

# ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΗ KOINOTHTA ΤΩΝ ΤΑΞΙΑΡΧΩΝ Taxiarchae/Archangels Greek Orthodox Church

25 Bigelow Avenue, Watertown, MA 02472 *Phone:* 617.924.8182 Phone *Website:* www.goarchangels.org *Office:* Office@goarchangels.com

Rev. Fr. Athanasios Nenes, *Parish Priest Cell Phone:* 914.479.8096 *Email:* anenes@goarchangels.com

> December 3, 2023 14th Sunday of Luke Orthros 8:45/Liturgy 9:30 AM.

**Epistle Reading** St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 5:8-19

**Gospel Reading** The Reading is from Luke 18:35-43

**Memorial** 40 day – Tula T. Sares 5 year – Lucy Sarris 5 year – Fotoula Sarris

5 year – Antonia Sarris Pappas 17 year – Haralambos "Bobby" Sarris 36 year – Panagiotis Sarris

Trisagion

2 year - *Adeline Decker Fr. Ekdikios Louis & Panagiota "Pota" Tourkantonis* 

WEEKDAY SERVICES - Καθημερινές Λειτουργίες:

Paraklesis to the Panagia Gorgoipikoos - every Thurs. at 6PM St Nicholas - Wed., Dec. 6, Orthros 8:30/Liturgy 9:00 AM. St. Spyridon - Tues., Dec. 12, Orthros 8:30/Liturgy 9:00 AM.



# HYMNS OF THE DAY

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the First Mode

Although the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers guarded Your most pure body, You arose on the third day, O Savior, giving life to the world. For this reason, the heavenly powers cried out to you, O Giver of Life: Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Your kingdom! Glory to Your dispensation, only Lover of Mankind!

Τοῦ λίθου σφραγισθέντος ὑπὸ τῶν Ἰουδαίων, καὶ στρατιωτῶν φυλασσόντων τὸ ἄχραντόν σου σῶμα, ἀνέστης τριήμερος Σωτήρ, δωρούμενος τῷ κόσμῳ τὴν ζωήν. Διὰ τοῦτο αἰ Δυνάμεις τῶν οὐρανῶν ἐβόων σοι Ζωοδότα· Δόξα τῇ ἀναστάσει σου Χριστέ, δόξα τῇ Βασιλείq σου, δόξα τῇ οἰκονομίq σου, μόνε Φιλάνθρωπε.

# Seasonal Kontakion in the Third Mode

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to \* God the Word ineffably, \* Who was before all the ages. \* Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing \* the gladsome tidings; \* with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him \* Who is willing to be gazed on \* as a young Child Who \* before the ages is God.

Ή Παρθένος σήμερον, τὸν Προαιώνιον Λόγον, ἐν Σπηλαίῳ ἔρχεται, ἀποτεκεῖν ἀπορρήτως. Χόρευε ἡ οἰκουμένη ἀκουτισθεῖσα, δόξασον μετὰ Ἀγγέλων καὶ τῶν Ποιμένων, βουληθέντα ἐποφθῆναι, παιδίον νέον, τὸν πρὸ αἰώνων Θεόν.

**Receiving Holy Communion** - We welcome to this celebration of the Divine Liturgy those Christians who are from other Christian Denominations and who are not fully united with us. Sadly, it is a consequence of the divisions in Christianity that we cannot extend to you an invitation to receive Holy Communion. Orthodox Christians believe that the Eucharist is the work or action of the celebrating Community signifying a oneness of faith, life, and worship of the believing Community. Reception of Holy Communion by Christians not fully united with us would imply a oneness which does not yet exist, and for which we must pray. **However, all present** are welcome to partake of the Antidoro (blessed bread) which is distributed at the end of the Liturgy.

### **Epistle Reading**

#### Prokeimenon. First Mode. Psalm 32.22,1.

Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Verse: Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

#### The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 5:8-19.

Brethren, walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret; but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light." Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart.

