

The MESSENGER

Saint Luke Greek Orthodox Church

S e p t e m b e r 2 0 1 8

Connections

We recently returned from a wonderful trip to Iceland and Cyprus, the two poles of Europe.

The reason for visiting Iceland? It's a place we had always dreamt of visiting and now that our connecting flight went through the country, we decided to have a short layover and do a tour. Iceland is a fantastic country, formed by thousands of volcanoes and with active geysers and sparse landscapes. One of the highlights of the trip was standing on the place where the North American tectonic plate joins up with the Eurasian tectonic plate (see photo below).

Clear blue rivers and lakes, mountains, blue skies, cool temperatures. And then we left to go to our main destination of Cyprus, which involved taking connecting flights.

Anyone who has flown knows the big "if" in air travel is luggage, especially on connecting flights internationally. Will they make it on time, or be diverted or lost? It's a remarkable feat of air travel that very few bags are lost.

Connections are important. Life is filled with connections. We connect with people. We connect with places. We connect with our history and roots, and we connect with new faces as well, all by the grace of God.

One of the highlights of the trip to Cyprus was the last Sunday we were there. My uncles arranged to have the memorial service for my grandparents at the monastery of Saint Thekla, outside of Larnaca.

Saint Thekla is known in the Orthodox Church as "Equal to the Apostles." She was a contemporary of Saint Paul.

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2018 Parish Council

Assaad Hallak — President
Judy Lelas-George — Vice President
Joe Dasco — Treasurer
Christos Nikolis — Secretary
Dorsey Cokkinias
John Foscolos
Evangeline Gouzounis
Bill Sakel
Harry Georgiades
George Katsoulis
Nick Vamvilis

Philoptochos

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

Ministries

Chanters - Elias Zovas and Aristidis Zaharis

Choir Director - Toni Rizas **Organist-**

Endowment Fund -

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 - Leia Georgeopolus

Outreach Committee - Harry Georgiades

Facilities Committee - Jim Danalis. Jeffrey Clay

Administrative Assistant - Interim - Sherri Montagna

Bible Study Tuesday @
6:30PM/ Friday @ 11:00AM
(unless otherwise stipulated)

Orthodox Life -Weds 6:30 PM

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 AM (unless otherwise
stipulated)

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

Choir Thursday @ 6:30 PM
(September 10th - June10th)
(unless otherwise stipulated)

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

Hope/JOY 4th Sunday of the
month following coffeeshour
unless otherwise announced

Endowment Meeting 2nd
Tuesday @6:30 PM

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

Miles to Smiles- Walking
Group Ministry, TBA

Health Ministry- Monthly
Blood Pressure during coffee
hour, TBA



METROPOLIS
OF BOSTON

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

Schedule of Services

Orthros, 8:30 AM

Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM

**Regular Hours Begin
September 9th**

SUNDAY SERVICES

Sept 2 (summer hours)

Sept 9 (regular hours)

Sept 16th

Sept 23rd *

Sept 30th

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Sept 8th Nativity of the
Theotokos

Sept 14th Elevation of
the Cross

Sept 26th St John the
Theologian

Paraklesis Service
will be held at 6-7 PM
on September 28th

**Do you want to learn the
liturgical tradition of the
Church? We will be having
weekly Paraklesis and
Vespers services.
Information coming via email
soon!**

**Confessions can be
heard by appointment**

*** Hierarchical Visit**

Continued from page 1

The monastery in Cyprus was built by and dedicated to her memory by Saint Helena, who travelled there after building the Church of the Resurrection in Jerusalem. In Cyprus, she also established the monastery of Stavrovouni, where she left a large piece of the True Cross (which, by God's grace, my son and I were able to venerate).

The chief celebrant that Sunday was the Metropolitan of Trimithousa, Barnabas. It was special being in a small church in a historic monastery celebrating the Divine Liturgy and praying for the repose of our family members – but the connection escaped me while I was there.

