

# **St. Vasilios Greek Orthodox Church**

45 Winter St.

Newport, NH 03773

603-863-8376

[stvasilios.nh.goarch.org](http://stvasilios.nh.goarch.org)



## **Holy Week 2015**

April 5<sup>th</sup>: **Palm Sunday**

9:00 AM Orthros

10:30 AM Liturgy/ Blessing of the Palms.

April 8<sup>th</sup>: **Holy Wednesday**

6:00 PM Holy Unction Service

April 9<sup>th</sup>: **Holy Thursday**

9:00 AM Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil

6:00 PM Matins of Holy Friday with 12 Passion Gospels

April 10<sup>th</sup>: **Holy Friday**

9:00 AM Royal hours

3:00 PM Vesper of taking down from the cross (apokathelosis)

6:00 PM Service of the Lamentations

April 11<sup>th</sup>: **Great and Holy Saturday**

9:00 AM Vesperal Liturgy of the Resurrection

11:00 PM Matins of Sunday of the Resurrection & Divine Liturgy

April 12<sup>th</sup>: **Holy Pascha**

12:00 PM Agape Vespers

## April, May & June Services

- Sun., April 19<sup>th</sup>      Sunday of Thomas  
Epistle Reading: Acts 5:12-20  
Gospel Reading: John 20:19-31  
9:30 AM Orthros (Matins)  
10:15 AM Divine Liturgy  
**Coffee Hour: Sandra Tselepidakis**
- Sun., May 3<sup>rd</sup>      Sunday of the Paralytic  
Epistle Reading: Acts 9: 32-42  
Gospel Reading: John 5:1-15  
9:30 AM Orthros (Matins)  
10:15 AM Divine Liturgy  
**Coffee Hour: Jennifer Souliotis**
- Sun., May 17<sup>th</sup>      Sunday of the Blind Man  
Epistle Reading: Acts 16: 16-34  
Gospel Reading: John 9:1-38  
9:30 AM Orthros (Matins)  
10:15 AM Divine Liturgy  
**Coffee Hour: Barbara Tampasis**
- Sun., June 7<sup>th</sup>      All Saints  
Epistle Reading: Hebrews 11:33-40; 12:1-2  
Gospel Reading: Matt. 10:32-33; 37-38; 19:27-30  
9:30 AM Orthros (Matins)  
10:15 AM Divine Liturgy  
**Coffee Hour: Chrysoula Kontoes**
- Sun., June 21<sup>st</sup>      3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Matthew/Fathers Day  
Epistle Reading: Romans 5:1-10  
Gospel Reading: Matthew 6:22-33  
9:30 AM Orthros (Matins)  
10:15 AM Divine Liturgy  
**Fathers Day Luncheon sponsored by the  
Ladies Auxiliary & Graduates Honored**

For updated information on service schedules and content, please see our web site at:

**<http://stvasilios.nh.goarch.org/>**

### **Annual Meeting**

Thank you to everyone who attended the Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> ! It was nice to share fellowship over the delicious luncheon. Parishioners were able to share their thoughts, concerns, and goals for the future of our Church. We would like to congratulate the 2014 Parish Council for their commitment and service to our Parish. The new officers for 2015 are John Gioldassis as President, Sofia Katsanos as Vice President, Jennifer Souliotis as Treasurer, and Laura Mosconas as Secretary. Members of the Parish Council also include Vasilios Georgitsis & Dimitri Tselepidakis.

### **Parish Ministry Award 2014**

It is with great pleasure that the Parish Council has selected the recipient of the 2014 Parish Ministry Award. This year's honoree is Leonidas Souliotis. Leo is the son of George and Jennifer Souliotis of Newport, NH. He began serving at St. Vasilios Church from a young age, assisting many priests. He arrives for Orthros each Sunday, takes care of the needs of the altar, and guides other young altar servers. Leo also assists in the caring of the church grounds by shoveling (without complaint!) and raking.

