



GREEK ORTHODOX
ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

**SUMMER ISSUE:
JULY, AUGUST, AND
SEPTEMBER, 2016**
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Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
Under the Auspices of His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios

✠ ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE ✠
**Ἑλληνικός Ὁρθόδοξος Ναός Ἁγίων
Κωνσταντίνου καὶ Ἑλένης**
SAINTS CONSTANTINE AND HELEN
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
1 Marycrest Road, West Nyack, New York 10994
(845) 623-4023
westnyack@optonline.net
www.saintschurch.org
PARISH PRIEST: FATHER SAMARAS

Welcome to our Parish Family



Ἀκολουθίαι—SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES

Προσκομιδή	8·15 π.μ.
Ὁρθρος	8·45 π.μ.
Ἡ Θεία Λειτουργία	10·00 π.μ.
Proskomidi	8:15 A.M.
Orthros	8:45 A.M.
Divine Liturgy	10:00 A.M.

Parish Roll

For any emergencies or spiritual need,
please call Father Samaras
on the Parish cell phone:
(845) 731-9333



PARISH COUNCIL:

President: Nikos Anagnostopoulos
Vice President: Naoum Hatzis
Treasurer: John Livanos
Secretary: John Moustakakis

The Council Members

Mike Dolianitis
Gus Drivas*
George Hanos*
Alex Kalos
Demetre Karavanas*
Bobby Kostopoulos
Kyriakos Lazaridis
Kelly Maris*
Constantine Mastakouris
Effie Traitses

(*Past Council President)

*Sometimes, we only have a few people
to do a lot—and sometimes,
it can be overwhelming. Thus, we
extend our thanks to all who help
our Parish. If, by any chance,
we inadvertently leave out
anyone's name from a mentioned list,
we apologise for the accidental
oversight. We welcome
any and all volunteers to help us
lighten and share our efforts.*

These are
the closing words
of Paul in a letter
to the Corinthians:
*Be joyful. Grow to maturity.
Encourage each other. Live in
harmony and peace. Then, the
God of love and peace will
be with you.*

(2 Corinthians 13:11)

We might consider using and
memorizing this verse.
Perhaps, then our parish
will grow and God
will answer our
prayers.

Always a Spiritual Focus, First



Dear Parish Families,

Christos Anesti!

How to welcome our Summer season and commemorate our “Church Year” with all its graduations and occasions? Perhaps with prayer and clarity, as we always do. Perhaps to remind ourselves that prayer and spiritual growth doesn’t take summer breaks.

Close to our “summer-time,” we hold our parish family’s General Assembly twice a year (usually November and May), meant to all gather to vote on events and needs. With 262 parish families on our records, it is usually sad to get only 25 people who attend, at best. What does this say about us? Through the year, we ask for people to help in teaching our Sunday School program, our Youth ministries. Some people answer and we are grateful. Yet it always seems that the very few help with all the work—even with our Festival—and we are very grateful always. But “many hands make lighter work.”

Yet, when I see how packed our Church becomes on Palm Sunday and Holy Saturday Night (before the receiving of the Light), I am amazed to visualise how strong we can still become if everyone here came forward to help each other.

In a recent sermon, I shared with those in attendance that I was happy to read a profound insight, written by a classmate of mine, Marie Howe: she had written a poem in the voice of Mary Magdalene, listing the details of the seven demons who had once possessed her (before Christ healed her). And the very first demon, in the very first line, was this: “The first was that I was so busy.”

What a profound insight! The truth is we are, nowadays, honestly demonized by distraction and busy-ness. We no longer prioritise our lives; we only react to the “crisis of the moment.” It’s no way to live and no way to teach our children.

So, succinctly, if you want your life to change for the better, an excellent, spiritual lesson can be for you to value stability and faith. Just as you tell small children the same bedtime story, over and over endlessly, children would also benefit from the emotional stability and regularity of a church life. This is where we all learn to handle the world. This is

where we find our future koumbaroi.

So, let's not wait for "others" to help with our outreach and youth ministries. Who, among you, will now step up to help with our children's programs and ministries and festival and voting meetings? In large parishes, it's so easy to "hide" within the crowd. In our medium-sized parish, it's just us to help ourselves and each other. This is what Christianity means, truly.

So, while we are enjoying our school vacation and personal, family time, please pray over and respond to helping our ministries help each other.

—*Faithfully, Father Samaras*

STEWARDSHIP Focus, Come and See

IS YOUR FAMILY REPRESENTED?

