THE POSITIVE PEOPLE OF GOD

As we celebrate the joyous Resurrection of Christ, we worship Him who turned Crucifixion on the Cross into glorious Resurrection and Paradise for all the world! Through Christ, the Cross which was a negative symbol of evil and execution is now a positive symbol of love, hope and new life. It’s a beautiful plus sign. However, are we positive people?

There are two kinds of people in life – the plus people and the minus people. Those whose symbol is the minus sign never add to anyone’s happiness. Rather, they subtract, they take away. When they leave your company, you feel poorer in faith, lessened in love, low in hope.

But thank God there is another group of people – God’s people – the people of the Cross, the positive people, the plus people, the people who live by faith in the risen God. The Bible calls them “the salt of the earth” and “the light of the world.” Positive plus people add to life. They add courage, faith, love and hope!

Beloved, as people who have been baptized and who receive Holy Communion we are called to be God’s plus people. Where there is no love, we add love. Where there is no hope, we add hope. Where there is no peace, we add peace. Where there is no forgiveness, we add forgiveness. Where there is darkness, we add light. And where there is sadness, we add comfort and joy.

Through the joyful Resurrection of Christ let us then become more positive and faithful people. There is too much negativity, too much pessimism, too much sadness and despair in the world today. Do not let the minus people, the hopeless people bring you down. Christ is Risen! And through Him everything changes and joy has come to all the world!

Christos Anesti! Christ is Risen – Truly He is Risen!
Fr. Christopher

In Brief

BIBLE STUDIES THIS MONTH
“Pursuing our spiritual life”

Men’s Ministry Dinner
May 30 - 7:00pm

IMPORTANT DATES
May 15 - Philoptochos Dinner Meeting - 6:00pm
May 19 - Mortgage Burning

Sts. Constantine & Helen Church Nameday - May 20 & 21
May 20 - Vesper Service 7:00pm
May 21 - Orthros 9:00am
Liturgy 10:00am

May 5 - Easter Egg Hunt for children on Sunday, 10:30am at the church hall, just before the Agape service.

Get news of additional events and announcements via email. Go to the Church website www.andoverorthodox.org and sign up to be on our LISTSERV.
Parish Council Notes

Dear Parish Family,

I hope that you and your loved ones continue to be well.

The Parish Council has been very hard at work leading some of our Church Ministries. Thank you to Jim Panagas for organizing and leading our Men’s Group on their monthly visits to Cor Unum. Thank you to Bob Goodwin, for once again leading all those who came out on April 13 to help perform our annual Spring Cleanup making our Church grounds look so nice. And to Steve Robinson our usher General and all of our Ushers for your continued service each Sunday, we appreciate all that you do. On Tuesday April 16, the Parish Council met and had a very productive meeting followed by a sharing of the Faith led by Father Chris.

Holy Week is upon us and I hope that you had a wonderful Lenten Season. As we approach Easter Sunday in just a few days we will celebrate The Resurrection of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and I am reminded of all of the Blessings that he bestows upon us. Our Parish is blessed to have Father Chris leading our spiritual lives, thank you.

On April 27, The Saturday of Lazarus, many of our youth and their families came to together to make the hundreds of Palm Crosses that are handed out on Palm Sunday. It is always a Blessing to see the enthusiasm of our youth on display every year.

A very special thank you to Paula Goodwin and Desi Souhleris and all the ladies of the Philoptochos, who have been beautifully decorating our Church, throughout Lent, Palm Sunday, and Holy Week and for the upcoming Holy Pascha Resurrection Service, we so very much appreciate your continued dedication to our Church.

Following our Resurrection Service and Liturgy on May 5, we will once again gather for our Agape meal. Last year, many of us enjoyed a wonderful delicious lamb with fixings prepared so lovingly by Bob Goodwin and his entire team; we thank them and look forward to being together to enjoy another great meal.

I wish you and your families and Blessed and Happy Easter and Holy Pascha.

May God Bless You Always, Keep You Safe and in Good Health,

John Vitale
Parish Council President

Attention High School Seniors

Scholarship applications are now available at the Church Office. All high school students are encouraged to apply.

The applicant must be a graduating high school senior whose family is a member in good standing and must have been accepted for admission to an accredited post secondary school. Completed applications are due by May 12

Please EMAIL THE CHURCH OFFICE at office@andoverorthodox.org to request an application.

Parents, please let the Church Office know if you have a child graduating from high school or college so that your student can be recognized on Senior Day, June 2

Sunday School Graduation, June 9.
**Philoptochos**

Hello….

