One of the most popular Saints of our faith, St. Demetrius the Great Martyr, is celebrated on October 26. He is the spiritual mentor and protector of Thessaloniki. Among the virtues of his faith that he developed was the love he shared with all people and youth. One other significant virtue that he had, as well as all the Saints of our faith, was the power of his persistent prayer to God that performed miracles. By the power of his prayer and his blessings, St. Nestor, who was small in stature, defeated Lyaeus, who was a notable wrestler and had been brought to kill Christians in the stadium for the amusement of the people.

I would like to share a very powerful story about the power of prayer that I experienced during my theological studies at the “St. Sava” Theological School in Belgrade, Serbia, which was then the Socialistic Republic of Yugoslavia, in the mid 80’s. During the years of my studies in Belgrade, the political status of the government was socialism, a light type of communism, which was reforming all the known communistic countries in the Balkan area. One day I met with one of my colleagues named Slavko. He told me his life story in response to my question as to what had led him to study theology. The Christian faith and religion was allowed to be practiced, but due to the political status, in reality and unofficially it was not! The highest percentage of people were atheists, through the theory of Marxism that was practiced. In fact, in the school system of the country at that time they were teaching the disciplines of Marxism from kindergarten!

Slavko, my colleague, was born in Montenegro to a family where both parents were deeply involved with the party. His grandmother, who was a crypto-Christian in those days, was living a couple of houses away from his. She was deep in faith and love to God. She participated every Sunday and on feast days in the Divine Liturgy. When Slavko was a 1-year-old, she secretly had him baptized in the Orthodox faith without anyone knowing about it, not even his parents.

As Slavko grew, he became a brilliant young man, receiving a masters degree in political and financial science and public relations in Belgrade and was about to be sent by the party to start his Ph.D. studies abroad. At that time the political climate was changing, revealing the corruption of the socialistic-communistic political system and their leaders and the degree to which they were taking advantage of people in an abusive manner. As a result, many people who were involved, with their good will, in the political status, having been nurtured and raised in this political ideology of communism, felt stressed, despaired, and even suicidal. One of them was also Slavko.

The night before he decided to commit suicide, he was in Belgrade, far from his home. While trying to get some rest on his bed in the darkness of his room, suddenly the whole room was lit up with a bright light. Through that beam of light he saw the figure of a woman with a long dress and covered head. Opening her arms to him, she said, “Don’t be afraid! I am your comfort!” Then, she disappeared, and he felt a strange calm and sweetness. Meanwhile, since the political status was changing, his grandmother revealed to her family that she believes in God. The next day Slavko went home and learned, in his grandmother’s presence that she believes in God. He told her what had happened with him and asked her to bring him to a priest. She brought him to her home and into her room, which she had never allowed him to enter before. She opened the door of one of her closets and inside were many hanging icons and an oil candle at the bottom of the closet. She had transformed that closet into a private praying place.

While Slavko was staring at the icons, he saw a large icon of Panagia. When he saw that icon he screamed with tears in his eyes that she was the same woman that appeared to him in his vision.

From this story, we can see how powerful prayer can be! We should be inspired, from St. Demetrious and from Slavko’s grandmother, to empower ourselves in persistent prayer for our children and families. May God shelter and protect us all!
The Archangel's Call
is the monthly newsletter of the Taxiarhiae/Archangels Greek Orthodox Church
25 Bigelow Avenue, Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617.924.8182   Fax: 617.924.4124
Email: office@goarchangels.com

The Taxiarhiae/Archangels Greek Orthodox Church is a parish under the spiritual and ecclesiastical shepherding of His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Boston of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America under the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

The Mission of the Taxiarhiae/Archangels Greek Orthodox Church is to proclaim the Gospel of Salvation through the Orthodox Christian Faith for the glory of our Triune God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We are a community of believers who journey towards our Lord Jesus Christ and one another through our WORSHIP, FELLOWSHIP, SPIRITUAL GROWTH, WITNESS, and SERVICE. We invite all people to join us on this journey toward the Kingdom of Heaven.

The Archangel's Call is published on the first of each month. The deadline for submissions to this newsletter is the tenth of the prior month.

