May 2019

Χριστος Ανεστη! Αληθως Ανεστη!
Christ is Risen! Truly, He is Risen!

Today we walk in the Light of the Risen Lord. Today we are called to be children of the Light, to live in spirit and in truth. Today we are called to speak this way to all whom we meet.

And what a “road” it was this year. One of the wonderful things about the path to Pascha were the shared Wednesday Presanctified Liturgies. So many people commented on how they enjoyed the fellowship and grew in their faith.

Holy Week this year was special and memorable. There was very good attendance at the services, but more so than this, who can forget the prayerful disposition of our parishioners during the week?

One of the more humbling experiences came on Holy Friday. At the afternoon Apokathelosis service, the Greater Springfield area was in the midst of a sudden and strong thunder and lightning storm. The thunder was foreboding. The lightning seemed close by.

This all happened as the Gospel of Matthew was being read. The thunder and lightning came at three significant moments -- at the trial before Pilate, the crucifixion, and His death. We seek the sunlight, but we have learned also that we need the thunder as well.

And at the Anastasi service -- what a joyful night, where darkness, and its siblings (loss and isolation), were dispelled by the lit candles from the Tomb of the Christ.

As the Paschal Light illumines each year the Church of the Resurrection in Jerusalem, may this same Light and teaching illumine all the corners of our lives and our parish.

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Ministry Calendar - 2    Youth- 5,7,9
Schedule of Services - 3    Choir -7, 12
Messages - 4-8, 14-15
Bible Study Tuesday @ 6:30PM/ Friday @ 11:00AM (unless otherwise stipulated)

Orthodox Life -Weds 6:30p

Council Meetings 2nd Monday of the month @ 7:00 PM (unless otherwise stipulated)

Dance Practice TBA

Loaves and Fishes Pick up on the 3rd Friday of the month

Knitting 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month @10:30 (unless otherwise stipulated)

Romeos and Juliettes 4th Thursday of the month (unless otherwise stipulated)

Choir Thursday @ 6:30 PM (September 10th - June 10th) (unless otherwise stipulated)

GOYA 3rd Sunday of the month following Liturgy (unless otherwise stipulated)

JOY 3rd Friday of the month 6pm-7:30 unless otherwise announced

Endowment Meeting 2nd Tuesday @6:30

40 to 4 Club/Hope - seeking a volunteer coordinator and meetings TBA

Miles to Smiles - Walking Ministry, TBA

Health Ministry - Monthly Blood Pressure during coffee hour, TBA

The Messenger is a publication of the Saint Luke Greek Orthodox Church of East Longmeadow, MA located at 400 Prospect Street East Longmeadow, MA 01028. For mailing use PO Box 381. To contact the Church Office: 413-525-4551; 413-525-4552 (fax) and stlukego@aol.com. To contact the Pastor call 978-587-6488 or email at frpklostri@gmail.com. Please send any submissions to church email and

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Church Office
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Pastor- Fr. Panteleimon Klostri

2019 Parish Council
Assaad Hallak — President
Judy Leelas-George — Vice President
Joseph Dasco — Treasurer
Christos Nikolis — Recording Secretary
Evangeline Ouzounis — Corresponding Secretary
John Foscolos
Harry Georgiades
George Katsoulis
Nick Vamvilis
Jeffrey Clay
Ron Rookey

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President - Maria Londo
Vice President - Melissa Kaitis
Treasurer - Vaceleci Zaharis
Secretary - Rosanne Desautels
Corresponding Secretary - Evangelia Tsikrikis
Past President/Advisor - Dorsey Cokkinias

Ministries

Chanters - Aristidis Zaharis and Damian Zaharis
Choir Director - Toni Rizas Organist - Amanda Dee
Endowment Fund - James Bologa
GOYA Advisor - Kathy Kalaitzidis
JOY Advisor - Sarah Kirchner
Memorials - Maria Laware
Messenger - Editor - Maria Londo
Stewardship Chairs - Joe and Meghan Dasco
Sunday School
Director - Priscilla Johnson
Assistant Director - Leila Georgeopolus
Outreach Committee - Harry Georgiades
Facilities Committee - Nicles Lefakis
Church Secretary - Paula Assad

O Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke, intercede with our Merciful God, that He may grant our souls remission of sins
– Apolytikion of Saint Luke
Cont from page 1

Yes, Christ is Risen! He, Who of His own free will, offered Himself to the Father. By being resurrected from the grave, has resurrected the entire race of Adam (hymn of Pascha).