It can be a challenge to write monthly articles a few weeks before publication trying to anticipate the in-home arrival date. Although Bette Bigelow does an amazing job keeping us all organized to produce *The WORD*, on time, every month, with the timing of Easter being so early in May, we don’t know if the post office will deliver your copy without delay. With that being said, Kalli Anastasi and Christos Anesti from all the members of Philoptochos!

We were once again blessed to have the support of so many who donated to our Lenten Flower Drive. We thank you for your steadfast generosity that allowed us to grace the church from Palm Sunday to the Resurrection.

Due to a conflict, we had to move the year end Dinner Meeting to Wednesday, May 15. We have a great menu planned at Andiamo’s in North Andover. Please contact Kathy Coufos @ kathy.coufos@gmail.com by Wednesday, May 8 to secure your spot.

If you haven’t had a chance to submit your 2024 Philoptochos Stewardship, we would appreciate you do so at your earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Goodwin
Myrofori President

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**Church Decorating/Floral Preparation Schedule**

**Any time you can give will be greatly appreciated**

Wednesday, May 1 - 5 pm to 7 pm
In between Holy Unction services.
Cut and place 800 to 1,000 flowers in water tubes.

Friday, May 3 - 10:30 am on
Decorate Kouvouklion, sconces, etc.
Prepare basket of petals for Saturday morning
Clean Up Church & Kitchen

Saturday, May 4 - After Liturgy
Switch out purple bows to red bows.
Lillies – Prep and place in church/narthex
Update arrangements as needed.

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**Holy Water Bottles for Epiphany**

*donated by:*

Christopher and Francesca Goodwin

Thank you to the following who decorated the (5) Salutations to the Theotokos

Desi Souhleris, Kathy Coufos, Jean Koulouris, Marina Eleftheriou, Toni Boustelis, Voula Danas, Chrissoula Hagigeorges

Thank you to Sophia Carafotes & Demetrios Hatzipanagas for donating 10 lbs. of fish for the Lenten Luncheon.

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**The Word**

Volume 26, Issue 4

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Elizabeth Xaros Bigelow, Editor. exbigelow@aol.com.
GOYA NEWS!!

GOYA recently had their winter activity by attending Greek Night at TD Garden for the Celtics game. Looking ahead, we have our annual GOYA bake sale on April 28!! Thank you for your continued support for the youth of our parish.

Our meetings take place from 6-8pm in the Parish Hall. GOYA’s next meeting will be on Sunday, April 21, and the May meeting will be held on Sunday, May 19. All 7th-12th graders are welcome!!

Landscaping Ministry Saturday 4/13/24

I have just one thing to say, thank you, thank you, thank you, for such an amazing turnout. We began the day at 8:00am and we were done at 11:22.

16 yards of mulch, edging throughout, tree+shrub trimming, tree removal, a complete spring clean up, along with some start up flowers in the urns and at Church signage. (more to come)

Everyone was there, youth groups, bible study groups, men’s group, parish council and of course my entire family by my side. I think we had upwards of 25+ helpers. Simply terrific!!

As they said in the Bible, when Nehemiah was arriving in Jerusalem to check out the city’s condition, it was in bad shape, worse than he had imagined. It would require many hands, this is when he said “Many hands make light work”

Hope it was rewarding for all, and again truly appreciate all the help.
Bob Goodwin
Philoptochos Myrofori

Year End Dinner Meeting

Wednesday, May 15th at 6 p.m.
Andiamo Restaurant & Bar
1268 Osgood Street, North Andover

$60/person

Buffet to include:
Roasted Beet Salad: Baby Arugula, Shaved Parmesan, Caramelized Pears or
Caesar Salad: Romaine, Croutons, Sicilian White Anchovy, Shaved Parmigiana
Focaccia Bread with Olive Oil Roasted Garlic & Aged Balsamic
Rigatoni Bolognese: Sauce of beef and veal, Shaved Parmigiano
Pan Roasted Salmon & Spinach Lemon Risotto
Chicken Parmigiano: House Made Mozzarella & Roasted Tomatoes
Assorted Mini Pastries

Individuals responsible for beverages

RSVP by May 8th to Kathy Coufos at
kathycoufos@gmail.com
Make checks payable to Philoptochos Myrofori
or Venmo @Kathy-Coufos

All are Welcome
Thank you to all who helped with the Lenten Luncheon.
Youth Summer Camp is for persons ages 8 - 18 and offers a week of fun and fellowship connecting youth from throughout the Metropolis to each other and their faith. Registration has begun. For more information, go to https://www.metropolisofbostoncamp.org

Session 1: June 24 - June 30
Session 2: July 1 - July 7
Session 3: July 8 - July 14
Session 4: July 15 - July 21
Session 5: July 22 - July 28
Use scrap paper to fuel new growth and make a gift that keeps on giving.