We ended 2015 with a recording of 262 parish families. But we know there are over a hundred families who weren't counted. Was your family included? Please help us make 2016 our best year ever. Please send in your stewardship card and be COUNTED. Let us know you are there and what we can do to serve you better. This is about you and about your being recognised and included, not left out.

Sunday School

Many thanks to our volunteers who have come onboard and are helping our children. You'll notice we have quite a large, new crop of youngsters who are being brought to church by their families. Let's get them all the support of our ministries by keeping them coming!

We need more helpers and ask for others to come forward and help us help your children. Please consider this as a holy offering, a ministry you can participate in. Your children will thank you, as we thank you.

So, help us help our children. Give of your time, so they may grow into their time as upstanding citizens aware of their Orthodox Christianity and faith.

Which of you parents will come forward?

Most respectfully,

*Evangeline (Beca) Michaels and Dr. George Chondris,
Sunday School Co-Directors*

Greek School

CALENDAR OF HOLIDAYS AND EVENTS FOR 2016-17

September 1st:	Greek Education Committee Meeting, 7 p.m.
September 11th:	Agiasmo Service, after Church.
September 13th:	Greek School Begins.
September 20th:	Meet the Teachers Night, 7:30 p.m.
October 4th:	School closed.
November 8th:	Election Day. School closed.
November 15th:	Parent-Teachers conferences.
November 24th:	Thanksgiving Day.
December 17th:	Divine Liturgy for all students. Communion Breakfast and Christmas Program Presentation.
December 27th-29th:	Christmas Recess. No classes.

Philoptochos

We thank all for their help and donations with all our functions when help was needed. We also thank everyone who brought in desserts for our functions when help was needed.

From September, 2015 to now, we were able to meet all our national obligations of charity. Total Disbursements to the National Archdiocese was \$5,900. Total Disbursements to our Direct Archdiocesan District of NY was \$1,740. Local disbursements were \$5,700. Our collective disbursements were \$13,340.

We provided assistance to seven families in need in our community. We provided 24 Thanksgiving food baskets to Rockland Social Services, which are given to needy families in the community.

We wish everyone a Happy and safe summer. While we will not be having coffee hour over the summer months, Coffee Hour will start back up in September.

Meetings are held on the first Sunday of each month after Divine Liturgy. Please attend and share your ideas with us.

Reminder: it's not too late to renew your membership and to welcome new members for the year 2016. Dues are \$30.00.

Sincerely, Connie Edlund, Philoptochos President

YOUTH PAGES

HOPE Happenings (ages 3-7)

Here is our tentative HOPE schedule for 2016-2017. We are very excited about it! Please plan to join us.

- September: Apple/Pumpkin Picking at Demarest Farms
October: Bake Sale; GOYA Halloween Party
November: PB&J: Pizza, Bible and Jammies
(and ice cream!)
- December: Gingerbread decoration, learn Christmas Hymns and learn from Father Samaras about Christ being the greatest gift we receive on Christmas.
- January: Outragehiss Pets or Magician
February: Chocolate Making Party at Matisse
March: Outragehiss Pets or Magician
April: Learn how to make kolyva; Easter egg hunt
May: Screamin' Parties
June: Festival Participation & End of Season Picnic

Any HOPE aged children (3-8) interested in attending or would like additional details (such as the cost per child) can reach out to Kristin Laoudis Rosenstein at 201-694-0633 or tcbk64@aol.com

Our advisors are Bonnie Mavrommatis and Kristin Laoudis Rosenstein. They can be reached at:

Kristin: tcbk64@aol.com or 201-694-0633

Bonnie: nmavro@me.com

JOY Happenings (Ages 8-12)

We have a parent, Dr. Stephen Tsoucaris, who has volunteered to help lead our JOY group. We need one more parent to please help our children by stepping up. Please call Father Samaras to coordinate our efforts for continuity. We'd like to have a meeting in October, so please stay tuned for a meeting announcement in our Church services and Church Sunday bulletin.

GOYA Happenings (Ages 13-18)

Thank you to all who participated this year. We started the year with a bowling event. We had a successful Harvest Dance. We went to a West Point football game, which we will make an annual tradition (thank you to George Venetos for making breakfast for everyone). We got together to decorate wreaths to raise funds. We attended a Broadway show and we handed out flowers to all the moms for Mother's day. Hope you enjoyed all the events and we look forward to next year. Have a great summer!

We welcome all kids from ages 13-18 to join with us. Please come to our Divine Liturgies on Sundays, to share in our fellowship and contribute to our planning.