Layout and production by Cynthia Mitaras Alex
Cover Design by Alexandra Roll
Published by the Taxiarhiae Greek Orthodox Church, Watertown, MA

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AHEPA: John Abate
Altar Boy Ministry: George Antonakas, Nick Yiokarinis
Athletic Ministry: George and Peter Karalis
Bookstore: Charles & Maria Patsios, Richard & Ileana Strakus
Chantor: Costa Magimbi
Choir Director: Cynthia Alex
Computer and Internet Ministries: Tim Papakyrikos
Family Ministries Coordinator: Christina Kourkoulis
GOYA: Demetri Dogias
JOY/Youth Ministry: Christina Kourkoulis
Greek School Director: Agni Thurner
Hellenic Cultural Center: Irene Apostolou Cobb
Helping Hands: Jody Bitsikas
Holy Cross Seminarian: Demetri Dogias
Hospital/Nursing Home Visits: Fr. Athanasios
IOCC Representative: Frank Catrickes
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Marion's Philotimo Chat Group
Philoptochos President: Frances Levas
Photography Group: Nick Vakalopoulos
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 Sexton: Nicholas Yiokarinis
Social Services: Costa Magimbi
Sunday School Director: Costas Karageorgis

Visit Our Taxiarhiae Website www.goarchangels.com
Our site is updated every week!

The Reverend Father Athanasios Nenes, Proistamenos
Cell: 914.479.8096   Email: anenes@goarchangels.com

Parish Council 2023

President: George Faggas
Vice President: George Brakoumastos
Treasurer: Costas Karageorgis
Asst. Treasurer: Georgia Bitsikas
Secretary: Chrisoula Salamanis-Rivera
Stewardship Chair: Evelyn Haralampu
Honorary Lifetime Member: Ernest G. J. Anastos

Visit Our Taxiarchae Website www.goarchangels.com
Our site is updated every week!

Please let us know if you prefer to receive your monthly bulletin through email, rather than hard copy. Please email Cynthia Alex at cindialex1@gmail.com to let us know your preference. Thank you!
Αδέλφια μου!
Με την Χάρη του τριαδικού μας Θεού, εισερχόμαστε στον μήνα Οκτώβριο. Το δεύτερο μήνα μετά την έναρξη της εκκλησιαστικής μας χρονιάς και συνάμα την έναρξη των διάφορων προγραμμάτων της νεολαίας μας -ministries της ευλογημένης κοινότητάς μας. Θα ενθάρρυνα τους γονείς να εντάξουν τα παιδιά τους στα διάφορα προγράμματα κατά ηλικία, αλλά και σε όλα τα μέλη να αφιερώσουν τον χρόνο αλλά και το ταλέντο-χάρισμα τους. Την Κυριακή 22 Οκτωβρίου θα γίνει η παρουσίαση των προγραμμάτων-διακονιών(ministries) στο τέλος της Θείας Λειτουργίας. Ελάτε αδέλφια μου να κρατήσουμε ζωντανή την πίστη μας μέσα από την ολοκληρωτική μετοχή μας στη λατρευτική ζωή αλλά και τα ministries της ευλογημένης οικογένειας, της κοινότητας μας των Ταξιαρχών. Καλό μήνα!

Ο ευημέριος σας
π. Αθανάσιος Νένες

My beloved!
By the Grace of our triune God, we are entering the month of October. This is the second month of the new ecclesiastical year and at the same time the beginning of the various youth programs and ministries of our blessed community. I would encourage parents to enroll their children in the various youth programs, but also for all members to give their time and talent, sharing them in the various ministries of our parish. Sunday, October 22 will be Ministry Sunday, where the various ministry programs will be presented at the end of the Divine Liturgy. Come, my beloved, let’s keep our faith alive through our total participation in the sacramental life and the ministries of our blessed family, the Taxiarchae-Archangels parish. Have a great month of October!