As I mentioned, the monastery lies in the Metropolis of Trimithousa. The Saint and Father of the Church from Trimithousa, who was a contemporary of Saint Helen and who would have also liturgized at that same altar, is Saint Spyridon the Wonderworker.

I grew up attending Saint Spyridon's in New York City and it is there I was ordained a deacon.

The realization that, in my unworthiness, I prayed where Saint Spyridon would have also offered the same prayers to God was a humbling one. Here is a connection with the Tradition of the Church.

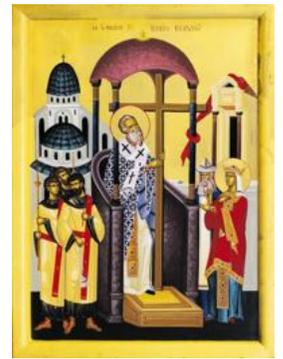
We can all participate in these connections and they are important. We are reminded, by the different opportunities for Grace to abound, that we are part of a living stream that predates us and is above us as well.

In the ecclesiastical year ahead, not everyone will have the opportunity to travel on pilgrimage but we will have the opportunity to connect with the Orthodox tradition in various ways. It may be through reading more of the lives of the saints, attending weekday services, or learning to chant. It may mean also a trip to a local monastery or visiting another church somewhere else in the United States.

Please take advantage of the "season of grace." The opportunities are endless. They simply await our outstretched hand and connection.

With love in the Lord,
+ Fr. Panteleimon

Festal Highlight



Saint Helen, the mother of Saint Constantine the Great, when she was already advanced in years, undertook, in her great piety, the hardships of a journey to Jerusalem in search of the cross, about the year 325. A temple to Aphrodite had been raised up by the Emperor Hadrian upon Golgotha, to defile and cover with oblivion the place where the saving Passion had been suffered. The venerable Helen had the statue of Aphrodite destroyed, and the earth removed, revealing the Tomb of our Lord, and three crosses. Of these, it was believed that one must be that of our Lord, the other two of the thieves crucified with Him; but Saint Helen was at a loss which one might be the Wood of our salvation. At the inspiration of Saint Macarius, Archbishop of Jerusalem, a lady of Jerusalem, who was already at the point of death from a certain disease, was brought to touch the crosses, and as soon as she came near to the Cross of our Lord, she was made perfectly whole. Consequently, the precious Cross was lifted on high by Archbishop Macarius of Jerusalem; as he stood on the ambo, and when the people beheld it, they cried out, "Lord have mercy." It should be noted that after its discovery, a portion of the venerable Cross was taken to Constantinople as a blessing. A large piece of the True Cross was also left by St Helen in Cyprus at the monastery of Stavrovouni, which she had built for it.

PARISH COUNCIL

Dear St. Luke Parishioners,

I hope this message finds all of you healthy and happy. I hope, as well, that your summer vacation was excellent.

As the back to school and The Fall Season is dawning on us, I want to welcome all of you back to St. Luke. We missed you and your beautiful faces. You are the sunshine, the life, the joy, and the oxygen that we enjoy at our beloved Church. What good is this beautiful Church without you our parishioners? We need to rejoice and celebrate our strong 3.5 decades of pure Christian faith, worship and success. Yes we hiccup once in a while, yet that is normal in a Greek Orthodox family (no one is perfect!). We come to church not because we are perfect. We come to church to cleanse our sins and improve our imperfections. It's time to put our differences away and work towards a prosperous, healthy and united St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church. Our love to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through our church must supersede any other love. This love will guide us towards peace and love.

I want to extend again my thank you to Sherri Montagna for her help in the interim and while Father is on vacation. We are in process of hiring a permanent Church Secretary. We hope to choose a person this week upon Father's return. Please extend your personal thank you to Sherri.

Please be reminded of our obligations towards our beloved St. Luke Church. I urge all parishioners to fulfill their obligations as soon as you can. With that said, I encourage you to keep your stewardship current.

We have restored and framed our beautiful icons that were inherited from St. Nicholas. I am positive that you are going to love the way they look. Thank you to Marion Dasco for guiding us through the process.

