYA would like to extend and open invitation to all GOYA-aged youth. If you are in Grades 7 through 12 and are interested in becoming part of GOYA, please contact the church office and leave your phone number. If anyone has any questions regarding GOYA, please feel free to contact Pam Murphy, Kathy Doulamas or Joanne Kalabokis.

### HOPE / JOY

By **SANDRA GULEZIAN**  
HOPE/JOY Coordinator



**New members:** During the first few weeks of Sunday School, the HOPE/JOY advisers were recruiting new members to HOPE and JOY during coffee hour. If you have children who are in Grades K-2 (HOPE) or Grades 3-6 (JOY) and you would like to begin receiving our e-mail notices, please e-mail [mmsgulezian@comcast.net](mailto:mmsgulezian@comcast.net) or call Sandra at 978-649-3387.

**Greek Fair:** I would like to take this time to thank Andrea Garibaldi for the many hours of hard work she put in to organize activities for the youth during our parish's Greek Fair the weekend of Sept. 13-14. The kids got to play a variety of games, eat popcorn and cotton candy,

and make sand art, while their parents enjoyed the festivities. Thanks to Mary Piper and Daphne Kouloungis for volunteering their time and special thanks to the GOYAnS, many of whom volunteered the entire weekend. And, finally, thanks to the Archambault family, who despite being members of another parish, generously donated the entire contents of their ice cream truck so that our parish could reap the profit of what was sold. What a remarkable act of generosity.

**New ideas welcome:** We are looking forward to planning more activities for the youth for the remainder of the year. Should you have suggestions, please let us know.

### College Students

Some words for our college students

- ◆ Along with your college gear, try not to forget your "Christian clothing" – that is, the things that distinguish your religious convictions. For example, along with your athletic and musical posters, leave room for a few icons. You never know when you might need a place to pray.
- ◆ Avoid long periods of being away from church. There will be gatherings, time to hang out with friends and, of course, the parties, but don't forget about a community that will always welcome you – a community that preaches Christ and His love.
- ◆ Your commitment to higher learning does not exclude your faith. Try to cultivate your knowledge by reading about your faith. The Internet is right there. Use it to learn more about your faith ([www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)).
- ◆ Don't just download onto your iPod or MP3 player rock, pop, rap, dance, Greek or country music; you can also find chanting hymns to download as well.
- ◆ Finally, don't forget to keep in touch. While college is busy and hectic, don't forget to communicate with the people you left behind. You have a responsibility to communicate with your family and loved ones who sustain you through their prayers and financial assistance.

God bless you and have a great year!

– Fr. Demetri

(Continued on page 14)

## CHURCH NEWS

(Continued from page 13)

### Coffee Hour

By **SUSAN PAPPAS**

Coffee Hour Coordinator



**Sept. 7:** Sponsored in honor of Bill and Emily Karayianis' 60th wedding anniversary by their children, Sharon and Chuck.

**Sept. 21:** Sponsored by the children in memory of Elizabeth Dristiliaris; also sponsored by Bill and Lynne Zounes in memory of brother John Zounes.

**Volunteers needed:** With the start of the new ecclesiastical year, we are always looking for volunteers to help serve during the weekly coffee hour. If interested or for more information on what is involved, please contact Susan during the coffee hour.

**Coffee hour sponsors:** Anyone who would like to sponsor a coffee hour should contact Susan Pappas at 603-886-4717, e-mail her at smpappas16@yahoo.com or see her on Sunday during the coffee hour.

### Greek School

**Now in session:** The parish's Greek School program opened the fourth week of September with classes on Sept. 23 and 25. Like last year, classes are scheduled for Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Even though classes are under way, there is still time to register your child for the fall session. Please contact the church office for more information.

### Newsletter Deadline



Transfiguration organizations are asked to submit entries for this newsletter as early in the month as possible and no later than the 15th. If at all possible, please submit your material by e-mail to Editor Nick Pappas at npappas05@comcast.net. Entries also can be faxed to the church office at 978-458-8726 or dropped off in the office during normal business hours. It is important that all church organizations be represented in the Trans-a Gram, so please make an effort to participate.

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

*James F. O'Donnell & Sons*

FUNERAL DIRECTORS since 1884

Serving members of the Lowell and Greek community for over 120 years...

276 Pawtucket Street  
Lowell, Massachusetts  
(978) 458-8768

John W. Crane

James F. O'Donnell, Jr.



New Owner Christos Maraganis welcomes Transfiguration Greek Orthodox church members...

*The Best PRIME RIB this side of Boston...*

*Fresh Seafood daily...*

*Only the finest hand-cut steaks & chops cut on premises..*

*Private function halls to 120 people...*

The Village Inn Restaurant & function hall  
544 Broadway Rd  
Dracut, Ma.  
(978)459-4114

Special Offer: Receive 10% off food bill up to \$10 w/this ad. Not valid holidays. Expires 12/31/08.