Your parish priest,
Fr. Athanasios Nenes

The Bible Study Group rides again
You are warmly invited to join the Bible Study Group which meets via zoom every week on Monday evenings at 8 PM. With the participation of Father Nenes, and facilitated by Dr. Nicholas S. Racheotes, we engage in lively, thoughtful, and uplifting discussions of Holy Scripture in what always proves to be a fast-moving hour. Our focus to begin this liturgical year is an exploration of the Gospel readings from Pentecost to the Adoration of the Holy Cross. At the request of one of our members, we undertake this review in recognition of the fact that our participation in Sunday services is a bit irregular during the summer months. The pillars of our faith are the presence of God, the teachings of Christ as expressed in the Holy Scriptures, the wisdom of the Holy Fathers, the examples of the saints, female and male, our sacramental lives, and the zeal of Christian community. With biblical texts as its focus, the Bible Study Group celebrates these fundamentals of Orthodoxy.

To become part of this welcoming group, you need only contact Frank Catrickes <fdcatrickes@gmail.com>

Rehearsals have begun for our Christmas Concert, which will take place this year in Watertown on Sunday, December 10 at 4 PM and in Lynn on Saturday, December 9 at 4 PM. This is a wonderful time to join us, as we prepare for our concert, which is the highlight of our year. Choir members and singers from parishes all over the area join us, and it is truly a remarkable achievement for us all. Please mark your calendars and plan on coming to support our choir.

If you are interested in joining us, please don’t hesitate to get in touch with me. Especially if you have prior choral experience, I urge you to share your talents with us! Please email cindialex1@gmail.com.

Cynthia Alex,
Choir Director

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
Cynthia Mitaras Alex
Director
Sophia Argeros
Accompanist, Director
Monty Hill, Guest Director
Jim Speros, Accompanist
Donations to our Choirs will be graciously accepted.

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

Cynthia Alex
Choir Director

I will sing to the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live. (Psalm 118:8)
Dear Parish Family,

Fall has arrived! The cooler weather is here and things are getting busy!!!

Philoptochos will be planning fun events filled with friendship and fellowship to bring us together. If you have an idea for an event, let us know. Please join us! Although you don’t have to be a member to attend an event, we would love it if you would. Consider becoming a member and assisting us to fulfill the mission of Philoptochos. Join us and help us with some fresh fundraising ideas for the spring. This year Easter is on May 5th, and then we will be in Festival mode! It will be a fun and exciting time.

On November 7, we will be celebrating the feast day of our beloved church. The Philoptochos will be hosting the reception after the vespers. We can always use some help and, of course, baked goods.

Dates to remember:

Saturday, October 28 at 9 AM: Metropolis Clergy Laity Meeting at Saint Demetrios in Weston. Registration required.

Saturday, November 4 from 2-5 pm: Author Stella Nahatis will present her book *Taxi to America*, the story of her journey coming to the US via childhood adoption. Her book will be available for purchase. It will be an afternoon of coffee and sweets and some light appetizers and fellowship. Please see the notice on page 9. Reservations required.

Tuesday, November 7 and Wednesday November 8: Feast day of our beloved Church Taxiarchae

Wednesday, November 29: Our annual Wreath Decorating Night! See below.

November: Community Christmas Card solicitation ongoing throughout the month.

Sunday, December 10: Annual Senior Luncheon, jointly hosted with AHEPA immediately following the Liturgy

Sunday, December 10 at 4 PM: Annual Christmas Concert (see page 3)

With sisterly love, Frances

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Christmas Wreath Decorating Evening

Wednesday, November 29, 2023
7 PM

An evening of fun, friends, Fellowship, decorating, and light refreshments

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Reserve your spot and your wreath TODAY!

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Christmas Wreath Decorating!
Please fill out and return no later than Monday, November 20 along with a check made out to: Taxiarchae Philoptochos Society.

Name: ____________________________
Day Phone: ________________________
Email: _____________________________

12” Double-Faced Balsam Fir Wreath
Qty _____ @ $35 each _________

For more information, call Frances Levas at 617.519.3422
Our school year has begun and we are happy to welcome our children back. If you have not registered your children yet, please do so. Greek School and Sunday School registrations can be found on our website at www.goarchangels.com.

Our Ministry Sunday has been rescheduled for October 22. Please be sure and drop by the ministry tables that Sunday during coffee hour and see what our church has to offer. Find a ministry that appeals to you and join! We need everyone’s help for another successful year.

