



# ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΣ ΖΩΗ • ORTHODOX LIFE

*A Publication of*

## SAINT VASILIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

5 Paleologos Street, Peabody, MA 01960-4496 · Tel: (978) 531-0777 · Fax: (978) 538-9522

June/July 2025

### Never Forget God's Blessings



*The fruit discloses the cultivation of a tree; so the expression of a thought discloses the cultivation of a person's mind. (Sirach 27:6)*

A tree is meant to bear fruit. But as Sirach reminds us, the quantity and quality of the fruit are determined by the way the tree has been cared for. What kinds of nutrients have fed its roots? How much light has shone down upon its leaves.

Like the Old Testament writer, Christ tells his disciples that every tree is known by its own fruit. But Jesus also says: "A good person out of the store of goodness in his or her heart produces good." That means what you put into the *storehouse* of your heart and mind, what you take in to nourish yourself, eventually flows out from you for better or worse.

You might ask yourself... *How can I fill the storehouse of my heart with good? How can I nourish and cultivate myself so that I can bear the good fruit I was created to bear?*

There are some obvious answers to these questions. Regular prayer can help you set down deep roots in the Lord. Committing Scripture to memory can create an environment of blessing and faith that will help you produce good fruit.

But there is another not-so-obvious answer: your relationships with other brothers and sisters in Christ. People who share your faith can be a great help in nourishing your hearts and soul. Brothers and sisters with whom you can pray can lift you up. People with whom you can join in serving the less fortunate can help you bear the fruit of compassion. Friends who speak words of encouragement can help you steer clear of gossip, resentment, or bitterness.

Above all, never forget God's blessings. It is God Himself who created you to bear good fruit. He wants to fill you and enable your words to reveal His goodness and love and He wants to use your friends to help you as well! **Lord help me bear good fruit!**

*+ Father Chris*

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## CHURCH SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

### FUNERALS

The following members of St. Vasilios has fallen asleep into the hands of our Lord over the past months.

**Xanthi (Krygiopoulos) Siasios**

**Joanne (Katsapetsea) Goldstein**

**Angelo L. George**

**Denis G. Geanakakis**

**Gagi Nakuci**

**Helen Pappis**

**May their memory be eternal**



### WEDDINGS

Schaeffer Charles & Nicole Goodridge  
with sponsor John Lalikos

David Michael Pekarsky &  
Katherine Claire Dimitriou  
with sponsor  
Nicole Vankuilenburg

Alexios Kastrinakis Prentakis &  
Christina Lee Arlin Prentakis  
with sponsor  
Melina Prentakis

### BAPTISMS

The child of  
Schaeffer & Nicole Charles  
With Godparent Angelina Lalikos

The child of  
Peter & Kristen Goodridge  
With Godparent Nicole Charles

The child of  
Alexander & Magdalena Ruggeri  
With Godparents  
John & Donna Pantazelos

The child of  
Patrick & Eleni Dumas  
With Godparents  
Ellen & Christos Christopoulos

The child of  
George & Michelle Scangas  
With Godparent Christopher Scangas

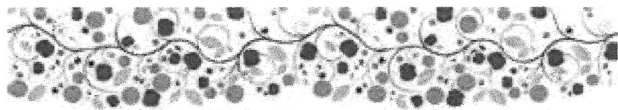
The child of  
Christopher & Maria Dimitrakopoulos  
With Godparents  
James Dimitrakopoulos &  
Angelina Finley

The child of  
Christopher & Maria Dimitrakopoulos  
With Godparents  
James Dimitrakopoulos &  
Angelina Finley

The child of  
Jonathan & Antigone Springer  
With Godparent Isaac Smith

The child of  
Julian & Jaimie Armstrong  
With Godparents Demetra & Mary Voto

The child of  
James & Maria Frazer  
With Godparents  
Ana & Konstandino Simou



You Can Make a Difference

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE****John Maihos, President****PARISH COUNCIL NEWS****PARISH ADVANCEMENT CAMPAIGN**

Where am I? What day is this? Sometimes it get so busy that time seems to move faster than a speeding bullet to quote an old Superman TV show. It seems like just yesterday that Steve Stephanides and I were talking about the "elevator project" in the center. It wasn't yesterday, that's for sure. A lot of time has passed yet it still seems like yesterday.