### **Epistle Reading**

#### Προκείμενον. First Mode. ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 32.22,1.

Γένοιτο, Κύριε, τὸ ἔλεὀς σου ἐφ' ἡμᾶς. Στίχ. Ἀγαλλιᾶσθε δίκαιοι ἐν Κυρίω

#### τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα Πρὸς Ἐφεσίους 5:8-19.

Αδελφοί, ώς τέκνα φωτός περιπατεῖτε - ὁ γὰρ καρπὸς τοῦ πνεὑματος ἐν πἀσῃ ἀγαθωσὑνῃ καὶ δικαιοσὑνῃ καὶ ἀληθεία - δοκιμάζοντες τἰ ἐστιν εὐἀρεστον τῷ κυρίῳ· καὶ μὴ συγκοινωνεῖτε τοῖς ἕργοις τοῖς ἀκἀρποις τοῦ σκότους, μᾶλλον δὲ καὶ ἐλἐγχετε· τὰ γὰρ κρυφῆ γινόμενα ὑπ' αὐτῶν αἰσχρόν ἐστιν καὶ λἑγειν. Τὰ δὲ πἀντα ἐλεγχόμενα ὑπὸ τοῦ φωτὸς φανεροῦται· πᾶν γὰρ τὸ φανεροὑμενον φῶς ἐστἰν. Διὸ λἑγει, Ἐγειρε ὁ καθεὐδων καὶ ἀνἀστα ἐκ τῶν νεκρῶν, καὶ ἐπιφαὑσει σοι ὁ Χριστὀς. Βλἐπετε οὖν πῶς ἀκριβῶς περιπατεῖτε, μὴ ὡς ἄσοφοι, ἀλλ' ὡς σοφοί, ἐξαγοραζόμενοι τὸν καιρόν, ὅτι αἰ ἡμἐραι πονηραὶ εἰσιν. Διὰ τοῦτο μὴ γίνεσθε ἄφρονες, ἀλλὰ συνιἐντες τἱ τὸ θὲλημα τοῦ κυρίου. Καὶ μὴ μεθὑσκεσθε οἴνῷ, ἐν ῷ ἐστὶν ἀσωτἱα, ἀλλὰ πληροῦσθε ἐν πνεὑματι, λαλοῦντες ἑαυτοῖς ψαλμοῖς καὶ ὑμνοις καὶ ῷδαῖς πνευματικαῖς, ἄδοντες καὶ ψἁλλοντες ἐν τῇ καρδἰα ὑμῶν τῷ κυρἰῳ.

# GOSPEL

#### The Reading is from Luke 18:35-43

At that time, as Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

# GOSPEL

#### **Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 18:35-43**

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, Ἐγένετο δὲ ἐν τῷ ἐγγίζειν αὐτὸν εἰς Ἱεριχὼ τυφλός τις ἐκάθητο παρὰ τὴν ὁδὸν προσαιτῶν ἀκούσας δὲ ἀχλου διαπορευομένου ἐπυνθάνετο τί εἴη ταῦτα. ἀπήγγειλαν δὲ αὐτῷ ὅτι ἘΠσοῦς ὁ Ναζωραῖος παρέρχεται. καὶ ἐβόησε λέγων ἘΠσοῦ υἰὲ Δαυίδ, ἐλέησόν με· καὶ οἱ προάγοντες ἐπετίμων αὐτῷ ἵνα σιωπήσῃ· αὐτὸς δὲ πολλῷ μᾶλλον ἕκραζεν· υἰὲ Δαυίδ, ἐλέησόν με. σταθεὶς δὲ ὁ ἘΠσοῦς ἐκέλευσεν αὐτὸν ἀχθῆναι πρὸς αὐτόν. ἐγγίσαντος δὲ αὐτοῦ ἐπηρώτησεν αὐτὸν λέγων· τί σοι θέλεις ποιήσω; ὁ δὲ εἶπε· Κύριε, ἕνα ἀναβλέψω. καὶ ὁ ἘΠσοῦς εἶπεν αὐτῷ ἀνάβλεψον· ἡ πίστις σου σέσωκέ σε. καὶ παραχρῆμα ἀνέβλεψε, καὶ ἡκολούθει αὐτῷ δοξάζων τὸν Θεόν· καὶ πᾶς ὁ λαὸς ἰδὼν ἔδωκεν αἶνον τῷ Θεῷ.

# **Christmas through Epiphany Services**

*Christmas Eve* - Sunday, Dec. 24, Divine Liturgy 6:30 PM. *Christmas Day* - 9:00 AM. The Nativity of Our Lord Festal Matins (Only).

St. Basil - Mon., Jan. 1st, Orthros & Divine Liturgy 8:30AM.

*Eve of Epiphany* - Fri., Jan. 5, Vesperal Liturgy, Blessing of the Waters 6PM. *Epiphany* - Sat., Jan. 6, Orthros, Divine Liturgy of St Basil: Agiasmos 8:30AM.