Looking ahead in this Pascha season (forty days!), we have the Laity Awards Dinner on June 9. This year’s honoree is Ann Flynn, who has done so much for our parish and gives the kind word at the right time for those who need it. Please make every effort to attend and show our love!

Bible studies will resume shortly. For the evening Bible study on Mondays, we will begin the Gospel of Luke. On Friday mornings, we will continue with the Book of Sirach.

In the immediate weeks ahead, the Philoptochos Quarter Auction to support our Scholarship Fund will take place on Sunday, May 5, while Dancing With Heart will take place on Saturday, May 11.

Often, in the days and weeks after Pascha, we set back into our routines and ways. Let us try hard, in the days and weeks ahead, to bring into all our relationships our new disposition and effort, so that we walk in newness and grow in our faith in God and love for others.

Let us walk in this Light! Christ is Risen!

With love in the Risen Lord,
+ Fr. Panteleimon

Feast

Saint Constantine & Helen — Equal to the Apostles

of Saint Helena (Eleni)

As for his holy mother Helen, after her son had made the Faith of Christ triumphant throughout the Roman Empire, she undertook a journey to Jerusalem and found the Holy Cross on which our Lord was crucified (see Sept. 13 and 14). After this, Saint Helen, in her zeal to glorify Christ, erected churches in Jerusalem at the sites of the Crucifixion and Resurrection, in Bethlehem at the cave where our Saviour was born, another on the Mount of Olives whence He ascended into Heaven, and many others throughout the Holy Land, Cyprus, and elsewhere. She was proclaimed Augusta, her image was stamped upon golden coins, and two cities were named Helenopolis after her in Bithynia and in Palestine. Having been thus glorified for her piety, she departed to the Lord being about eighty years of age, according to some in the year 330, according to others, in 336.
Christo Anesti, Jesus is Risen, El Messeeh Qam.

Dear St. Luke Parishioners Happy Easter,

May the blessings of our Lord and Savior be upon all of you and your families!

I hope you all have enjoyed the Holy Week and Easter with your families and loved ones. Thank you to Father for your heartfelt daily services throughout Holy Week. You stood tall and delivered.

Now that Easter is behind us, we must not forget our Church, the Lord and our Savior. It was so joyful to see the Church filled with current parishioners along with new faces. We love to see you at church in the same spirit and drive, as if it is a Holy Week all year long.

St. Luke needs you!! We need your helping hands. Please reach out to Judy and Vicki to sign up to help with the Dance with the Heart, and Taste of Greece. To the new families and new parishioners, please join us in helping wherever you can and share whatever talents you have. Please don’t hesitate to call Father and myself anytime to guide you on how you can help and participate in events. It is such a joy and soothing to the soul when you contribute your time and talent to the Church.

To say the least our main goal is and always will be to fill our pews and increase the attendance from our existing families and their youth in addition to our new parishioners. That is the gateway to our Mission Statement (Lovingly serve the liturgical and sacramental needs of the Orthodox Christians in our community through the Word of Jesus Christ and teachings of the church. By practicing charity through Stewardship and Christian Ministries, we all will create an environment where parishioners are involved in the life of the Church).

In addition to our main goal to fill the pews and increase stewardship, we have to pay attention to the fundraising events that help us pay our bills and get us closer to balance our budget, as well as to enhance our church like we did with the bookracks that were way overdue. We all pray to the day, where our stewardship by itself balances the budget. Until then we have to all come together to put on successful fundraising events. We have many projects presented by the facilities committee that need funds and helping hands.

Dancing with the Heart is around the corner. A big thank you to Dorsey, Judy and the entire team that is working hard to ensure a successful fundraising event, for us and the Shriners. We are happy to announce that there are only few seats available. Please contact Judy or Dorsey to book your seats. We are looking for volunteers to help us sell Ads for the brochure. The brochure is a major part of this fundraising event. Please contact Judy or Dorsey again for more info on how you can help with the brochure and the Ads.

The Taste of Greece is our biggest fundraising event. We are so happy with Vicki La Roche’s leadership. Every year we seem to have great leaders that come forward and take on major tasks. I urge you as does Vicki to volunteer to help. Since it is our biggest fund raiser, it requires all hands on deck. Please see Vicki to volunteer your help, thank you Vicki and all that volunteers.

The budget shows us out of balance by about $19K for 2019. I am excited to share that the parishioners have been coming with various ideas to raise money. We like to see that every steward raises their stewardship by $100 a year or whatever you can. By doing so, the budget will be balanced.

Last but not least. Please plan on attending the General Assembly Meeting that will be held on May 19th.