I want to thank Angie and the Taste of Greece Committee for their hard work. Angie has been very organized and on task, however, she can use more hands. We would like to see a great number of parishioners' participation. Also thank you to all the beautiful people that are helping with the workshops. You are true icons in our lives and our church. I urge more people to volunteer in any caliber that suits your passion and expertise.

We need more involvement from everyone. We have many events and celebrations that need committee leaders to chair and see these events through. Please volunteer to chair or serve these events and celebrations. Please be reminded as well that all Committee chairs must be approved by the Parish Council.

Sherri, Father and I welcome your calls and emails so we may add you to our list of volunteers. Please see Sherri so she may share with you the calendar of all the dates and events.

I pray that the blessings of our Lord and Savior be upon all of you.

Assaad Andrew Hallak
Parish Council President

PHILOPTOCHOS

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable summer.

We would like to take this time to give a special thank you to everyone who helped us in our backpack drive this summer. We collected almost 90 backpacks. These were distributed to students in need throughout our community.

Philoptochos sponsored Loaves and Fishes in July. A picnic style meal was provided with hot dogs, rolls, beans, chips, and watermelon. Thank you, Bill Sakel, for delivering the food.

Thank you to Vicki Laroche for doing the bereavement bags during the months of July and August. We are in need of volunteers to cover the fall months. It takes very little time. All the supplies are ready with easy instructions for assembly provided. This means so much to the bereaving families during a difficult time. If you can volunteer for a month or two, please contact any Philoptochos Board Member.

Keep your eyes open out for our upcoming General Assembly. A notice and details to follow. We are also starting to plan new and upcoming events. If you have any ideas for an event that you would like to see, please feel free to let any of the board members know.

See you all in September!

Maria Londo
Philoptochos President

Stewardship Message

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

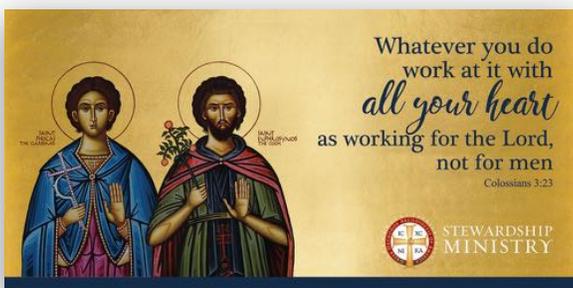
"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men." Colossians 3:23

Welcome back to another ecclesiastic year at St. Luke's. Now is the time to get back into the swing of things with many opportunities for offering your Time and Talent for the good of our parish.

St. Luke's is well on its way to hosting its 16th annual Taste of Greece. This event is our church's largest fundraiser and it benefits every member of this parish as well as our surrounding community. If you haven't already signed up to help, please make time to do so. There are so many opportunities for which to volunteer. We need help to do everything from spreading the word of our wonderful event to preparing food ahead of the event, serving and greeting and selling during the weekend along with cleaning up and putting things back in order at the end of the event. This is a huge effort for our church and everyone should be involved.

Stewardship is about managing another's property and resources, as well as one's own body and soul. Nourish us all with your commitment to offering your stewardship to St. Luke's.

Sincerely,
Joe and Meghan Dasco
co-chairs Stewardship Committee



CHOIR

Our practices are weekly on Thursdays at 6:30 PM, during the year. Save the date: the first rehearsal will be Thursday, Sept 6th! Please don't hesitate to contact Toni Rizas or any choir member, if interested in sharing your voice to glorify God. The choir will be returning on Sunday, September 9.



Sunday School

Welcome Back Sunday - first day of church school and registration will be on Sunday, September 9.

We will hold the church cookout the following Sunday, September 16.

GOYA

We hope everyone had an amazing summer! GOYA is coming off its summer hiatus and looking forward to a busy and productive year ahead. We have fundraisers and events in the planning process and they will be discussed at our September meeting on the 16th. We thank all who support GOYA as we continue to pursue our ministry.