Our 2023-2024 Capital Improvement Campaign Fund has begun. I urge you to help us in any way you can. Let’s treat the church as our own home, and invest in the improvements that are needed.

If you have not sent in your Stewardship for this year, please use the form at the bottom of this page or visit our website. Thank you for all of your support.

George Faggas,
Parish Council President

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Ministry Sunday
October 22

Following the Divine Liturgy during the Coffee Fellowship Hour

Join us!

Find out more about the various ministries of our parish.

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2023-2024 Capital Improvement Campaign Fund

$150,000

$75,000

$0

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!

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Information

Name ________________________________

Name of Spouse (if married) ________________________________

Street Address ________________________________

City/State/Zip ________________________________

Home Phone ________________________________

Mobile Phone ________________________________

EMAIL ADDRESS ________________________________

Email Address of Spouse (if married) ________________________________

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TREASURE

In gratitude for God’s blessings, I/We commit to Christ and His Church $_________ each week/month/annually

PLANNED GIVING

☐ I wish to speak with someone about how to remember the church in my will, trust, or estate plan.

Communications

May we add you to our Parish Email list?

☐ YES ☐ NO

How would you prefer to receive the Archangels Call Monthly Newsletter:

☐ Email ☐ hard copy/postal mail
Our Greek School started classes last month with Ayiasmos. We are happy to announce that 57 children registered for classes. Seven children are new to the school. We are very impressed by the young parents who want their children to learn Greek at a very early age. Studies show that younger children absorb everything like a sponge at that age. They will surely learn the language. This year we welcome Nikoletta Hadjipolydorou, our new teacher who recently arrived from Greece. Mrs. Nikoletta is Cypriot and studied early childhood education in Cyprus and Greece. She is a great asset to our team. Onward now with learning Greek!

This month, we celebrate OXI Day. When Mussolini demanded the Greek government to surrender, the answer sent to him on October 28, 1940, was a resounding “OXI”. The Italian army then invaded northern Greece from Albania. Although greatly outnumbered, within a month the Greek army had pushed the Italians back into Albania. Hitler was unwilling to allow Italy, his major ally, to be humiliated and he attacked Greece. During the occupation Greeks suffered torture, famine, and hardships but never wavered. The Greek resistance fought the AXIS forces in the mountains and cities. “The Greek soldier, above all, fought with the most courage,” said Hitler, and Churchill stated “Hence, we will not say that Greeks fight like heroes, but that heroes fight like Greeks.”

We will celebrate OXI Day on Sunday October 29th immediately following the Divine Liturgy.

ΖΗΤΩ Η ΕΛΛΑΔΑ
ΚΑΛΟ ΦΘΙΝΟΠΩΡΟ ΣΕ ΟΛΟÙΣ

Grandparent Sunday will be on October 22nd this year. Please invite the children’s grandparents to attend Sunday School class with them and participate in a special lesson. Thank you for your help and God Bless you!

If you have not done so already, please register your children for Sunday School. Online registration is available from our Church’s website at the following link: https://www.goarchangels.org/sunday-school

Registration forms will also be available in the Church office and on Sundays during class. All youth of our parish should be enrolled for their respective classes. There are classes for everyone, from the Pre-K class for our youngest students all the way to our high school seniors.

Some important dates to keep in mind are below:
- Grandparents Sunday: October 22
- Giving Tree: November 26 to December 17
- Christmas Pageant: December 17th

Costas Karageorgis,  
Sunday School Director

Sts. Joachim and Ann  
Patrons saints of grandparents

September 10, 2023  
Valentine Maria Bauzo  
Godmother: Mirsina Gavrilellis  
Parents: Anthony & Elizabeth
WELCOME BACK GOYA!

WELCOME DEMETRI!

Join us at our first GOYA gathering of the season on Wednesday, October 18, as we welcome our new GOYA Advisor Demetri Dogias. Demetri is from Sacramento, CA. He graduated from Hellenic College in May 2023 and is now in his first of three years at Holy Cross. His grandfather, Fr. Demetrius Dogias, was a priest for 50 years and his uncle, Fr. Peter Dogias, is also a priest. He is very excited to be assigned to our parish this year and is looking forward to working with our youth.