Here we are now, ST. VASILIOS HAS A WORKING ELEVATOR! From a construction side, that part of the project is completed and inspected. From a financial side though, we still have some steps to take. It's been like a marathon, and we are approaching the finish line. We've already beaten Heartbreak Hill, and we can taste victory.

We need that high-five. We need a cup of water. We need your friendly encouragement. We aren't in a bad place financially, but we would like to finish this project without carrying long-term debt. If you have delayed in giving something, anything to this campaign, please do it now.

It would be such a blessing to have 100% participation, yet I know we may fall short. Still, if everyone did a little, we'd all feel a part of the campaign, and we'd all enjoy the benefits of the repairs to the old construction, and the new construction, with a bit of "skin in the game."

**FESTIVAL**

My sincere thanks to all who volunteered for our first-even Memorialo Day Weekend Greek Festival. The weather wasn't our friend, but we still made it work, we had a good time, and we raised funds for our parish. It was nice to see so many more neighborhood people come out to enjoy our food and fun. Many took advantage of a tour of our church. That may be the real benefit!

Without the dedication of a core group of people, events like this don't happen. One challenge is that we have to continue to grow that "core" group. We would love you to participate in parish-wide events like this, and we'd like to know if there are any roadblocks holding you back. Please let me know personally so we can find solutions to anyone's problems. At the end of the day, we are all united in one thing... Service to Christ's work

**WEEKDAY SERVICES/ΚΑΘΗΜΕΡΙΝΕΣ ΙΕΡΕΣ ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΕΣ**

Monday June 30  
**Synaxis of the Holy Apostles**

8:00 am Orthros

9:00 am Divine Liturgy

**Paraklesis**

Friday, August 1 @ 7 pm

**Paraklesis**

Monday, August 4 @ 7 pm

Wednesday, August, 6

**Transfiguration**

8 am Orthros

9 am Divine Liturgy

**Paraklesis**

Friday, August 8 @ 7 pm

**Paraklesis**

Monday, August 11 @ 7 pm

**Paraklesis**

Wednesday, August 13 @ 7 pm

Friday, August 15

**Dormition of The Theotokos**

8 am Orthros

9 am Divine Liturgy

Δευτερα, 30 Ιουνιου

**Συναξις των Αγίων Αποστόλων**

8 πμ Ορθρος

9 πμ Θεία Λειτουργία

**Παρακλησις**

Παρασκευη, 1<sup>η</sup> Αυγουστου 7μμ

**Παρακλησις**

Δευτερα, 4<sup>η</sup> Αυγουστου 7μμ

Τεταρτη, 6 Αυγουστου  
**Η Μεταμορφωσις του Κυριου**

8 πμ Ορθρος

9 πμ Θεία Λειτουργία

**Παρακλησις**

Παρασκευη 8<sup>η</sup> Αυγουστου 7μμ

**Παρακλησις**

Δευτερα. 11<sup>η</sup> Αυγουστου 7μμ

**Παρακλησις**

Τεταρτη. 13<sup>η</sup> Αυγουστου 7μμ

Παρασκευη 15<sup>η</sup> Αυγουστου

**Κοιμησις της Υπεραγίας**

**Θεοτοκου**

8 πμ Ορθρος

9 πμ Θεία Λειτουργία

## ST. VASILIOS PARISH ADVANCEMENT CAMPAIGN

### Let's finish what we started!

The \$3 million Parish Advancement Campaign is transforming our campus by connecting the Church, the Rev. Andrew J. Demotses Educational Center, and the old Greek School Building into one seamless, accessible space. Soon, our entire community—young and old—will be able to move freely between buildings, safe and sheltered, surrounded by faith.

