



April 2016

## THE BRIDGE

### Η ΓΕΦΥΡΑ

*"Rejoice, bridge that truly leads us from death to life!" Akathist Hymn*

#### **DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

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*My beloved,*

*In June of this year, what will eventually be called the 8<sup>th</sup> Great and Holy Council will convene on the Island of Crete. The last Ecumenical Council was held over 1200 years ago in 787! This upcoming Council will focus on various issues confronting our contemporary Holy Orthodox Church, including marriage, fasting, and the role of the Church in the world today. What follows is the encyclical from our Ecumenical Patriarch, His All Holiness Bartholomew I. Please take time to read it and pray for all the Orthodox hierarchs who will be participating in the Great & Holy Council.*

*May our Lord God bless you, preserve you, and give you strength for the remaining month of Great Lent and Holy Week.*

*+Father Andreas*



#### **ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE**

Prot. No.: 314



**PATRIARCHAL AND SYNODICAL ENCYCLICAL  
ON THE CONVOCATION OF THE HOLY AND GREAT COUNCIL  
OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH**

**† BARTHOLOMEW**  
**BY THE MERCY OF GOD ARCHBISHOP OF CONSTANTINOPLE,  
NEW-ROME, AND ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH**

**TO THE PLENITUDE OF THE CHURCH,  
GRACE AND PEACE FROM GOD**

Our holy Orthodox Church, adorned in purple and fine linen by the blood of her martyrs, the tears of her Saints, and the struggles and sacrifices of her confessors of faith, celebrates today her nameday. Following a century-long struggle, this day was appropriately identified as the *Sunday of Orthodoxy*, marking the day in which truth shone and triumphed over falsehood through the veneration of holy icons as the bearers of the personal presence and divine grace of the incarnate Son and Logos of God and of His saints. In this way, it was acknowledged and proclaimed for all time

*His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew's Encyclical continued....*

that *the Word became flesh and dwelt among us* (John 1:14), honoring and sanctifying material creation and our body in order to render them *partakers of the divine nature* (2 Peter, 1:4), partakers in divine grace and life. On the way to this great and salvific truth—which was attacked by those who refused to venerate holy icons—the triumph of truth over falsehood treaded along the same path followed by the Church from the beginning of her history, namely the truth of conciliarity. The distinction between truth and falsehood—orthodoxy and heresy—is not always easily discernible. Even heretics believed, and continue to believe, that they possessed the truth; moreover, there will always be some who shall consider those who do not agree with their position as “heretics.” The Orthodox Church, in this case, recognizes only one authority: the Council of her canonical hierarchs. Beyond a conciliar decision, the distinction between orthodoxy and heresy is not possible. The Church’s dogmas and holy canons bear the seal of conciliarity. Orthodoxy is the conciliar Church.

The Orthodox Church has always emphasized this ecclesiological authority, and implements it faithfully on the local level. For centuries, this has also occurred on an ecumenical or pan-orthodox level; however, for historical circumstances, it has been interrupted for quite some time. Today, we find ourselves in a position to officially announce from our ecumenical throne that, by the grace of God, and with the consent of all the Primate of the Holy Orthodox Churches, that we will realize a decision taken more than fifty years ago and convene the Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church on the island of Crete on June 18-27, 2016. The Council shall begin its work with a pan-Orthodox celebration of the Divine Liturgy in the Holy Church of Saint Menas, Heraklion, Crete, on the great and auspicious Feast of Pentecost. Deliberations shall proceed at the Orthodox Academy in Kolymbari, Chania. Our Modesty shall preside over the Holy and Great Council, with the other Primate of Orthodox Churches at our side; other hierarchs shall participate as members of the Council through the official delegation of these Churches.

The foremost and most important goal of this Pan-Orthodox Council shall be to teach that the Orthodox Church is the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, united in the Sacraments—especially in the Holy Eucharist, in the Orthodox faith, but also in conciliarity. To this end, ongoing planning for the Council has occurred through a series of Preparatory Committees and Pre-Conciliar Conferences, ensuring the unanimous spirit of the Council’s decisions and that her message is conveyed in *one voice and in one heart*.