# Saints & Feast Days



December 03

### The Holy Prophet Sophonias (Zephaniah)

This Prophet, who is ninth in order among the minor Prophets, was the son of Chusi (Cushi), from the tribe of Levi, or according to some, the great-grandson of King Hezekias. He prophesied in the years of Josias, who reigned in the years 641-610 before Christ. His book of prophecy is divided into three chapters. His name means "Yah has concealed."

### December 06

NIKO

### Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra

This Saint lived during the reign of Saint Constantine the Great, and reposed in 330, As a young man, he desired to espouse the solitary life. He made a pilgrimage to the holy city Jerusalem, where he found a place to withdraw to devote himself to prayer. It was made known to him, however, that this was not the will of God for him, but that he

should return to his homeland to be a cause of salvation for many. He returned to Myra, and was ordained bishop. He became known for his abundant mercy, providing for the poor and needy, and delivering those who had been unjustly accused. No less was he known for his zeal for the truth. He was present at the First Ecumenical Council of the 318 Fathers at Nicaea in 325; upon hearing the blasphemies that Arius brazenly uttered against the Son of God, Saint Nicholas struck him on the face. Since the canons of the Church forbid the clergy to strike any man at all, his fellow bishops were in perplexity what disciplinary action was to be taken against this hierarch whom all revered. In the night our Lord Jesus Christ and our Lady Theotokos appeared to certain of the bishops, informing them that no action was to be taken against him, since he had acted not out of passion, but extreme love and piety. The Dismissal Hymn for holy hierarchs, The truth of things hath revealed thee to thy flock ... was written originally for Saint Nicholas. He is the patron of all travellers, and of sea-farers in particular; he is one of the best known and best loved Saints of all time.

# SERMON

#### THE LIFE OF THOSE WHO ARE GUIDED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Apostle Paul, being aware of his responsibility as a preacher of the Gospel and a teacher of the Churches, recommends to the Christians of Ephesus to live as people who belong to the light. The Apostle is accustomed to using the images of light and darkness, to describe faith or unbelief; piety, virtue or impiety. That is why he emphasizes that the life of those who are guided by the Holy Spirit is distinguished by some characteristic features, which make them people of faith, piety, and virtue, so that their existence radiates from light and God's grace.

These traits are, first of all, kindness, which, according to the sacred Chrysostom, means meekness and long-suffering, leniency, kindness. Next is justice, i.e virtue that repels injustice and greed, which is idolatry (Col. 3:5) and, therefore, a practical denial of the only true God. And, finally, the truth, which the same Father, who is aptly called "Paul's mouth", understands as the rightness of life in all levels, as internal and external sobriety, i.e. purity of soul and body from all defilement and sin.

According to the above, those who have the light of God's grace are able to examine what is pleasing to the Lord. That is why the Apostle exhorts every believer not to participate in the dark and unbeneficial works of others, but with his virtuous life to reveal them, because necessarily where the light shines every dark work is revealed.

#### The Fruitless Works of Darkness

And here is precisely the root where the unfruitful works of darkness grow, which gradually lead man to burnout, mental and physical illness, unhappiness, disappointment, and isolation. It is characteristic that the Apostle avoids naming even some of the works of darkness, given that in his time, these works were done in secret, so that a person not be stigmatized from a social viewpoint. In our years, however, not rarely a person, not infrequently boasts about his sins, which he projects as achievements, and provokes the social whole, with the aim of showing his alleged value and his works from a negative side. Unfortunately, the sense of shame, morality and dignity tends to disappear not only from many younger people, but also from people of a mature age.

#### Censuring With Discernment and the Spirit of God

Censuring, which the Apostle recommends that believers use, does not constitute an aggressive action of words and actions with the aim of tearing down sinners. The motivation and content of censuring, must be an act of love for the straying person. In this way, censuring is not necessarily also criticism, since it comes from sympathy for the brothers who are sinning, and it aims at their correction. Besides, we believers must not forget that for all of us, the danger of straying into sin and darkness, lurks, as Paul says: "let him who thinks he is standing see that he not fall" (1 Cor. 10:12).

Therefore, censuring must be done with a lot of discretion, evangelical love, prayer and the Spirit of God. Never on impulse, arrogance, a disposition to criticize and zeal "without knowledge" (Rom. 10:2). That is why it is safer that the very life of the true Christian become a silent censuring of those who are in the darkness of sin. Since the power of virtue and holiness correctly and positively

censures a person's existence and draws up the image of God, hidden by sin, which he carries within him.