Pledge	Yearly	Monthly
\$100,000	\$33,333	\$2,778
\$ 25,000	\$ 8,333	\$ 694
\$ 10,000	\$ 3,333	\$ 278
\$ 5,000	\$ 1,667	\$ 139
\$ 2,500	\$ 833	\$ 69
\$ 1,000	\$ 333	\$ 28

The dream is nearly realized. We are in the final phase of fundraising, with a goal of raising \$500,000. So far, 184 of our 720 parishioners have pledged \$384,000. We are just \$116,000 away from completing this vision. **This is the moment for 100% participation. If every parishioner contributes what they can—whether that's \$100, \$500, \$1,000, or more—we will reach our goal and complete this project as a fully united community. And remember - pledges may be fulfilled monthly over 3 years.**

**We need you now—please return your pledge card to the office today. For more information or to give online, visit [givetostvasilios.org](http://givetostvasilios.org).**

### CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Construction is nearing completion. As of June 14th, the elevator is now operational. Over the next couple of weeks, our contractor will be putting the finishing touches on our project, completing the Church - Educational Center Connector, the flooring, HVAC, and some other finishing touches. We can't wait to show you the finished product.



(Continued on page 5)

## ST. VASILIOS PARISH ADVANCEMENT CAMPAIGN

(Continued from page 4)

### SAVE THE DATE

**Our Ribbon Cutting will take place on Sunday, October 19th, where we will be joined by His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios to bless our remodeled campus, and recognize all who contributed to the St. Vasilios Parish Advancement Campaign. - More info to follow!**

Please visit our campaign website, [givetostvasilios.org](http://givetostvasilios.org) for more information or reach out to



GERONDELIS  
FOUNDATION

### ANNOUNCEMENT OF COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

For the 35<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, the Gerondelis Foundation Inc. will grant **college scholarships to first year college students of Greek ancestry** in the amount of up to **\$7,500.00** each, depending on the number of qualified applicants who meet the following eligibility requirements. The applicant must:

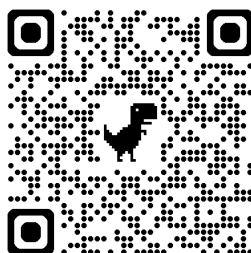
Reside or attend school in Essex County and be a member of the 2025 graduating class of any public or private high school;

Rank in the upper twenty percent of his or her class (This change is applicable for the 2025 application season); **or** have achieved a combined Evidence-Based Reading and Writing score and Math score of at least 1200 on the SAT test; **or** a composite score of 27 on the ACT;

Officially be admitted to a four year college or university; and

Be of at least one-half Greek lineage.

**The deadline is July 1, 2025. To apply for the scholarship, please visit [www.gerondelisfoundation.com](http://www.gerondelisfoundation.com).**





## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

### FEBRUARY 9 THROUGH APRIL 3

Mrs. Martha Alexopoulos	Mr. Vasili Frangias	Mr. Frederick P. Koufos	Mr. & Mrs. James Saxonis
Mrs. Sofia Amvrosiades	Mr. & Mrs. James Frazier	Mr. & Mrs. Theodoros Kou-	Mrs. Stephanie Scanlan
Mr. & Mrs. Arion S. Anezis	Mrs. Stephanie Hernandez	gianos	Mrs. Barbara Shahnaiian
Mr. George Apostolides	Mrs. Estelle Iacovino	Mr.&Mrs. Nicholas G. Kur-	Mr. & Mrs. Konstandino Simou
Dr. Paul Jon Apostolides	Ms. Zoe Iacovino	kuvelos	Mr. Charles Smyrnios
Ms Elaine Ardini	Mrs. Effie Kapnis	Ms. Danielle Kurkuvelos	Ms. Christina Stephanides
Mrs. Maria Arena	Ms Paula Karahalios	Ms. Paula Macdonald	Ms. Julia Tansey
Mr. & Mrs Simon & Teale	Mr. & Mrs. Evan Karalolos	Mr. & Mrs. Apostolos Makridis	Mr. Constantine Theokas
Bernstein	Mr. Victor Karalolos	Mrs. Katrina Mancebo	Ms. Theodora Tsakopiakos
Mr. Matthew Chigas	Mr. Mrs. Michael & Sophia	Mr. George M Manos	Mr Arthur Tsionis
Ms. Joanne Christ	Karamas	Mr. & Mrs. Athanasios	Mr. Takis Tzortzis
Mr. & Mrs. Carson Christuk	Mr. & Mrs. Apostolos Kara-	Metropoulos	Mr. Thomas S. Vasilakopoulos
Ms. Pamela Coufos	voussianis	Ms. Vasiliki Migos	Mr. Antonios B. Vatousios
Ms. Eleni Coufos	Mr. Thomas Katsapetses	Ms. Vasiliki Moutsoulas	Mrs. Panagiota Venetsanakis
Mrs. Panorea Dakos	Mr. & Mrs. Yiannis & Pam	Mr. & Mrs. Gary Nadeau	Mr. & Mrs. Christos & Venetia
Mr. & Mrs. Brett Davekos	Katsiris	Mr. Athanasios Pantazelos	Vlachos
Mrs. Nina Delaney	Mrs. Sharon Kokoras	Mr. Angelo M. Parianos	Ms. Alana Vounessea
Mr. & Mrs. Dimitri Dimopoulos	Mr. Jonathan Kokoras	Mrs. Sandra Richards	Mr. & Mrs. Joakim
Mr. Petro Duni	Mr. Christopher Kokoras	Mrs. Amy Salvo	Yeanakopoulos
Mr. Vlasi Duni	Mr.&Mrs. Antonios & Christine	Mrs. Nicole Sanger	Mr. Demetrios Zachariadis
Mrs. Angelina Finley	Konstantilakys	Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Saxonis	Mr. & Mrs. Dimitrios Zamakis

## METROPOLIS OF BOSTON MINISTRY AWARDS



On Sunday June 8, members of parishes all over the Boston Metropolis met at Gillette Stadium for the annual Ministry Awards celebration. From St. Vasilios, our honorees were Andrew and Rita Constantinou. Fr. Chris and Presbyteria Claire, Fr. Yanni and Presbyteria Marina, Steve Kalivas, John Maihos, and Carol Spyropoulos joined Rita, Anastasia and Paul Constantinou for the special event in Foxboro. Andrew was traveling in Greece for his graduation from Holy Cross Theological School for Deacons. We know he wishes he could have been in both places.

Both are deserving, and together there was no question.

Andrew and Rita have served St. Vasilios in a variety of roles. They have been active in the Youth Ministry and represented our Metropolis at the inaugural Youth Conference hosted by the Ecumenical Patriarchate. They have also organized the St. Vasilios Scholarship Awards and are now involved with the parish mission trips.

Both have the gift of teaching. Rita teaches kindergarten church school and Andrew is working toward his Master of Divinity at Hellenic College.

Their children, Anastasia and Paul are also active in our parish. They participate in GOYA, attend church school, the dance group, and will be traveling in this year's mission trip.



# ST. VASILIOS PHILOPTOCHOS ATHENA

June/July 2025

Dear Reverend Fathers, Sisters and Friends,

Before we wind down with our summer break, let us not forget the amazing Philoptochos work that was done in April and May. Our hard work, dedication and fundraising pays off with remarkable success and rewards. Let us start with homemade cookies and plants that were delivered for the thirty Easter visitations in April. Donations were made to the YOCAMA group for their trip to the Blackfeet nation in Montana, to the National Philoptochos Children's Medical Fund and to the Parish Advancement Campaign. May was jam packed with activities, and many jumped in to help. We hosted the Mother's Day coffee fellowship in memory of Kristi Fadel. Dinner was prepared for the Haven for Hunger group and there were many cooking workshops to prepare pastries and dolmades for the Memorial Day Weekend Festival.