The issues—already delineated on a pan-orthodox level by the time the convocation of the Council was decided—that shall be reviewed by the Holy and Great Council primarily focus on matters relating to the internal operation and life of the Orthodox Church; for this reason, they must be immediately resolved. Moreover, there are issues pertaining to the relations of Orthodoxy with the rest of the Christian world, as well as the mission of the Church in our time. We certainly recognize that the world awaits to hear the voice of the Orthodox Church on many pressing problems that humanity faces today. However, it was deemed necessary that the Orthodox Church should first settle internal matters before speaking to or addressing the world, which is still considered her obligation. The fact that Orthodoxy will express its conciliarity on a global level after the passing of so many centuries constitutes a first and most decisive step that, by the grace of God, is expected to lead to the convening of further Pan-Orthodox Councils, soon thereafter.

#### **Beloved brethren and children in the Lord,**

Great historic events are guided by the grace of God, Who, ultimately, is the Lord of History. We might sow and labor; however, only God multiplies (1 Cor. 3:8). The Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church indeed constitutes a historic event and we therefore place our hope in God for its realization. We call upon the Orthodox faithful in the world—clergy and laity—to pray to the Triune God that He may crown this event with His blessings, fortifying His Church to the glory of His name. We live in critical times and the unity of the Church must serve as the example of unity for a humanity torn apart by divisions and conflicts. The success of the Holy and Great Council concerns every member of the Church, who are invited to share their interests thereon. The texts that have been agreed upon on a pan-orthodox level and which have been submitted to the Holy and Great Council have already been made publicly available to every faithful of good will. These texts are not only intended to inform and update the faithful, but to also elicit their opinions and expectations of the Holy and Great Council.

Having announced this to the plenitude of the Orthodox Church throughout the world on this auspicious day, we pray that the lord God bestow upon His Church and all of you His abundant grace and blessing, and to the world *peace at all times in all ways* (2 Thes. 3:16).

20 March, in the year of our Lord, 2016

† Bartholomew, Archbishop of Constantinople, Your fervent supplicant to God

Continued....

† Metropolitan John of Pergamon,, † Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver, † Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta,  
 † Metropolitan Iakovos of the Prince Islands, † Metropolitan Joseph of Prikonisos, † Metropolitan Meliton of  
 Philadelphia, † Metropolitan Emmanuel of France, † Metropolitan Nikitas of the Dardanelles, † Metropolitan Nicholas  
 of Detroit, † Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco, † Metropolitan Maximos of Selymbria, † Metropolitan  
 Amphilochios of Adrianopolis,  
 supplicants in Christ

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**EDUCATION & YOUTH** *Sunday Church School Coordinators:* Georgia Maheras & Angelike Contis; *Greek Dance:* Tammy Valadakis *Greek Language:* Theodora Contis  
**MUSIC MINISTRY** Director -Presvytera Anthe Athas Cantors –Vasilios Contis & Yazan (George) Qumsiyeh, Choir: George Bennis, Alina Caciur Colondres, Theodora Contis, Zoe Griffing, Paul Henninge, Aleka Michaelides, Maria Michaelides Mariana Moscin & Adriana Putregai  
**ALTAR SERVERS:** Thomas Dede, Nicholas Rorris, Justin Griffing  
**BOOKSTORE:** David & Dawnie Hunt  
**PHILOPTOCHOS BOARD** - President – Presv. Anthe Athas (865-4416); Vice President – Theodora Contis (899-2893); Treasurer – Maria Michaelides(878-3933); Secretary –Tammy Valadakis (583-3880); Helen Costopoulos (864-5661); Jacqueline Maria (862-7372); Aleka Michaelides (862-3803); Maria Papaseraphim (878-1163); Voula Zontanos (878-5475)  
**MAILINGS VOLUNTEER** -Pat Oleszkiewicz  
**ORDER of AHEPA** -President Gregory Lambesis



The Parish Council with His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios during his pastoral visit with us in February. Not pictured are Paul Henninge, Lynne Lambesis, and Stephen Yialiades.

**PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

Thank you all for a wonderful Bake Sale and Take-Out Dinner on March 26th! This annual event showcased our culinary talents within our broader Burlington community and successfully generated funds to support the Philoptochos' philanthropic work and our Church's ministries. As one of three major fundraisers each year, the Spring Bake Sale and Take Out dinner also brings our Church community together providing much laughter and recipe sharing amidst the hard work. Special thanks to all who baked, cooked, cleaned, and planned for this successful event!

The Parish Council Members also want to highlight the upcoming General Assembly, May 15. This is our Parish's Spring General Assembly and is the time for us to discuss all of our activities since last October. The General Assembly will provide stewards with information regarding our 2015 finances and introduce an updated version of our Parish By-Laws, which have not been updated in over a decade. We encourage you all to attend!

In Christ, Georgia Maheras, Parish Council President



Sts Cosmas & Damian  
Patron Saints of the  
Philoptochos Society

*Philoptochos News  
and Announcements*  
*Philoptochos means "friend  
of the poor."*  
*The Philoptochos  
Society is the official  
philanthropic  
organization  
of the Greek Orthodox  
Church in America.*

*Thank you! - to everyone, members and  
non-members, who helped us make the  
Spring Bake Sale a success.*



***All women of our parish are invited  
to become members.***



**Mark Your Calendars:**

*Next regular meeting will be Sunday, April 3,  
after coffee hour (around 12:30 p.m.)*

*Dues are now being accepted for 2016.*

*Please see Maria Michaelides, the Treasurer.*



*O Lord, open Thou my lips and my mouth shall show  
forth Thy praise. - Ps 51:15*

**CHOIR REHEARSAL SCHEDULE**

**APRIL**

Saturday, 16 - 9:30 a.m. for Pascha,  
the Sundays after Pascha & Pentecost

Saturday 9 - 9:30 a.m. for Palm Sunday &  
Lamentations/Engomia

**THE CHURCH IS  
CLOSED...  
WHAT HAPPENED?**

We ... all of us are the "Church", the  
"Ecclesia" and we gather together to  
worship God in this place. But what if we  
came one day and there was no "place"  
in which to worship?

The "Ecclesia/Church" is all of us. But  
**ALL OF US** need to support this "place"  
where we come together to worship God,  
to receive the Sacraments of the Church,  
to receive the Body and Blood of our  
Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, to get  
married, to baptize our children, to be  
educated in the faith, to receive the  
blessing for our final rest.

Let King David be our model, who swore  
an oath to the Lord:

*"I will not enter my house  
or get into my bed;  
I will not give sleep to my eyes  
or slumber to my eyelids,  
until I find a place for the LORD,  
a dwelling place for the Mighty One of  
Jacob." (Psalm 132: 1-5)*

Let everyone examine his/her heart and  
decide: What will YOU give to keep this  
place for our "ecclesia"; to support our  
parish so that we have a "place" for our  
Church/the Ecclesia to worship God and  
receive His blessings?

**HOW?**

Fill out a pledge card and fulfill you  
pledge!

## Sunday School News



The children were involved in the Sunday of Orthodoxy procession on March 20th.

Sunday School lessons -in English- are held in the Community Center each Sunday, immediately after Communion. The school has been enriched recently with the arrival of prepared lesson plans and activity materials suitable to each week's highlights. We average from 8-12 children a week; more are always welcome!

Parents are invited to bring youngsters as often as they can; please sign up with Georgia and Angelike to help out with Sunday School snacks.

## Help with Our Sunday School Community Garden

With the warm weather, the Sunday School children will be involved in planting seeds at the Community Garden outside.



If you have any old or new garden tools you would like to donate, please bring them to the Church and we will put them to good use!