*Your Advisors,
John Fidalgo, Ned Mavrommatis, and George Venetos*

Saint John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival

I am pleased to report that Christina Hanos has, for the second time, won the Senior Division at the National Finals, which took place on June 10-12 in Charlotte, North Carolina. Her full speech will be presented in an upcoming issue of The Orthodox Observer. Congratulations, Christina. You make us all proud!

--Sophia King, Oratorical Chair



High School Graduates

Congratulations to our newest high school graduates, with all prayers for their building future, explored vocations, further work and success:

Christina Hanos	Dena Kousoulas
Yianni Lymberis	Yanna and Antonia Morfogen
Anastasia Samaras	Nicole Skoumpourdis

CHOIR NEWS

BY LEO MICHAELS



The Everlasting Devotion of Our Choir

Suddenly and totally unexpectedly, I became very sick in the beginning of 2016. My illness kept me in the hospital and rehabilitation center for two months. During this time as my life “τω Ἀδη προσήγγισε,” I thought my end was approaching but, by the grace of God and the prayers of all, I was able to return to the church on the Sunday of Orthodoxy. During my dark days in the hospital, my main concern was my family and of course, my extended family, our church. I was constantly thinking how could the choir function in my absence.

But thanks to the devotion of the members and the able leadership of our chanter, Mike Traitses, the choir kept doing their duty faithfully until my return. I was pleasantly surprised to realize that, without a rehearsal for more than two months, the choir was as good as ever before. Furthermore, with a minimum of rehearsals, we were able to offer some of the most inspiring services during Holy Week and Pascha.

But that's not all. All the members of the choir offered their help, preparing for our June Festival by cooking the foods and pastries months before and working hard day and night during the Festival itself. You may think, by the last day, June 5, they would be exhausted and in need of a day off.

Not so! Early on Sunday morning, they all showed up for the liturgy, after which they returned to their Festival duties in the kitchen, serving in the food line and other chores.

Such devotion is highly commendable and represents a shining example of a group in our parish dedicated to God, regardless of any hardships or unpleasant politics.

If only more parishioners would follow their example!

Something New From Our Choir

As we all know our choir rehearses every Sunday after the social hour and, if there is some special occasion, such as a fund-raising luncheon, or a sacrament immediately after the liturgy that prevents us from rehearsing on Sundays, we come back during the week.

Rehearsals are necessary to keep the choir tuned, refresh our memories with hymns that are not chanted often, as well as to learn new music.

It is important that we try to hear ourselves whenever a rarely-Chanted hymn, or a new one, will make its appearance in front of an audience. Since we cannot do this during the services, it occurred to me that there is an “empty” space at the end of the liturgy that this can be accomplished, and that is the time when the trays are passed. It only lasts but a few minutes, but it gives us enough time to sing at least one hymn. This is not only beneficial to the choir, but also prevents any unnecessary noise resulting from the idle conversations during the passing of the trays. So, starting some time in September, you will have a preview of some of the choir's new or reviewed repertoire.

—Leo Michaels

The Typika of our Church

Did you know that our Church's Holy Liturgical Life is governed by the Typika, a calendar of Ecclesiastical Services, precisely regulated and maintained by our Holy Patriarchate and the Church of Greece?

This year, 2016, Christmas Day falls on a Sunday. Because Christmas falls on Sunday this year, the day before, as well as the Feast day are different in church celebration and commemoration: Christmas Day is celebrated by serving the Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil. The night before, Christmas Eve, is ONLY Vespers, conducted in the evening. On that Christmas Eve morning, Saturday, December 24th, is to be celebrated with the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom.

Therefore, we shall still have two opportunities to receive Holy Communion during our Christmas weekend, and our Church services will be held in the proper order of the Typikon.

Sunday School Registration Form 2016-2017

Please fill in all spaces, and please fill out one form for each child.

Name of Child: _____
 Address: _____

 Date of Birth: _____
 Grade entering in Fall: _____
 Mother's Name: _____
 Cell Phone: _____

 Father's Name: _____
 Cell Phone: _____
 Home Phone: _____
 Email: _____

Is your child baptized in the Orthodox Faith? Yes No
 What is your child's baptismal name? _____
 Is your child participating in our church
 Youth Groups? Yes No
 Is your child enrolled in our Greek School
 program? Yes No
 Does your child have any allergies? Yes No
 If yes, please list: _____

Would you be interested in helping out as a Sunday
 School teacher or assistant, or substitute? Yes No
 Would you be interested in directing or helping
 with the Christmas play? Yes No
 Would you be interested in heading
 the Oratorical Festival? Yes No