May elections were held. I am proud to announce our new president is Joyce Kachinski. She is ambitious, incredibly talented and is going to make a fabulous president and leader! But behind each president there must be a great executive board and group of board members. We sure have them! Thank you to Bonnie Antoniou, Sandy Ruggeri, Tracey Franggos, Bessie Silva, Dolly Christopher, Evelyn Rockas, Anna Chronis, Heidi Pappas, and Helen Papadopoulos.

Our year-end luncheon celebration is scheduled for Saturday, June 14, 2025. We anticipate a group of 50 attendees at this luncheon. An enjoyable time is expected!

My term for president has come to an end but my service and love will never end. The Philoptochos and the community at St. Vasilios have been such a pleasure to work with. The love, support, and friendships I have gained will stay with me forever. I personally want to thank all the officers, board members and volunteers who contribute to the success of our organization, the Philoptochos Athena. We make a difference in people's lives!

God Bless!

With love to all,

**Stacey**

Stacey Yavorski, President

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**Any questions, please contact Mike Ambeliotis at [ambe300@gmail.com](mailto:ambe300@gmail.com)**



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**Sunday Schedule: Orthros: 8am**  
**Liturgy: 9am**

# JULY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 \\	3	4 Office Closed	5
6 4th Sunday of Matthew St. Basil's Kitchen	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Fathers of the 4th Ecumenical Council	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 6th Sunday of Matthew  Prophet Elias	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 7th Sunday of Matthew St. Panteleimon	28	29	31			

## THANK YOU!



As chairman of our Memorial Day weekend festival, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers, sponsors, and donors who helped make this event a success—despite the challenging weather. Your dedication and generosity reflect the deep, selfless love you have for our parish, and it's that very spirit that carries us through difficult times. Thank you for making a difference. *PC John Kourtelidis, Chairman*



Sunday Schedule: Orthros: 8am

Liturgy: 9am

## AUGUST 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Paraklesis 7pm	2
3 8th Sunday of Matthew  St. Basil's Kitchen	4	5	6 Transfigura- tion Orthos 8 am Liturgy 9 am	7	8	9
	Paraklesis 7pm	Panagia's	Garden	Camp	Paraklesis 7pm	
10 9th Sunday of Matthew	11  Paraklesis 7pm	12	13  Paraklesis 7pm	14	15 Dormition Orthos 8 am Liturgy 9 am	16
17 10th Sunday of Matthew	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 11th Sunday of Matthew	25	26	27	28  Vesperal Liturgy 6pm	29 Beheading of John the Baptist	30
31 12th Sunday of Matthew  St. Basil's Kitchen						



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# ST. VASILLIOS GREEK SCHOOL ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΣΧΟΛΕΙΟ ΑΓΙΟΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΣ

## GREEK SCHOOL NEWS

This school year flew by! We are proud to share that our enrollment this year continued to grow! Graduation for our 6th grade class was held on Sunday, June 2nd following liturgy.



*The following students graduated Greek School this year:*

**Olivia Cameron** Ολιβία Κάμερον  
**Christos Kalaitzidis** Χρήστος Καλαϊτζίδης  
**Aggeliki Stamos** Αγγελική Στάμου  
**Konstantina Speridakos** Κωνσταντίνα Σπυριδάκου

Not only did they learn Greek over the past 8 years, they learned public speaking skills, prayers and hymns in Greek, Greek culture and traditions, traditional dances, and made friendships within our church community that will last a lifetime.

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## ST. VASILLIOS GREEK SCHOOL ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΣΧΟΛΕΙΟ ΑΓΙΟΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΣ

In addition to this Aggeliki and Christo also hold  
Ellinomatheia proficiency certificates in Modern Greek.