His hobbies include history, track and field, jv soccer, and much appreciated down time! Leo attends Mount Royal Academy in Sunapee, NH. Last year he was an eighth grader and now he is a freshman. Last spring, Leo took home the Most Improved Student Award, as well as a Choir Recognition and History Award. Also, Leo takes a class in Catechesis as a spiritual foundation in conjunction with his Orthodox faith. This helps to solidify his duty to serve as a member of the laity. We are very pleased to honor him for his faithful service to our Parish.

### **In Appreciation for a Generous Donation**

We would like to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Demoulas Family and Foundation for their great generosity. Their contribution of \$2,000.00 will assist us in preserving our Greek Orthodox Church, heritage and culture. We are very grateful to Mr. Telemachus A. Demoulas for his thoughtfulness in establishing the Demoulas Foundation, and for his continued support of our Church. We would also like to thank Angelo Nestor for his continued support and solicitation of this gift.

### **Reading and Chanting for Lent and Holy Week**

We welcome all who would like to assist with reading and singing during the Lenten and Holy Week services. The priest has a list of the readings that will be needed. Please let us which readings you would like to do. **Also, please remember to bring your Holy Week prayer book to these services so that you may participate fully.**

## **Stewardship Sunday**

“The rich man is not one who has much, but one who gives much. For what he gives away remains his forever.” St. John Chrysostom

Stewardship Sunday was celebrated last month and encourages us to embrace our commitment to our Church and parish. An Orthodox Christian steward is an active participant in the life of the Church. The parish encourages all who accept the Orthodox faith to become practicing stewards. Every year the steward is expected to review with care his or her personal circumstances and make a commitment of time, talent, and treasure to support the parish. If you haven't returned your stewardship pledge card please do so as soon as you can. Thank you for your support of our church.

## **Graduates 2015**

As the end of the school year approaches, our parish is looking to recognize those students who will be graduating this year with a High School diploma, College Degree, or Graduate Level Degree. If you know someone who meets the following criteria please let us know so that we can include him/her on our list. Below are the guidelines of how our parish designates a graduate:

- The individual is considered a graduate if his/her parents are in good standing with the church for the past two years.
- The individual must be present at church to receive the Graduate Scholarship.

## **Photos on Website**

The St. Vasilios website has photos of Church services and activities/events over the years. Please notify us in writing if you do not want your photo to appear on this website. Thank you!

## **Prayer List**

Please use this list to pray for members of our community who are sick or in need of God's care.

<b>Bessie Juris</b>	<b>Phidias Dantos</b>
<b>Athena Tsouknakis</b>	<b>Angelo Nestor</b>

If you feel a name should remain on the list, or if you would like a new Name placed on the list please contact Laura.

### **Pascha Flowers**

A special offering tray for Pascha flowers will be collected on Palm Sunday. If you donate by check, please put "Pascha Flowers" in the memo line. For further information please contact Laura. Also, anyone that would like to bring an Easter Lily (or other spring flower) to place around the altar area it would be appreciated. Our Church will look and smell fragrant for Pascha.

### **Holy Week**

If you would like to schedule a time for our priest to visit during Holy Week please contact Laura via e-mail or phone to set up a time. If you would like to schedule confession, home visits, nursing home visits, or any other needs – please let us know.

### **Thank You for Bulletin Sponsorship**

We would like to thank Demo and Georgia Sofronas for their sponsorship of this bulletin.

### **Visit from South Church Students**

On Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, students from the South Church in Newport, NH will be visiting St. Vasilios Church for Divine Liturgy and fellowship. These students are preparing for their Confirmation in May and are interested in learning about Orthodoxy. We hope you will make a special effort to attend on this day to welcome our guests and share in their experience. Also, we hope that all of our parish young people will be at Liturgy to cultivate new friendships with the students from our neighboring church.