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____
 Date: _____

Greek School Registration Form 2016-2017

Student's name: _____
 Address: _____

 Public school grade (in September): _____
 Parents' names: _____
 Home phone: _____
 Cell phone: _____
 Email: _____
 Emergency contacts:
 1. Name: _____
 Phone: _____
 Relationship to child: _____
 2. Name: _____
 Phone: _____
 Relationship to child: _____
 Any medical conditions or food allergies? _____
 Has student attended Greek school before? _____
 If "yes", how many years? _____
 Where? _____
 Primary language spoken at home: _____

Commitments:

1. There is a book fee of \$50/student due before Greek School graduation.
 2. You must be a steward in good standing at the time of registration. If you are not currently a steward, you must first speak to a member of the Stewardship Committee before you can register. Please remember you must renew your stewardship commitment before January 1st of the following year in light of the overlap of Greek School and Stewardship calendars.
- * The Education Committee is investigating the addition of a Greek School Director to oversee the program. This position would be funded through increased fees to be determined.**

Parent's Signature: _____
Date: _____

Please submit this application, along with the \$50/student fee to the church secretary or any Education Committee member.

Book fee collected: _____ *Date:* _____
Stewardship Chair: _____ *Date:* _____

Our First, “Get Acquainted” Option of the New Church Year

From our GOYA days, by engaging with others in our parish family and with other parish families, we can meet new friends who can enhance our lives and become our future koumbaroi.

GOYA DAY AT HOLIDAY HILL

A Direct Archdiocesan District-Wide GOYA Event
Join in on the fun!
Meet other GOYANS from Greater New York and Connecticut!
(Ages 12-18)

Saturday, September 17, 2016
11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Rain or Shine

at
Holiday Hill Day Camp - 43 Candee Road - Prospect, Connecticut
www.holidayhilldaycamp.com

A Full Day of Activities Including:
Softball, Volleyball, Tennis, Mini Golf, Badminton, Bocce, Horseshoes, Basketball,
Swimming in Olympic-size Heated Pool, Kayaks, Canoes and Paddle Boats on the Lake, Dance
Contests and Sports Tournaments

All equipment is provided although you must bring your own bathing suit and towel.

Food Available from 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Bagels, Donuts, Muffins, Pastries, Taco Bar, Chowder, Chips, Dips and Snacks, Hot Dogs, Burgers,
Chicken, Pasta, Salads, Watermelon, Cake, Soda, Coffee, Water and Fruit Drinks

Prices: (For GOYANS and Adults)
\$27.00 per person*
If Reservation and Payment are postmarked by September 12, 2016
\$33.00 per person*
At the door on the day of September 17, 2016

Please make checks out to: Saint Barbara GOYA Mail a list of the participants (GOYANS and Parents) and return it with your payment as soon as possible to *Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church - 480 Racebrook Road - Orange, CT 06477.

You can always add more people to your list - but in order to take advantage of the 'early bird discount' that is being offered your reservation and payment must be mailed to Saint Barbara Church in Orange, CT and postmarked by September 12th. For more information call the Saint Barbara Church Office at (203) 795-1347.

* The per person fee is being supplemented by the Direct Archdiocesan District Youth Office.

“Kali Parea”

Our Kali Parea group will have their luncheon meetings on the second Monday of every month. The coordinator for our group is Mr. Gianakouros.

Please join this active group for fellowship and conversation.

You can be a Parish Newsletter SPONSOR for any issue!

An easy way to help sponsor the production of this great service and ministry to our parish community—our parish newsletter—is to sponsor an issue and its production costs.

You may dedicate such an issue to the memory of someone, or to the celebration of someone’s life or birthday or anniversary.

Simply send in to our Church Office any photos, dedicational text, and remembrances, and a donation of \$100.00 which will cover all inks, papers, staples, labels, mailings, and productions. All to your doorstep, email box, or mailbox, suitable for framing!

Q: Why are other ethnic groups and other religious faiths so strong in their solidarity and community?

A: Because they support each other, and patronize each other’s businesses. Then, to likewise be strong, let us learn the lesson:
Support and patronize our people’s businesses.

Good Day!

Here is our Parish Calendar and Events for our SUMMER Season: July, August, and September, 2016. For the next Fall newsletter of October, November, and December, 2016, **the deadline for all news items is September 1st.** So, everybody think about what your group will be planning and doing for those months. All Church groups are asked to submit their materials in a timely fashion.

Be sure to double-check our Sunday Church Bulletins for any possible scheduling changes or last-minute developments, additions, or deletions.