Kindest regards,
Assaad Andrew Hallak
Parish Council President
I hope that everyone had a wonderful Easter!

A special thank you to many helping hands:

To ALL who helped during the Koulouria and Bread Workshops. A special thanks to Anne Flynn and Judy Lelas-George for chairing the Koulouria Workshop. A special thanks to Vicki LaRoche and Victor Galiatsos for chairing the Bread Workshop. Both workshops provided wonderful fellowship and fun as we rolled, twisted, braided, and baked.

To the GOYANS for assembling the spring blessing bags. This spring there are 2 types of blessing bags: 1 for men and 1 for women. Please pick yours up in the narthex to help those in need.

To the volunteers who dyed eggs for Anastasi, Palm folding that took place on Saturday, April 20, and to all those who came to decorate the Epitaphios which took place on Friday, April 26.

To Meri Kassanos and Presvytera Eleni for assembling the bereavement gift for the months of March and April respectively. If you can help for the months of June through December, please contact any Philoptochos member.

Please don’t forget about the Quarter Auction which will take place on Sunday, May 5. Please plan on attending and supporting this event. In order for this to be successful, we need your help selling raffle tickets, selling and serving at concession, and clean-up at the end. If you can help in any way, please contact any Philoptochos Board member. The proceeds will support the scholarship fund. We have 15 vendors confirmed for the event as well as raffles and concession. Doors open at 11:30 and the auction will begin at noon. Auction paddles at the door will be 1 for $3 and 2 for $5. So save your quarters and plan on having some fun! It should be a wonderful event.

Thank you everyone for your continued support of Philoptochos. We can’t do all we do without your help! Have a wonderful month of May!

Maria Londo
Philoptochos President
Dear St. Luke Parishioner;

Xristos Anesti!!

STEWARDS OF THE FAITH: All Things are Possible to the One Who Believes in Christ

Let’s keep the momentum going! As you will see from the Treasure’s Report, our 2019 Stewardship Campaign is ahead of our numbers from last year! This is great news but let’s not stop now! There are so many ways to stay involved at St. Luke’s. Upcoming is our big fundraiser, Dancing With Heart. Also, the Philoptochos is preparing for a busy Graduation season. And of course baking and cooking workshops are already scheduled for preparing for the Taste of Greece. Please support these worthy ministries by donating your Time, Talent and Treasure!

Christ is Risen! This proclamation is in our hearts and in our minds; this is what it means to work for the Lord.

Please continue to be involved with the life and good works at St. Luke.

Sincerely,

Joe and Meghan Dasco
Co-chairs Stewardship Committee

Start the Day with a Grateful Heart!

We are grateful for everyone who has sponsored this ministry in the past year and some for helping multiple times!

Fellowship time /coffee hour is a vital ministry of church - please consider signing up and stewarding a Sunday fellowship.

Make it as simple as you like- it is all appreciated. Sign up with others - it becomes another opportunity for fellowship.

It is a beautiful offering to remember someone or show friendship and gratitude to those around you.

We thank all who sponsored in the month of April and who helped at different events to nourish those around them.

Current openings for hosting are:

May 12, 19 and 26th

June 9, 23, and 30th

Nick Votze and Charlie Bonatakis, Sr - recently got together for a visit and send their greetings - Christos Anesti!
They are both founders of our parish.
**CHOIR**

FROM THE CHOIR LOFT

Christos Anesti! Christ Is Risen!

A great big thank you to all of our choir members and Amanda and Jin for making Holy Week and the Resurrection Service so beautiful and inspirational to our hearts and souls. A big thank you is also extended to Irene Madden, Mariah Rizas and Peter and Nancy Cokotis and Jennifer Cokotis-Russell for joining us with the Lamentations on Good Friday. The weather may have been rainy, but the smiles on our faces and hearts said it all.

Ke to chrono!

Please feel free to make any corrections etc that is necessary.

Thank you,

Toni

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**GOYA**

Happy May everyone! Among our usual activities this year, we are focusing on outreach to other GOYAs, starting with the St. George GOYA. We look forward to seeing them at our events and attending theirs. Our GOYA dance on the 1st of December was a success! Our trip to the Philoxenia House in Brookline was also a beautiful experience, as well as the 30 Hour Famine. Our next meeting is to be determined. We will continue to discuss possible fundraisers for 30 Hour Famine. We thank all who support GOYA as we continue to pursue our ministry.

-Irene Dimitroglou

GOYA President

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**Hope/JOY**

We had a wonderful Annual Youth Retreat on Saturday of Lazarus and our JOY kids also participated in listening to the Oratorical Festival Speech following making of Palms.