Philippos Dimitroglou

Hope/JOY

Our next meeting will be starting in September 30th, Noon-1 PM

Ages 3-11- We will be holding this time together on Sundays after church and coffee hour. Parent and Youth volunteers to help with obtaining craft items and assist with crafts will be appreciated. A schedule for sign up will be distributed. Program and curriculum is all set!

Join Us for some fun while embracing the faith!

Family Fun Fridays

We are starting a new fun way to connect. All families are welcome! We are planning to start family time together on Friday evenings with games (kids vs parents, family vs family), movies, discussions. More info ahead. First Event to be Friday October 5th!

Taste of Greece Reminders

TASTE OF GREECE SHUTTLE

We are asking that all our parishioners, visiting as well as working, the Taste of Greece use our shuttle service on the Friday and Saturday of the Taste weekend.

PLEASE park at the United Methodist Church on the corner of Somers Road and Chestnut Street. St. Luke volunteers will kindly drive you back and forth any time between 8:30 and closing.

You may feel that this is a little inconvenient, but think about it...

If the 75 or so parishioners that work each shift park in our lot, it cuts down almost half of the available parking spots. And that does not include those parishioners visiting during those times!

Isn't the purpose of the Taste to share our great food, culture, and traditions with others? Let's allow this to happen by giving them the opportunity to park.

In this year's Agora at the Taste of Greece, we again will be selling gently used Greek items and showing classic Greek Heritage items also, i.e. , copper, brass, ceramics and linens. If items are for show only, please label for return. No icons please.

Taste of Greece Workshops

September

Weds 5th Baklava

Tues 18th *Spanakopita Prep*

Weds 19th *Spanakopita Assembly*

Friday 21th *Kourambiathes*

Tues 25th *Finikia*

All Workshops start at 10AM

October

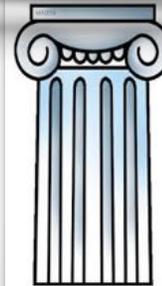
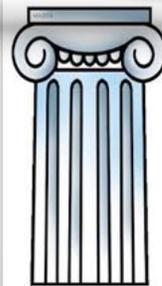
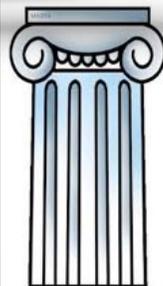
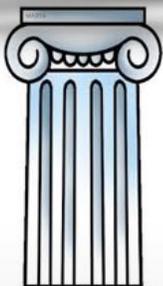
Fri 2nd Moussaka / Pastitsio

(Note Special time: Begins at 7:30AM)

Thurs 4th *Kourambiathes*

Finikia and Dolmathes to be scheduled

All Workshops start at 10AM



Once Upon a Time...

An idea came to fruition and a church was built...the Greek Orthodox Church of St. Luke. Along with this process came many expenses...land, building supplies and labor, building fees, liturgical items, furnishings, etc. A building fund was formed to help with these costs. However, additional financial help was needed.

Enter the idea of a Greek Festival...

In the late 1970's, the parishioners of St. Luke worked together to hold 3 day "Grecian Festivals" on the grounds of the Wilbraham Monson Academy. The proceeds of these festivals helped the parish begin construction of the church that now stands at 400 Prospect Street in East Longmeadow. Eventually, as all things do, these festivals came to an end.

Fast forward to 2002 ...

The church, as it stood 26 years after its inception, began to need renovations and repairs, the cost of which could not be covered by the parishioners annual giving alone. The idea to have a "Taste of Greece" was born. The event was labeled a "Taste" rather than a festival due to the size of our property and the necessity to hold the event within the confines of our Fellowship Hall. It became a blend of the former festivals of the 70's and the annual Christmas bazaars that followed.

Experience the present 15 years later...

The Taste of Greece is still an annual event; the hallmark of which is a look into the origin, heritage, and traditions of the Greek culture. The main focus continues to be the freshly prepared food and pastries, the quality and consistency of which have made their mark and continue to draw people back year after year. Other attractions added to the event are Greek music, dancing, Greek dancers, and Agora. The Taste continues to provide the church with the additional financial support needed to cover expenses.