## **For The Youth-What's Up With Lent?**

### **Melissa K. Bazos and Anna Nicole Kyritsis**

It is just about midnight and you are surrounded by a quiet darkness. You look around, everyone is there; everyone always is on this night. The priest comes out of the sanctuary; he sings, "Come receive the light from the never ending light and Glorify Christ, who is risen from the dead." In his hand, he holds the only light in the church. Flame by flame the church is slowly lit. It goes from total darkness to a warm light. But it is not like most light...it is different.

Let's think about it for a minute, after all it is just a flame. It does not give off much heat. By itself, it does not give off too much light. It is not that strong; it can easily be blown out. But just as quickly as it can be blown out, it can grow from a flame to a fire. A fire can give off much heat and light. However, a fire is not easily blown out. At Pascha, we light our candles; many of us take them home with us lit. But when we blow out our candles when we get home are we also blowing out our spiritual candles? What have we done to prepare so that the flame can grow into a burning fire?

We all know what comes of not preparing properly for things. If you do not prepare for a test, you will not do well. But what about spiritual preparation? I'm talking about more than being nice to your brother and going to church on Sunday (although both very good things to do). I am talking about getting ourselves prepared so that our flames can grow into strong fires.

Take for example the parable of the ten virgins. Ten virgins with their oil lamps lit waited for the bridegroom to arrive. Five of them brought extra oil, in case they ran out while they waited, the other five did not. When the five foolish women's lamps began to go out, they had no additional fuel to keep their flame lit. They left to get more oil. While they were gone, the bridegroom came and the women that were prepared went in with Him to the wedding. The unprepared women did not get to go.

We must prepare ourselves for the day when Christ comes. If we do not, we will be like the women without the oil... locked out of the feast. Are we lighting our spiritual candle at midnight and then blowing it out when we get home?

As we approach the Lenten season, there are things we can do to prepare ourselves for the Resurrection. The first place we should start is with our priest. He can help to point us in the right direction. But here are some things we should begin considering in the mean time:

**Prayer**-All good things begin with prayer. Think about it this way; when we meet someone we like, we spend time talking with them. The more we talk with them the more we know them and the more we want to know. Prayer is a conversation with God. We should tell him our fears, ask him to guide us and thank him for our blessings. If you do not already have one, order an Orthodox prayer book to help you.

**Go to Church**-We know some of us may think that church only occurs on Sunday. Wrong! The Orthodox Church offers an entire cycle of worship throughout the year. No time is that more evident than during Lent. We should go to the Divine Liturgy on Sunday but we should also go to the other liturgical services (Vespers, Compline, Salutations & Akathist Hymn, Pre-Sanctified Liturgy). But here is the really important part, we should not just "go" to the services...we need to be active participants in the services. Ask your priest where you can get books for the services so that you can participate by reading, chanting and following along.

**Repentance/Confession**-We know it is hard, but confession is necessary for spiritual growth. Do not look at it as going in with your shopping lists of sins and trying to rattle them off as quickly as possible. Instead look at it as an opportunity to fix your relationship with God through repentance. Repentance is accepting that we have done something wrong and (here's the hard part) committing to try very, very hard not fall into those sins again.

**Read the Bible**-If you don't have one, get one immediately! Ask your priest for the list of daily bible readings for the church calendar. This will help you in your journey through lent and throughout the year.

**Fast**-We know what you are all thinking... beans, greens and rice how does that make me a better Christian? Fasting is really about discipline. We discipline ourselves in other areas of our life (athletics, academic). We should be disciplining ourselves spiritually in what we do as well as in what we eat.

**Give**-Take time during lent to give to those in need. You do not need money to do this. Ask yourself how can I give of my time, talents and treasure to give Glory to God?

Through the guidance of our priest and teachers, we pray we can all count ourselves with the wise virgins... prepared. But after the Paschal liturgy has been celebrated and the candles have all been blown out, ask yourself this... is my spiritual candle still lit?