**What you need:**
- Scrap paper
- Water
- Herb or flower seeds
- Blender
- Strainer
- Cookie sheet
- Towel
- Adult help

**What you do:**
1. Tear the scrap paper into strips and place in a bowl. Cover the paper with water and let it soak overnight.
2. Pour the mixture into a blender and blend about 10 seconds.
3. Strain and squeeze the paper pulp to remove excess water. Place in a bowl.
4. Sprinkle seeds over the pulp and mix to incorporate them into the pulp.
5. Shape the pulp into a flat layer on the cookie sheet. Use a towel to soak up excess water. Allow the paper to dry completely.
6. Tear paper into shapes or fold into a card. You can plant the paper directly into soil. Water it and then watch your plants grow!

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**Puzzle:**

Complete a Bible verse about spring by writing the word from each raindrop on the correct numbered line below.

```
10  16  5  28  18
   4  22  26

29  11  3  19  14  15

    27  2

9  1  20  31  23

12  7  8  21  17  25

30  6  24  13
```

*Zechariah 10:1, NIV*

Remember: May the Lord be with all people and pour out His love to everyone. Zechariah 10:1, NIV
# May 2024

**SAINTS CONSTANTINE & HELEN GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

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<td><strong>1 Holy Wednesday</strong>&lt;br&gt;Sacrament of Holy Unction&lt;br&gt;3:30pm &amp; 7:00pm</td>
<td><strong>2 Holy Thursday</strong>&lt;br&gt;Vesperal Liturgy&lt;br&gt;9:00am&lt;br&gt;Holy Passion Service – Reading of the 12 Gospels&lt;br&gt;7:00pm</td>
<td><strong>3 Holy Friday</strong>&lt;br&gt;Royal Hours&lt;br&gt;9:00am&lt;br&gt;Good Friday Youth Retreat&lt;br&gt;11:00am-1:00pm&lt;br&gt;Vespers&lt;br&gt;3:00pm&lt;br&gt;Lamentations Service&lt;br&gt;7:00pm</td>
<td><strong>4 Holy Saturday</strong>&lt;br&gt;Vesperal Liturgy&lt;br&gt;9:00am&lt;br&gt;Resurrection Service&lt;br&gt;11:00pm&lt;br&gt;Agape Meal&lt;br&gt;1:15am</td>
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<td><strong>5 PASCHA EASTER</strong>&lt;br&gt;Easter Egg Hunt&lt;br&gt;10:30am&lt;br&gt;Agape Service&lt;br&gt;11:00am</td>
<td><strong>6 Greek School&lt;br&gt;4:30pm</strong></td>
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<td><strong>14 Greek School&lt;br&gt;4:30pm</strong>&lt;br&gt;Parish Council Meeting&lt;br&gt;7:00pm</td>
<td><strong>15 Philoptochos Dinner Meeting&lt;br&gt;6:00pm&lt;br&gt;Andiamo’s North Andover</strong></td>
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<td><strong>19 Church Name Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;Orthros&lt;br&gt;9:00am&lt;br&gt;Liturgy&lt;br&gt;10:00am&lt;br&gt;Mortgage Burning&lt;br&gt;GOYA&lt;br&gt;6:00pm</td>
<td><strong>20 Church Name Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;Vespers&lt;br&gt;7:00pm</td>
<td><strong>21 Church Name Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;Liturgy&lt;br&gt;9:30am&lt;br&gt;Greek School&lt;br&gt;4:30pm</td>
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<td><strong>25 Memorial Day</strong></td>
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<td><strong>28 Greek School Graduation&lt;br&gt;4:30pm</strong></td>
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- *Happy Mother’s Day!*
MORTGAGE BURNING

Sunday, May 19
at conclusion of Liturgy
METROPOLITAN METHODIOS
will be presiding and present with us.
Join us for this historic event for our parish!
And please stay for a lite luncheon following in the Hall.
Friends, family and relatives all welcome!

Saints Constantine & Helen
Greek Orthodox Church
71 Chandler Road
Andover MA 01810
Periodical