Finally, with his usual paternal love, Paul advises the believers to pay attention to their way of life; to properly use their time, and to be filled with the Spirit of God, so that they can glorify the Lord from their heart with psalms, hymns and spiritual odes. Thus, they will become poles of attraction and silent preachers of the Gospel.

# We Welcome All Who Worship with Us Today!

### Memorial

40 day – Tula T. Sares

5 year – Lucy Sarris

5 year – Fotoula Sarris

5 year – Antonia Sarris Pappas

17 year – Haralambos "Bobby" Sarris

36 year – Panagiotis Sarris

### Trisagion

2 year - Adeline Decker Fr. Ekdikios Louis & Panagiota "Pota" Tourkantonis

May their memory be eternal. Aιωνία η Μνήμη!

**Coffee Fellowship is** sponsored by the *Sarris & Sares family* in memory of their loved ones.

If you would like to sponsor a Coffee Fellowship, please contact the Office.

### Sunday School Announcements

**Important dates:** 



**Giving Tree** is on display in the Lobby. Please select a paper ornament (or two) from the tree. Place the wrapped gifts *with the ornament attached* to it under the tree by Sunday, December 17th. The gifts will be delivered to the Dimock Center in Boston & other nearby organizations.

Christmas Pageant Rehearsals: for Grades K-5 after Sunday School class: Dec 3 and 10.

### **Christmas Pageant: December 17th**



Please RSVP to the church office 617.924.8182 by Saturday, December 3.

> Open to all Taxiarchae Senior Citizens!

Jointly hosted by AHEPA and the Taxiarchae Philoptochos Society Gingerbread House House online.

**Decorating** Friday, December 15th, 6-8 pm

Small bites will be served

Houses are \$35 each. You MUST pre-purchase by December 8th. Contact the office with and questions.

We will have a limited quantity of houses. You are also welcome to bring your own house to decorate. You must Order & Pay for your Gingerbread House online.

Go to our website, drop down menu, then to Taxiarchae Store.





We're reaching out to our Parishioners for help with some of the needed improvements to our Church infrastructure and we would be honored if you could contribute. Your donation, no matter how large or small, will help us reach our goal!

If you can donate, please visit the Church website click on the donate button then choose Capital Improvement Fund from the dropdown menu or mail a check to the Church office. We appreciate your support!

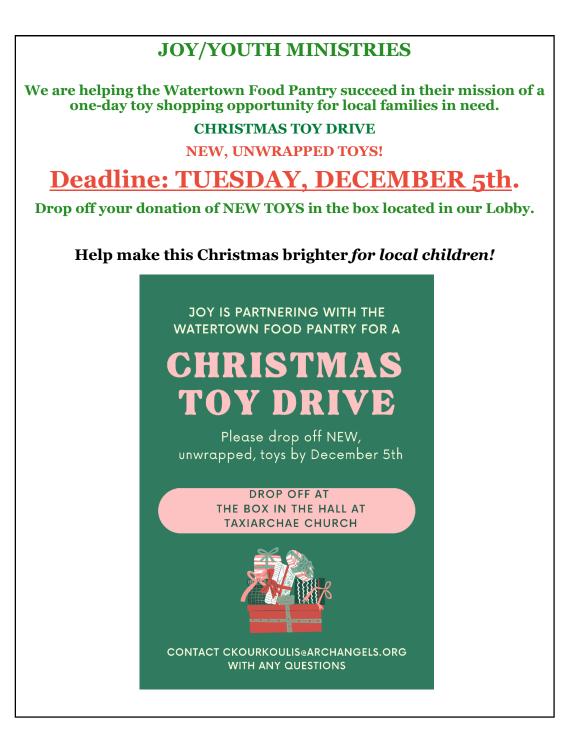
# CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN



As part of the Church Capital Improvement Campaign the next item that will be completed is the parking lot starting on November 13<sup>th</sup>.

At the fall General Assembly meeting we discussed the Church Capital Improvement Campaign and the need to raise \$150,000. To date we have raised \$11,000, we will use approved monies from the operations account form needed improvements but will need to repay the operations account once we have raised the money. Please visit the Church website, click on donate then choose Capital Improvement Campaign to help us meet our goal.