Welcome Demetri! We are so happy to have you with us.
MARION’S PHILOTIMO CHAT GROUP
Men and women are welcome!
Get creative, make connections!

THIRD THURSDAY
October 19

Linger over coffee and Linda’s donuts
Join a friendly group!

Please join us—men and women - Bring a friend!
Our group is growing! We hope to see you there.

PENETROG FROM our Greek Movie Night
On September 29

Many thanks to Gigi’s Pizza for their generous pizza donation!

American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association
“HARRIS J BOORAS” CHAPTER #406, ORDER OF AHEPA

SAVE THE DATE!

GYRO DAY FUNDRAISER
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2023
Noon - 3:00 PM,
Taxiarchoi Creek Orthodox Church
Dine In or Take Out

An AHEPA CHAPTER 406 of WATERTOWN FUNDRAISER
Proceeds to benefit the Reverend Metaxas Scholarship Fund
Need more info, contact: John Abate 617.797.9499, or Charlie Pentikis 781.930.6672.

Wish List: This is just a guide. The Pantry will take all food.

This month, the Food Pantry is especially in need of CEREAL, CANNED TUNA and LUNCH BOX SNACKS.
Please try to help!

FINEX HOUSE
PO Box 300670
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
https://www.finexhouse.org

Items requested are:
- Sanitary napkins
- Shampoo
- Vaseline
- Cocoa butter
- Baby shampoo
- Baby lotion
- Deodorant
- Tooth brushes
- Tooth paste

We are grateful for your generosity with the non-perishable food donations! Please be sure to check the expiration date. The Health Dept. will not allow the food pantry to accept any expired items. Shown here is a Wish List for the food pantry and for FINEX House. God bless you for your support!

Questions?
Contact Christina Kourkoulis,
Outreach Ministries Coordinator
at ckourkoulis@goarchangels.org

We are grateful for your generosity with the non-perishable food donations! Please be sure to check the expiration date. The Health Dept. will not allow the food pantry to accept any expired items. Shown here is a Wish List for the food pantry and for FINEX House. God bless you for your support!

The HELPING HANDS MINISTRY’S sole purpose is to make the lives of our Parishioners easier in view of the restrictions many are facing today. The services we offer are: RX pickup/drug store, Postal needs, Grocery shopping. If you know someone from our church who may need these services, please contact Georgia (Jody) Bitsikas by email gбитит@aol.com or by calling 617-653-2461.

Flour and Sugar
Cereal — Old Fashioned Oats
Canned Vegetables and Fruits
Spam
Coffee and Tea
Condiments, Cooking Oil
Cleaning Products
Personal Hygiene Products
Shampoo and conditioner

Questions?
Contact Christina Kourkoulis,
Outreach Ministries Coordinator
at ckourkoulis@goarchangels.org
Stella’s journey from Thessaloniki, Greece to America begins with a pre-dawn taxi ride that she and her sister share while the coffin holding a loved one rides along in the taxi’s trunk. Orphaned and separated from her younger sister “for her own good” as the culture dictated at the time, Stella ends up being adopted by a Greek couple that had emigrated to Boston, Massachusetts in the US. At age 11, she overcomes multiple losses and cultural differences to find a place in her new homeland, while finding ways to stay connected to those she loved in Greece.

This story of resilience and perseverance follows Stella’s journey of becoming an “Amerikanaki” and eventually reconnecting with her sister, who had stayed in Greece with her own set of adoptive parents. Even as Stella embraces her new life and culture in America, she rebuilds her loving relationship with her sister after an eight-year separation. Later in life, the sisters take another taxi ride together, this time to recover important details of their birth parents’ life stories that mirror the determination to survive and thrive that marks their own.

The book will be available for purchase—$25/soft cover and $35/hard cover.