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**Romeos & Juliets**

Romeos & Juliets meet at 12:30 pm on the 4th Thursday of the month. This month they will meet on 5/16 (a week earlier than normal). They will meet at the Angellino’s in Vernon, CT.

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**Knitting Group**

Knitting Group meeting weekly on Weds in the Church conference room.

Dates scheduled:

- Weds May 1st
- Weds May 15th

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**Ushering Ministry**

Please call Harry Georgiades at 413-883-2560 regarding ushering on Sundays. All are welcome, youths, adults - all ages.

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**Loaves & Fishes**

St. Luke parishioners donate monthly meals for approximately 150 guests to the soup kitchen at South Congregational Church. The meals are delivered by Bill Sakel on the third Friday each month. Please contact Barbara Hallak (860)729-9643 bhhallak@cox.net if a group, family or friends would like to assist in meal preparation.

- April 19th
  - Goya

- May 17th
  - Sunday School Educators

- June 21st
  - Volunteers NEEDED!
**TREASURERS REPORT**

*Summary of Our Financial Statement for The Three Month Period Ending March 31, 2019*

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<th>Jan-March 2018</th>
<th>Jan-March 2019</th>
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<td>Stewardship Including Loose Offerings***</td>
<td>$47,769</td>
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<td>Other Income*</td>
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<td>Total Income</td>
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<td>Total Expenses**</td>
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<td>Income ( Deficit)</td>
<td>($12,578)</td>
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* Other income includes proceeds received to date from Dancing with Heart, Memorials and the Lamb Shank Dinner. As of 3/31/18 we had received $27,862 from DWH this compares with $13,433 for the same period in 2019. This is primarily due to timing of the event.

** Total expenses are down primarily due to the fact that in 2018 we had begun our bathroom renovation project. In 2019 we have not undertaken any significant projects. In addition we have incurred less snow removal cost in 2019.

*** In 2019 we have received 110 Stewardship Pledges totaling $83,476 through March 31, 2019. The average pledge is approx. $758. Through March 31, 2019 we have received $50,281 towards Stewardship with 128 Stewards giving (we have 16 parishioners giving who we have not received pledge cards from). Stewardship giving is up $6,821 as of 3/31/2019.

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Please join us on June 9th at Lombardo’s in Randolph, MA to celebrate this year’s St Luke Parishioner of Year

Ann Flynn

Tickets are still available at $75/person —contact the office to reserve a place
JOY retreat - children painted rocks with Paschal themes, had a lesson with Father and enjoyed the Lazarus Races. Thank you to Sarah Kirchner our Retreat Master! You are so appreciated!!

30 HOUR FAMINE

Proud of our kids who participated above. They also made keychains to fundraise. If you would like one, we may have one or two left?

Jr GOYAn’s and the current GOYA president Irene went to Philoxenia House to visit and donate supplies. Wonderful Church Field Trip.
We wish Thomas Coulouras our best—our representative for the St John Chrystostom Oratorical Festival. Our Joy kids and Jr. Goyan's enjoyed listening to this wonderful speech.

We thank all those who gave of their time on Holy Friday Morning to decorate the Epitaphio. Special acknowledgment to Leia Georgeopolus and Christina Nikolis for their love and coordination of this endeavor.

The honor of receiving Christ from the cross this year was given to the Altar boys.
Thank you to Christine Coulouras who supported our Myrophores this year—thank you girls you were all super!

Attendance was beautiful throughout the services and joyful! Saturday morning (First Anastasil) brought bay leaves, petals and the children rejoicing the cracking of the tomb with bells and banging the pews.
Christos Anesti! Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

So many stayed for liturgy and the Anastasi brunch, thank you to all again for egg dying and a special thank you to Christo Kalaitzidis and George Katsoulis for making the avgolemono. Grateful to all the hands and all the voices from our beautiful choir.
During the AGAPE service this year, the Gospel was read in Greek, English, German, Spanish and French. We thank all our readers. God Bless You!

Thank you to the Kirchners for the great Egg Hunt and it was wonderful to spend Holy Pascha morning together with so many families.
Dancing With Heart

The month of April has arrived! As we head into spring, we also are heading into the last stretch of preparation for our “Dancing With Heart” event. We started preparations for this event in August thinking we had all the time in the world to prepare, and now realize it just around the corner! However, we are right on target thanks to the fabulous committee members working with us on this event. I’d like to introduce these hard-working people to you...