July, 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 OR, 8:45 a.m. DL, 10 a.m.	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY	5	6	7	8	9
10 OR, 8:45 a.m. DL, 10 a.m.	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 OR, 8:45 a.m. DL, 10 a.m.	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Saint Paraskevi OR, 8:45 a.m. DL, 10 a.m.	25	26	27	28	29	30
31				OR = ORTHROS, 8:45 a.m.	DL = Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.	

August, 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 FASTING PERIOD, AUGUST 1ST THROUGH 15TH. FOR THE THEOTOKOS.	2	3 Paraklysis, 7 pm.	4	5 Paraklysis, 7 pm.	6 TRANSFIGURATION OR, 8:45 a.m. DL, 10 a.m.
7 OR, 8:45 a.m. DL, 10 a.m.	8	9	10 Paraklysis, 7 pm.	11	12 Paraklysis, 7 pm.	13
14 OR, 8:45 a.m. DL, 10 a.m.	15 KOIMISIS OR, 8:45 a.m. DL, 10 a.m.	16	17	18	19	20
21 OR, 8:45 a.m. DL, 10 a.m.	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 OR, 8:45 a.m. DL, 10 a.m.	29 Saint John/Baptist OR, 8:45 a.m. DL, 10 a.m.	30	31			
				OR = ORTHROS, 8:45 a.m.	DL = Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.	

September, 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 OR, 8:45 a.m. DL, 10 a.m.	5 LABOR DAY	6	7 Parish Council Meeting, 8:00 p.m.	8 Theotokos Birth OR, 8:45 a.m. DL, 10 a.m.	9	10
11 OR, 8:45 a.m. DL, 10 a.m. AYIASMO	12 Kali Parea, 11:30 am.	13 Greek School Begins	14 HOLY CROSS OR, 8:45 a.m. DL, 10 a.m.	15	16	17
18 OR, 8:45 a.m. DL, 10 a.m. Sunday School begins.	19	20 Meet the Teachers Greek School, 7:30 p.m.	21	22	23	24
25 OR, 8:45 a.m. DL, 10 a.m.	26	27	28	29	30	
				OR = ORTHROS, 8:45 a.m.	DL = Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.	

October, 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 OR, 8:45 a.m. DL, 10 a.m.	3	4 Greek Education Committee. 7 p.m.	5	6 Greek School Open Night, 7:30 p.m.	7	8
9 OR, 8:45 a.m. DL, 10 a.m.	10 Kali Parea, 11:30 am.	11	12 Parish Council, 8 pm.	13	14	15
16 OR, 8:45 a.m. DL, 10 a.m.	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 OR, 8:45 a.m. DL, 10 a.m.	24	25	26 SAINT DEMETRIOS OR, 8:45 a.m. DL, 10 a.m.	27	28 Youth Harvest Dance, 7 pm.	29
30 OR, 8:45 a.m. DL, 10 a.m.	31			OR = ORTHROS, 8:45 a.m.	DL = Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.	

November, 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Greek School Comm. 7 pm.	2	3	4	5
6 OR, 8:45 am. DL, 10 am.	7 Kali Parea, 11:30 am.	8 Synaxis Archangels OR, 8:45 am. DL, 10 am.	9 Parish Council, 8 p.m.	10	11	12
13 OR, 8:45 a.m. DL, 10 a.m.	14	15 NATIVITY FAST BEGINS	16	17	18	19
20 OR, 8:45 a.m. DL, 10 a.m.	21 Entrance/Theotokou OR, 8:45 am. DL, 10 am.	22	23	24 THANKGIVING	25 SAINT CATHERINE OR, 8:45 a.m. DL, 10 a.m.	26
27 OR, 8:45 a.m. DL, 10 a.m.	28	29	30			
				OR = ORTHROS, 8:45 a.m.	DL = Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.	

December, 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 OR, 8:45 a.m. DL, 10 a.m.	5	6 SAINT NICHOLAS OR, 8:45 a.m. DL, 10 a.m. Greek Educational, 7 pm.	7	8	9	10
11 OR, 8:45 a.m. DL, 10 a.m.	12 SAINT SPYRIDON OR, 8:45 a.m. DL, 10 a.m. Kali Pareia, 11:30 am.	13	14 Parish Council, 8 p.m.	15	16	17 Christmas Play. Comm. Breakfast OR, 8:45 am. DL, 10 am.
18 OR, 8:45 a.m. DL, 10 a.m.	19	20	21	22	23	24 TYPIKON: OR, 8:45 a.m., DL, 10 a.m. Vespers, 7 p.m.
25 HOLY CHRISTMAS Liturgy of Saint John OR, 8:45 a.m. DL, 10 a.m.	26	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve Party
				OR = ORTHROS, 8:45 a.m.	DL = Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.	