**Congratulations to our graduates! Συγχαρητήρια και εις πανοτατα!**

We celebrated the end of the school year with our annual field trip to In the Game! Our End of Year Program was held on June 2nd. Students sang songs and recited poems. Each student was given a Greek School t- shirt. A special thanks to Demetrios Kalaitzidis and Tony Vatosios for assisting us with the finale. Our finale featured the song Μετρώ τα Κύματα Metro ta Kimata. Aggeliki was on vocals while the Greek School students sang the chorus along with Christo playing the drums, Tony on the keyboard and Demetri on the guitar. Check it out on the St. Vasilios Greek School Facebook page, it was amazing!



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## ST. VASSILIOS GREEK SCHOOL ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΣΧΟΛΕΙΟ ΑΓΙΟΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΣ

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Our school serves students ages 3 to 7th grade.  
Greek School registration will be posted online soon! The **first day of Greek School** is  
**Monday, September 15th!**

Save the date for the **International Festival in Peabody Square** scheduled for **Sunday, September 7th**  
with a rain date of the 14th. All students are invited to perform dancing, we will have a rehearsal on  
Wednesday, September 3rd at 3:30.

**Καλό Καλοκαίρι! Wishing you all a great summer!**

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## CHURCH SCHOOL

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Thank you to our Church School students, parents and teachers for your patience and understanding of this past school year, during all the construction phases we had to navigate. It appears that we will be back to normal this September.

Thank you to the young girls and young ladies who participated during Holy Week as Myrrophoras.

One of our last first grade class lessons was about the Lord's Ascension. Please see the photo of some of our first graders as they represented the Disciples watching Jesus ascend to Heaven.

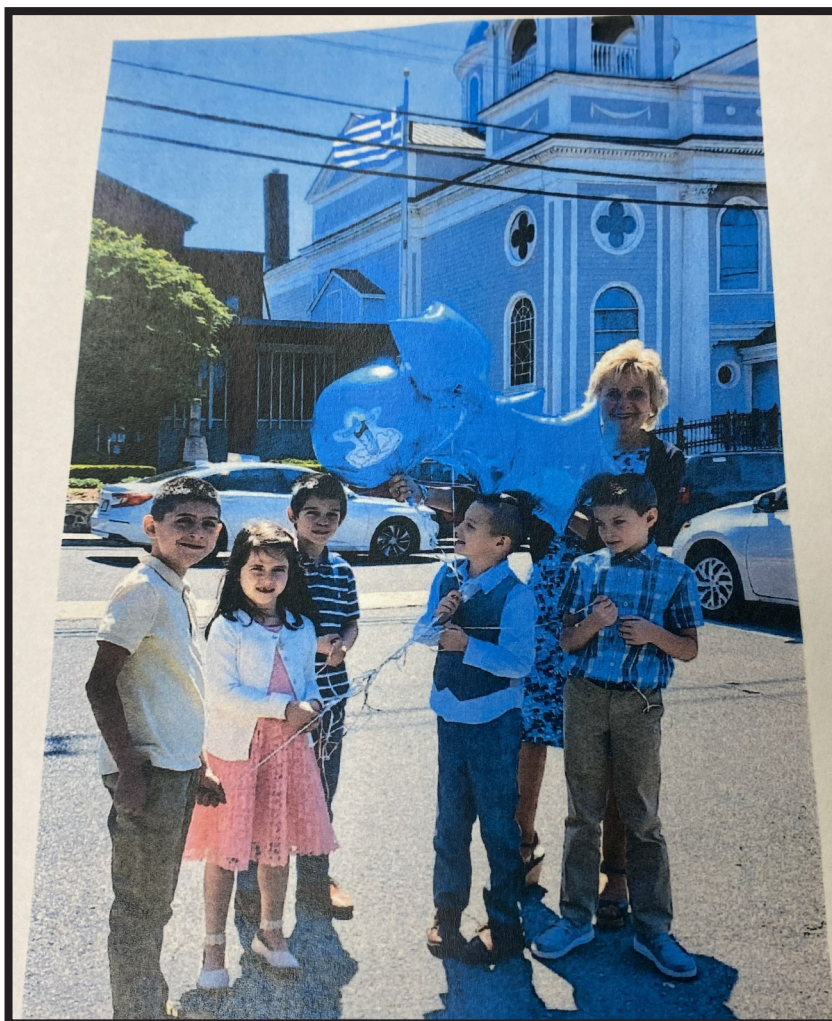
Congratulations to our very own, Rita and Andrew Constantinou, who were selected as St. Vasilios' 2025 Ministry Honorees. The impact both Rita and Andy have on everything that is our Church and Church School is immeasurable.