Vicki LaRoche takes care of getting the traditional and Greek desserts for the beautifully presented dessert/coffee table at our event, which by the way has gotten many a “kudo” from our guests. She is assisted by Maria Laware and Diane Mansfield. We must not forget to thank all our St. Luke ladies who say “YES” when asked to bake for the event. This is truly a group effort that presents what St. Luke is so well-known for!!

Parris Ochsner’s talents greet you as you enter the room. Her color scheme and table décor add that extra special touch to the event. This year, we welcome Terry Katsoulis, one of our dancers from last year, who volunteered to join our committee. She is assisting Parris at this year’s event. Parris and Terry will also be setting up the hall and decorating the voting area, which invites people to vote for their favorite dancer(s) throughout the evening. Parris also receives the checks for the program book and, in turn, forwards them to Mary Poulos for record keeping and Neelie Goeway for inclusion into our program book.

Anita Themistos is heading up the raffle committee... She certainly misses her co-chair Kathy Rodolakis who is unable to help out this year...we all miss Kathy and wish her well in her recovery. We look forward to working with her again next year!!! Anita gets all the materials for and sets up the raffle booth as well as recruiting people to help with ticket sales the night of the event. This raffle, a 50/50 raffle, has been a very popular part of our affair.

Mary Poulos is in charge of the monies for “Dancing With Heart”. Her job begins in August and ends after the event when all is rectified. Before the event, she keeps track of ticket money, lesson money, ad book money while during the night of the event, she keeps track of raffle money and voting money...not an easy job! For the night of the event, she recruits people to help her out with the counting...a job that requires many a hand. This year she has help from Tom Laware, Nic Lefakis, Susanne Spargo, Eleni Bazos, Angela Peterson, and Debbie Sullivan. Another instance where “it takes a village”!

Eleni Bazos has been an all-around help to our committee in spite of the fact that she is happily sharing her time with that beautiful new grand-daughter of hers. With character traits of diligence and accuracy, she is working with Mary on finances the night of the affair.

Kiki Trial began her volunteerism last year by joining Dorsey and I in our search for ads in East Longmeadow. She knows just about everyone in town which is a plus for that job! She will also be helping Parris with set-up as well as welcoming guests the evening of the affair and giving out table numbers.

Joe Perrault is also new to our committee this year. Joe, like Terry, was a dancer last year. In spite of his initial hesitation and nervousness of last year’s role as a dancer, he had a good time and really appreciates the focus of the affair which led him to volunteer. Even though Joe travels out of the area for his job, he is working on getting ads for our program book and will be there to help out the evening of the affair.
Congratulations

On April 14th two of our parishioners Jim Desautels and Mariah Rizas were chrismated and received into the Orthodox Church.

We congratulate them both, their families and their sponsors Maria Londo and Presvytera Eleni Klostri.

God Grant you many years!!

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Bible Study Opportunities

Gospel of Luke
Tuesdays 6:30pm in the Conference Room
Beginning May 13th

Book of Sirach
Fridays 11am in the Conference Room
Will resume May 17th

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Orthodox Inquiry- If anyone is interested in learning more about the faith with an interest in becoming Orthodox or just to increase their knowledge of Orthodoxy, please contact Father.

If you are not receiving the Wednesday Wisdom emails please contact Father.
In memory of Mary Turner
Peter and Lanie Alexopoulos
Phyllis LaVallee
Tom and Maria Laware
Ann Flynn
Doris Henault
Sarah Lefakis and Nick Lefakis
Marianne Sergides
Steven King
Efchia King and Sons
Veronica and Ron Lindman
P. Maki McHenry
Elaine M. Balicki
Peter Coscore

In memory of Anne Votze
Doris Henault
Sue and Andrew Lemnios
Tom and Kathy Themistos
Michael and Artemis Romell
Marion Holden

In memory of Elias Zovas
Chris and Eleni Bazos
Barbara Costas
Kathy Rodolakas
Marianne Sergides
Al and Joan Kacoyannakis
Stavroulla Mavroudhis-Koetsch, Tom and
Christopher
Emilios Mavroudhis and Costas Mavroudhis

In memory of Chris Delis
Kathy Rodolakas
Joan and Al Kacoyannakis
Anita and John Themistos
Ann Flynn
Luke and Lorraine Ahladas
Tom and Kathy Themistos
Mr. and Mrs. Aristides Speros
Bob and Margaret Schwarz
Gabriel and Simone Arakelian

In memory of Tony Delis
Al and Joan Kacoyannakis
Gabriel and Simone Arakelian

Memory Be Eternal

Anthony Heropoulos, fell asleep on April 18th 2019. His funeral was held on April 22, 2019.

May consolation and comfort be with their families.