# CHRISTMAS CARD PARTICIPIATION DEADLINE TODAY - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD

It's that time of year again to send you All Christmas card donations will go towards th	nmunity Christmas Card r Christmas greetings to our parish familyl e Philoptochos Agape Fund which was established are in need of a little extra help financially due to
now before the busy holiday season approache May God bless you as we joyfully celebrate Χριστούγευνα! Kala Hristouyennal	the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Καλά or your support!
Community Christmas Card Order Form Send to: Taxiarchae/Archangels Attn: Philoptochos — Frances Levas Greek Orthodox Church 25 Bigelow Avenue	Deadline: Sunday, December 3, 2023 Make checks payable to: Taxiarchae Ladies Philoptochos
Watertown, MA 02472 Clearly print the name(s) you wish to appear on the card.	
Name(s):	Telephone:

A Concert of Christmas Joy

Two performances:

Saturday, December 9 at 4 PM hosted by St. George Greek Orthodox Church Choir 54 South Common Street, Lynn, MA

Sunday, December 10 at 4 PM hosted by Taxiarchae Greek Orthodox Church Choir 25 Bigelow Avenue, Watertown, MA

Cynthia Mitaras Alex Director

Sophia Argeros Accompanist, Director

Monty Hill, Guest Director

Jim Speros, Accompanist

Donations to our Choirs will be graciously accepted.

# **PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS** WILL BE HELD ON DEC. **10**th AFTER CHURCH SERVICES.

Please Note: The Archdiocese Parish Regulations stipulate that only "members in good standing" are allowed to vote.

The candidates that were nominated for re-election to another term are John Abate, Harry Berlis and Harry Chehames.

New candidates for the next term are Bill Alex and Frances Levas.

*A Note from the Parish Council President* - I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Costas Karageorgis and Brian Marriott, who will be stepping down after many years of dedicated service.

Thank you Costas and Brian, we know you will always be there to support our parish.

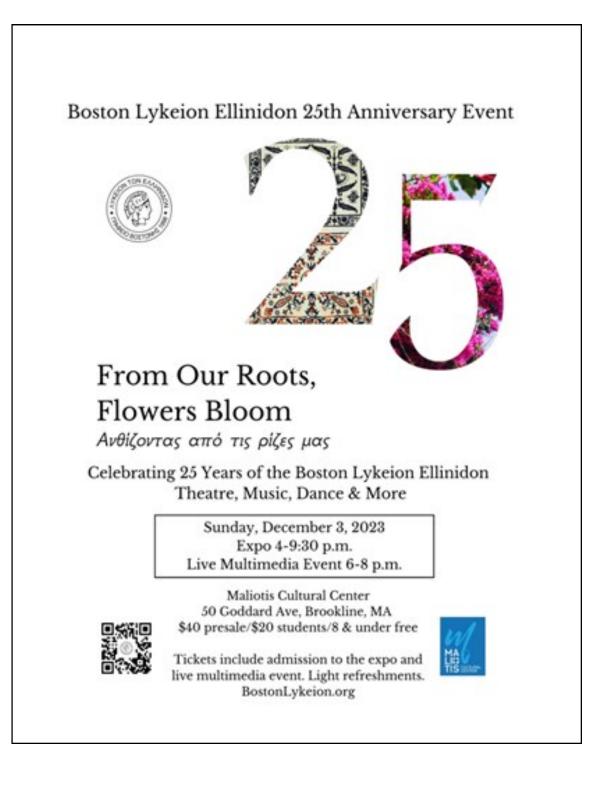
George Faggas



# **Decorate our Church for Christmas**

Donations are being accepted for decorating our church for the Christmas Season. Your help is greatly appreciated. Thank you.









# Youth Ministry

**Ongoing FOOD DRIVE - Collecting for the Watertown Food Pantry** Your donation of food items can be put on the table, located in the Lobby. We will deliver them to the Watertown Food Pantry every Tuesday. Thank you for helping your local community!

**ESPECIALLY NEEDED - CANS OF TUNA & BREAKFAST CEREAL.** As always, the Food Pantry is still in need of school snacks.



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# **Taxiarchae Hellenic Cultural Center**

Planning a party or reception? Our beautiful venues are now updated and ready for any & all of your event needs, up to 500 people.

For information and assistance in planning your future event, please call Irene Apostolou Cobb at the Church Office at 617-924-8182 or email: functionmanager@goarchangels.com



DREAM IT AND IT CAN COME TRUE! YOUR EVENT CAN BE <u>EVERYTHING</u> YOU WISHED.