We are sad that our first-grade teacher, Stacey Yavorski, is 'retiring' from teaching. Stacey's family is growing, and she will be needed by her children and grandchildren. She was such a huge part of our Church School staff, and our children were the beneficiaries of her love and guidance. Thank you, Stacey, and God Bless!

The Country Store was successful at this year's festival. Thank you to all who donated, baked goodies, and purchased items and raffle tickets. Thank you to Persephone Santos for all her hard work.

Last, but not least, thank you to the parents who make sure to bring their children to class. It matters!

To our kids; have a safe and fun summer!





## ST. BASIL'S KITCHEN MINISTRY

Dear Parishioners, I hope this message finds you well. I am reaching out to share an exciting opportunity for volunteering within our parish community.

As some of you may know, I have started cooking trays of chicken broccoli Alfredo for Lifebridge in Salem (Lifebridge is here to meet the urgent needs of the homeless and under-housed on the North Shore). This initiative began last Sunday and will continue until the Sunday before Palm Sunday. It has been a fulfilling experience, and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve those in need.

To further support this ministry and ensure its success, I am seeking 3-4 volunteers each Sunday to assist with preparing the meals. Your help would make a significant difference and bring joy to those we serve.

If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information about this opportunity, reach out to me directly during our regular Sunday Coffee Fellowship. Your participation and support are highly appreciated. Thank you for considering this request, and I look forward to working together to make a positive impact in our community as taught to us by our patron Saint Basil.

Yours in Christ,  
Brandon Simpson  
Saint Basil's Kitchen Ministry



## DONATIONS

\$100 Frank & Cynthia Peters in memory of Connie Lowell  
\$200 Petros & Eva Sofronas for good health of family  
\$100 Rev. Constantine & Presb. Georgia Sitaras in memory of Joanne Katsapetses Goldstein  
\$200 Louis Bakos in memory of Ted Theodore  
\$100 Stamos family in memory of mother & grandmother; Maria Psihogios--Greek School donation

\$1,510 Family & Friends in memory of Xanthi Siasios  
\$225 Family & Friends in memory of Kristi Fadel  
\$225 Family & Friends in memory of Pres. Sophia Saravelas  
\$325 Family & Friends in memory of Eleni Doukas Tzortzis  
\$575 Family & Friends in memory of George Partaledis  
\$50 St. Vasilios Philoptochos Athena in memory of: Helen Pappis & Chryssanthi Tsitsinos  
\$100 Family & Friends in memory of Chryssanthi Tsitsinos



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CHILDREN’S PAGE



## CHURCH CAMP

# St. Vasilios Church Camp Panagia's Garden

August 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.



### Sample Schedule

9:00 a.m. Arrival  
9:15 a.m. Morning Service  
9:45 a.m. Music in Choir Loft  
10:15 a.m. Gym Games  
11:00 a.m. Bible Story  
11:30 a.m. Lunch  
12:00 p.m. Special Guest  
12:30 p.m. Arts & Crafts  
1:30 p.m. Closing Service  
2:00 p.m. Dismissal

Prior guests include: The Bubble Man,  
McDonny's Farm Petting Zoo, Mad Science

For more information or to reserve your spot, please email:  
[SteakSanto@gmail.org](mailto:SteakSanto@gmail.org)

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