Moral of the story....

Upon the inception of the event, one of the goals of the committee was to foster unity, participation, and camaraderie among parishioners. It was and still is a team building type of event that reaches its goal only through the combined efforts of many. And that it still does!

So if you want to be part of this story...

Join in and help us with this once a year event. Sign-up sheets will be posted in the Fellowship Hall by September 1st. If you need any additional info, you can call me.

Look forward to working with all of you.....Judy 525-4640



The Taste of Greece is fast approaching! As always the main force behind this event is volunteerism.

We'd like to thank all our ladies and gents who came workshop after workshop to prepare the baked goods and food that all our guests look forward to year after year. With much appreciation, thank you! You are the backbone of our event.

We are now looking for volunteers to work the 3 day event. Please check out the sign-up sheets in the Pappas Hall. Whatever time you can give will be appreciated. If you have any questions, feel free to call me at 413-525-4640.

Thank you, Judy

We are honored to have our Hierarch His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios with us on Sunday, September 23rd.

Romeos & Juliets

Romeos & Juliets schedule is 12:30 PM on 9/27, 10/25, 11/15 (3rd Thursday that month) and 12/20 Christmas Party.

The 9/27 restaurant is Crazy Jake's Italian Restaurant, 2537 Boston Road, Wilbraham MA.

Hope you can join us!

Our very best wishes to all as they return from what we pray was a safe and fun summer! As we enter the new church year, we wish to highlight the importance of the fellowship hour ministry. Very often this is the first opportunity to welcome visitors outside of liturgy and show Saint Luke's great philoxenia. We hope to continue to provide an opportunity for our parishioners to take some time to welcome and visit with each other on Sunday mornings during coffee hour. Following are the dates which are open for hosting a coffee hour during the next few weeks:



September 2, 9, 23, and 30

If you cannot host, please consider just bringing something to share. We thank you in advance for helping to continue this important ministry!



The 2018 Greater Springfield Crop Hunger Walk will be held on Sunday, October 14 at Trinity United Methodist Church, 361 Sumner Ave in Springfield. Registration begins at 1:00 PM and the Walk steps off at 2:00 PM.

SPRINGFIELD CROP HUNGER WALK KICKOFF RALLY

**The 2018 Greater Springfield Crop Hunger Walk Kickoff Rally will be held on Sept 10th at 7 PM at the Foster Memorial Church
1791 Wilbraham Rd Springfield MA 01119
For more info: Steve Clark 413-427-9667**

M e m o r i a l s

In memory of Constantinos Philips
Lanie and Peter Alexopoulos
John and Sylvia Cardone
Doris Henault

In memory of Tony Delis
Gail Nassif

In memory of Bruno Branchesi
Doris Henault



Thank You



Dear Bob, I want to thank you for the beautiful job you did in our choir loft! It's so nice and clean looking that I'm almost afraid to have anyone come upstairs. God bless you for all the hard work you put into making St. Luke look clean. Toni

Dear St. Luke Parishioners:

Thank you so much for welcoming me into your church family! It has been a blessing getting to know you. I hope to see you soon, but definitely at the Taste of Greece.
Love, Helen

We are thankful to Jen Antiaris, one our new parishioners and Saint Luke Health Team member, for updating our AED defibrillator.

Bible Study Opportunities

Gospel of Mark

Tuesdays 6:30 PM in the Conference Room

Colossians

Fridays 11 AM in the Conference Room

Bible Study starts Week of September 16th

Do you know anyone who needs prayers for emotional issues, depression or trauma in their lives?

Here's an opportunity to help them. Join Us for a Paraklesis to Saints Raphael, Nicholas and Irene on September 28th at 6 PM

Orthodox Life

**Join us on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM for hour long sessions and discussions on Orthodox life — understanding and connecting our Faith with the world
1st session - Sept 19th**