## Morse – Bayliss Funeral Home

122 Princeton Boulevard Lowell, Ma.

**LARGE Enough to Serve All, but Small Enough to Care**

**Privately Owned**

**Pre-Need Inquiries Welcomed**


**978-458-6841**

**Walter F. Bayliss, Jr.**

**SPONSORSHIP PAGE**

# Thank you for your support

JAMES MONOXELOS




**NORTHEAST**  
REFRIGERATED DISTRIBUTING CO. INC.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE @ "WWW.NEREF.COM"  
E-MAIL: jmonoxelos@neref.com  
PHONE: 978-851-4747 x15 • FAX: 978-851-0383  
1650 SHAWNSHEEN ST., TEWKSBURY MA 01876

George A. Malliaros  
Attorney at Law

1794 Bridge Street  
Suite #22B  
Dracut, MA 01826  
Tel: 978 452-6641  
800 856-4449  
Fax: 978 970-2461  
Email: gmalliaros@aol.com  
Web: www.attymalliaros.com



Trial Practice  
General Practice

**BLUE ANGUS CAFE** 

34 Broadway Road (Route 113)  
Dracut, MA 01826  
978-937-1699

Black Angus Beef, Burgers, Fresh Seafood,  
Steaks, Daily Specials, Catering  
blueanguscafe.com

**Olympia Restaurant**

Open 11AM-10PM  
Sunday-Saturday

- Dine-In
- Take-Out
- Catering




453 Market Street  
Lowell, MA 01854  
(978) 452-8092 • (978) 459-7652  
www.newolympia.com

**AD SPACE AVAILABLE**

Contact Editor Nick Pappas  
603-886-4717  
npappas05@comcast.net

**Mama's Italian Restaurant**

1140 Lakeview Ave.  
Dracut, MA 01826  
978-957-7117



**M. R. Laurin & Son Funeral Home**  
Funeral Directors  
Louis M. Fazio, III  
M. Richard Laurin ~ Scott Laurin  
Pre-Need Counseling  
Handicap Accessible - Ample Parking  
295 Pawtucket Street, Lowell, Massachusetts  
**978-452-0121**

Established in 1930

**SPONSORSHIP PAGE**

# Thank you for your support



**ASE**  
CERTIFIED  
**J&R Foreign Car Specialists Inc.**  
 ALL FOREIGN CARS WELCOME  
 General Repairs Brakes  
 Air Conditioning  
 Tune Ups Exhausts  
 Ongoing Factory Training  
**441-0404**  
 Mon-Fri 8AM-7PM Sat 8AM-1PM  
 Lowell / Draught Line 429 Riverside St. (2 Bkks From U Lowell)

**PRINTING Solutions, Inc.**  
*"For All Your Printing & Copying Needs"*  
 6 Carlisle Road • Westford, MA 01886  
 Tel: (978) 392-9903 • Fax: (978) 392-9910

**Now offering!**  
 Large Format Document Scanning and Oversized Engineering Copies!

Wide Format Color Output • Document Scanning • Multi-Color Printing  
 Color/B&W Copying • Blueprint Reproductions • Desktop Publishing  
 Business Cards • Letterheads • Envelopes • Flyers/Brochures • Forms • Labels  
 Tickets • Invitations • Resumes • Numbering • Complete Bindery Service

**Blueprints • Drawings We've Got It Covered!**  
 Email: [pswest@comcast.net](mailto:pswest@comcast.net) • [www.printingsolutionsinc.com](http://www.printingsolutionsinc.com)

THE INFLATION BUSTERS  
 Come to where you'll **get the best and save the most!**

  
**Evan Coravos**  
 General and Aesthetic Dentistry  
**EVANCORAVOS**  
 Fellow of the Academy of General Dentistry

75 Arcand Drive, Lowell, MA 01852  
 978-458-4921  
[www.coravos.com](http://www.coravos.com)  
 Office Hours:  
 Days, Evenings and Saturdays  
 Smile with confidence

*AN AFFAIR TO REMEMBER* by ANGELA  
 Angela Hastings  
 Wedding Consultant  
[www.anaffairtorememberbyangela.com](http://www.anaffairtorememberbyangela.com) (978)902-9602  
[weddings@anaffairtorememberbyangela.com](mailto:weddings@anaffairtorememberbyangela.com)  
 Weddings and Special Events  
 - Member of the Association of Bridal Consultants -

**AD SPACE AVAILABLE**  
 Contact Editor Nick Pappas  
**603-886-4717**  
**npappas05@comcast.net**

  
**TOP DONUT**  
 700 Aiken St.  
 Lowell, MA 01851  
 Tel.(978) 459-6113

Store Hours  
 Open  
 7 days a week  
 5 am. - 9 pm.

Robin Ley

The Enterprise Bank team helps create successful businesses, jobs, opportunities, wealth, and vibrant, prosperous communities.

Call 978-459-9000  
[EnterpriseBanking.com](http://EnterpriseBanking.com)

  
**Enterprise Bank**  
 Member FDIC