### BOOK OF LIFE

#### *MARRIAGES:*

*Demetra Gardyne and Nikolaos Nanopoulos, March 15, 2016*

#### *BAPTISMS:*

*Demetra Gardyne, March 13 Sponsor, Anastasia Nanopoulos  
Christos Nanopoulos, March 20, Sponsor Nikolaos Nanopoulos; done on behalf of St. Vasilios Church of Newport, NH*

#### *ASLEEP IN THE LORD:*

*Kathryn Tampas, March 11,  
Eternal be her memory!*



# DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD – BURLINGTON, VERMONT

## APRIL 2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>GREAT LENT CONTINUES</b>            See "Fasting Rules" →  <b>Articles for the May Newsletter are due Monday, April 18</b>            E-mail to <a href="mailto:prezanthe@aol.com">prezanthe@aol.com</a></p>						
<p><b>3 Holy Cross</b>  <i>Wine &amp; Oil Allowed</i>            9 - Orthros &amp; Liturgy &amp; Procession with the Holy Cross, Tray for Holy Cross Seminary            12:30 – Philoptochos Meeting            7 Lenten Vespers</p>	<p><b>4 Strict Fast</b>            7 Great Compline &amp; Confessions</p>	<p><b>5 Strict Fast</b></p>	<p><b>6 Strict Fast</b>            5 - Presanctified &amp; Lenten Program</p>	<p><b>7 Strict Fast</b></p>	<p><b>8 Strict Fast</b>            9 - Presanctified            7 – Salutations/ Hereismoi</p>	<p><b>9</b>  <i>Wine &amp; Oil Allowed</i>            9:30 – Choir Rehearsal            4 - Bible Study            5 Great Vespers</p>
<p><b>10 St John Chimaucus</b>  <i>Wine &amp; Oil Allowed</i>            9 - Orthros &amp; Liturgy &amp; Parish Council Meeting            7 – Lenten Vespers</p>	<p><b>11 Strict Fast</b>            7 - Great Compline &amp; Confessions</p>	<p><b>12 Strict Fast</b></p>	<p><b>13 Strict Fast</b>            9 - Presanctified Liturgy            7 - Great Canon</p>	<p><b>14 Strict Fast</b>            9 – Presanctified Liturgy</p>	<p><b>15 Strict Fast</b>            7 – Akathist Hymn</p>	<p>16  <i>Wine &amp; Oil Allowed</i>            9:30 – Choir Rehearsal            4 - Bible Study            5 - Great Vespers</p>
<p><b>17 Mary of Egypt</b>  <i>Wine &amp; Oil Allowed</i>            9 - Orthros &amp; Liturgy            7 - Lenten Vespers</p>	<p><b>18 Strict Fast</b>  <b>NEWLETTER DEADLINE!</b>            7 - Great Compline &amp; Confessions</p>	<p><b>19 Strict Fast</b></p>	<p><b>20 Strict Fast</b>            5 - Presanctified &amp; Lenten Program</p>	<p><b>21 Strict Fast</b></p>	<p><b>22 Strict Fast</b>            9 – Presanctified</p>	<p><b>23 Iacarus Saturday</b>  <i>Wine &amp; Oil Allowed</i>            9 – Liturgy and Palm Cross tying            5 - Great Vespers</p>
<p><b>24 Palm Sunday</b>  <i>Fish Allowed</i>            9 - Orthros &amp; Liturgy            11:30 – Fish Luncheon            7 - Nymphios</p>	<p><b>25 Holy Monday</b>  <i>Strict Fast</i>            9 – Presanctified Liturgy            6 - Confessions            7 Nymphios</p>	<p><b>26 Holy Tuesday</b>  <i>Strict Fast</i>            9 – Presanctified Liturgy            6 - Confessions            7 Nymphios</p>	<p><b>27 Holy Wednesday</b>  <i>Strict Fast</i>            9 - Presanctified Liturgy            4 – Holy Unction/ Etheleon            6 – Confessions            7 – Mystical Supper/ Matins of Holy Thursday with Anointing</p>	<p><b>28 Holy Thursday</b>  <i>Strict Fast</i>            6:30 am – Vesperal Liturgy            6 pm – Confessions            7 – Twelve Gospels</p>	<p><b>29 Great &amp; Holy Friday</b>  <i>Strict Fast</i>            9 – Royal Hours            10 – Kouvonkion decorating            2 – Sunday School Retreat            4 – Apokathelosis/Taking Down from the Cross            7 Engomia/Lamentations</p>	<p><b>30 Great &amp; Holy Saturday</b>  <i>Strict Fast</i>            9 – Vesperal Liturgy            11:15 pm – Pannychis/ Pre-Resurrection Service  <b>12 am – ANASTASIS HOLY PASCHA</b></p>