Stella Nahatis is a talented writer who has recently captivated readers with her poignant memoir, Taxi to America. With a compelling storytelling style and an honest exploration of personal experiences, Nahatis takes readers on an emotional journey from Greece to America. Her debut book offers a raw and authentic portrayal of triumphs, challenges and self-discovery. Nahatis’s background includes a career with Trans World Airlines and a strong commitment to helping others. Her volunteerism includes working with Beverly School for the Deaf, Pathways for Children, The Greek Orthodox Church in Ipswich, The Massachusetts Golf Association, and since 1987 CareDimensions Hospice and Palliative Care. She is most happy when surrounded by family and friends, whether at home, in her community or on the golf course. Stella and her husband live in Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA

Please join us for an interesting afternoon.
Appetizers, pastries and coffee will be served. Reservations required. Donation: $25
For reservations or more information please email Frances Levas at franlevas@aol.com or call 617-519-3422.
Taxiarchae Hellenic Cultural Center
Planning a party or reception?

Our beautiful function rooms are now updated and ready for any and all of your event needs, up to 500 people.

For information and assistance in planning your future events, please call

Irene Apostolou Cobb at the Church Office
at 617-924-8182 or email:
functionmanager@goarchangels.com

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Taxiarchae Hellenic Cultural Center
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at 617-924-8182 or email:
functionmanager@goarchangels.com

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Blessed is the wherein you walk today;
for there is prepared for you a place of rest.
Remember in your prayers our brother and sisters who passed from this life...

...on September 2, Alex Kolokythas
...on September 17, Penelope M. Hrisikos
...on September 12, Magdalena Asimacos

May their memory be eternal. Αιωνία η μνήμη

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Costa Magimbi, our chanter, is available to assist and guide parishioners who are having problems navigating the Massachusetts Social Services system. You can meet with Costa on Sundays after the Divine Liturgy to set up an appointment.
We ask you to share your talents with our parish. Please contact Father Athanasios Nenes (anenes@goarchangels.com) or any other members of the Parish Council. If you have already paid or committed this year’s Stewardship, we sincerely appreciate your generosity. If you have not yet made your contribution or commitment, we humbly ask for your Stewardship gift this year. For your convenience you can make your donation via the link to PayPal found on the parish’s website, or by mailing a regular check. May the grace of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you and your loved ones.

Rev. Fr. Athanasios Nenes, Parish Priest

If any names have been mistakenly omitted from this list, please notify the church office and we will make corrections in our next bulletin.

2023 STEWARDSHIP (as of September 20) 293 Stewards
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2nd Sunday of Luke</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bible Study via Zoom</td>
<td>3 Greek School p.6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7 Greek School p.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Feast of our Icon Panagia Gorgoepikoos</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>5 Paraklesis to the Panagia Gorgoepikoos</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Epistle: 11 Corinthians 6:16-18; 7:1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Epistle: 11 Corinthians 9:6-11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td>11 Paraklesis to the Panagia Gorgoepikoos</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gospel: Luke 7:11-16</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Sunday of the 7th Ecumenical Council</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Bible Study via Zoom</td>
<td>17 GoYA Mtg. p.7</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20 Fall Fest Family Night p.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Epistle: Titus 3:8-15</td>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21 Greek School p.6</td>
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<td>Gospel: Luke 8:5-15</td>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>6th Sunday of Luke</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Bible Study via Zoom</td>
<td>24 St. Demetrios</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19</td>
<td>24</td>
<td></td>
<td>25 Orthros and Divine Liturgy 8.30 AM</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>English Emphasized Liturgy</td>
<td>26</td>
<td></td>
<td>Paraklesis to the Panagia Gorgoepikoos</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Grandparents Sunday p.6</td>
<td>27</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ministry Sunday p.5</td>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AHEPA Gyro Lunch p.8</td>
<td>29</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>7th Sunday of Luke</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Bible Study via Zoom</td>
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<td>Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20</td>
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<td>Sunday Schedule: Orthros: 8:30</td>
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<td>OXI Day Greek School Celebration p.6</td>
<td>31</td>
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<td>Weekday Liturgies: 8:30 AM</td>
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**Sunday Schedule:**
- **Orthros:** 8:30
- **Doxology, Divine Liturgy:** 9:30 AM
- **Weekday Liturgies:** 8:30 AM
- **Paraklesis to the Theotokos Gorgoepikoos:** Thursdays, 6:30 PM
- **Adult Bible Study:** Mondays, 8 PM via Zoom
- **Greek School:** Thu 4:30-6:30 PM; Sat 10 AM-12 PM