

St. Vasilios Greek Orthodox Church

45 Winter St.

Newport, NH 03773

603-863-8376

stvasilios.nh.goarch.org



Holy Week 2016

Sunday, April 24th: Palm Sunday

9:00 AM

Matins and Blessing of Palms

10:00 AM

Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Wednesday, April 27th: Great and Holy Wednesday

6:00 PM

Sacrament of Holy Unction

Thursday, April 28th: Great and Holy Thursday

9:00 – 10:30 AM

Vespers and Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

6:00 PM

Matins of Holy Friday (Reading of the 12 Gospels
and Procession of the Crucifix)

Friday, April 29th: Great and Holy Friday

9:00 AM

The Royal hours

3:00 PM

Vespers of Apokathelosis (Removal from the Cross)

6:00 PM

Matins of Holy Saturday (Lamentations)

Saturday, April 30th: Great and Holy Saturday

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Vespers and Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

11:30 PM

Pre-Resurrection Service

Midnight

Matins of Resurrection followed by the Divine Liturgy
of St. John Chrysostom

Sunday, May 1st: Sunday of Holy Pascha

12:00 Noon

Vespers of Agape (If you wish to read a foreign language
for the Agape Vespers please let Fr. Bob know as soon as
possible: Padrerta@aol.com)

May, June & July Services

- Sun., May 15th Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearers
Epistle Reading: Acts 6: 1-7
Gospel Reading: Mark 15:43-47; 16:1-8
9:30 AM Orthros (Matins)
10:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour: Marge Kanakis & Katie Gioldassis
- Sun., June 5th Sunday of the Blind Man
Epistle Reading: Acts 16:16-34
Gospel Reading: John 9:1-38
9:30 AM Orthros (Matins)
10:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour: Barbara Georgitsis
- Sun., June 19th Holy Pentecost
Epistle Reading: Acts 2:1-11
Gospel Reading: John 7:37-52; 8:12
9:30 AM Orthros (Matins)
10:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Fathers Day & Graduate Luncheon sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary & Helene Rassias-Miles & Veronica
- Sun., July 3rd 2nd Sunday of Mathew
Epistle Reading: Romans 2:10-16
Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:18-23
9:30 AM Orthros (Matins)
10:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour: ??? Please let Laura know if you are available
- Sun., July 17th Sunday of the Holy Fathers
Epistle Reading: Titus 3:8-15
Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:14-19
9:30 AM Orthros (Matins)
10:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour: ??? Please let Laura know if you are available

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, February 21st ! 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 2015 Parish Council for their commitment and service to our Parish. The new officers for 2016 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, Greg Timbas, Lina Papandreou and Frank Souliotis.

Parish Ministry Award 2016

It is with great pleasure that the Parish Council has selected the recipient of the 2016 Parish Ministry Award. This year's honoree is Dino Vlahakis. Dino has previously served on the Parish Council. He has been involved with various parish functions and events. We are also grateful for his talent in the area of photography. Thanks to Dino we have years of church events chronicled. Dino also had the honor of taking photos of His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios on more than one occasion. 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. Fr. Bob has a list of the readings that will be needed. Please let us know 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 2016

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.

Calliope Scumas Teresa Richardson Athena Tsoukanakis
Maria Nestor-Smith Angelo Nestor Kiki Coidakis

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 lovely and smell fragrant for Pascha.

Holy Week

If you would like to schedule a time for Fr. Bob to visit during Holy Week please contact Laura or Fr. Bob 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.

In Memory

We would like to extend our sympathy to the family of Bessie Juris, who passed on March 31, 2015 after a short illness. Bessie was a former president and member of our Ladies Auxiliary and was also a former member of our Parish Council. She will be greatly missed by all. Please keep her family in your prayers. May her memory be eternal.

Diaper Drive 2016

Along with the early Church Fathers and the tradition of the Church, we uphold the sanctity of human life in the womb. The Greek Orthodox Church's view on the Sanctity of Life can be found at: <http://www.goarch.org/ourfaith/ourfaith8083> January 17, 2016, known as "Sanctity of Human Life Sunday," is the national day of commemoration that upholds the sanctity of human life here in the United States. The Dayspring Pregnancy Care Center (Pregnancy Center of the Upper Valley) continues to be the expression of the church – upholding the sacredness of human life in their 34th year of service to the communities that make up the Greater Upper Valley region. The primary mission of the Ministry is to bring God's love and gospel to those seeking their help. The majority of their clientele live outside of the knowledge of His love; as such, this presents an amazing opportunity for the church. The center is asking if any of our parishioners would consider being mentors (intentional friends) for some of their clients. They would welcome any and all inquiries at either of their locations. The phone number is 603-298-6123.

The center offers free pregnancy related services with compassion and respect to those facing an unexpected pregnancy. The center has an ongoing need for providing disposable diapers. **Would you gift one or more packages of disposable diapers (any size) for the local pregnancy center? Please bring them to church during the months of May and June** and we'll deliver them for you. These gifts will help the center continue one of its practical ministries to young families. Please take this opportunity to show loving care.

Third Sunday of Lent: Veneration of the Precious Cross

by Fr. George Nicozisin

In today's gospel lection, taken from Mark 8:34, Jesus says: "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." According to accepted English dictionaries, "deny" means to refuse, reject, repudiate and/or to declare something untrue. If we limit ourselves to these definitions, we do an injustice to the deeper meaning of Christian self-denial. For a clearer picture of what Jesus means, we must return to the original Greek text. The Greek is "aparnisastho" and it has the meaning of renunciation and absolute rejection of whatever is incongruous with Jesus' planned salvation for us.

There are those of us who have a narrow and limited understanding of self-denial. We pick and choose at random what we will give up and what we will do in the name of Christianity. We proceed to label them "Our little crosses we must bear." "I'll give up movies and/or TV during lent." Thus we conclude with a list of trivialities that have no bearing on the "self-denial" Jesus speaks about in our gospel lesson for today. Christ-like self-denial goes much deeper. It penetrates the facade which hides our hidden sins, our shortcomings and our faults.

Utter denial does not mean depriving ourselves of the necessities of life, nor does it mean we must become paupers and live in rags. Neither does it mean we must lose our individuality, personality and identity. When Jesus speaks of total and utter denial of self, He means we must subordinate our clamoring ego that prohibits us from being the Children of God we were intended to be. Good intentions are not enough. This is why Jesus says, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

"Take up your cross and follow me" means to get started on our journey to salvation. If the road we are on does not have God's Eternal Kingdom as its destination, then we had better make a U-turn and find the right one!

"Taking up our cross and following Jesus" means trying harder when those moments of calamity, tragedy, sorrow and loss and grief beset us. It means bringing under control our uncontrollable anger, our undue insensitivity, our impatience and impetuosity. It means subduing our temperament and disposition so that we can master them rather than their mastering us.

There is another reason this gospel passage is read at the Divine Liturgy of the Third Sunday of Lent. The Synaxarion, that portion of the Orthros service book

which both announces and describes the observed Feast Day for today, says the following:

"On this the Third Sunday of Great Lent, we observe the Veneration of the Precious and Life-giving Cross and for this reason: Inasmuch as in the forty days of fasting we in a way crucify ourselves and become bitter, despondent and failing, the Life-giving Cross is presented to us for spiritual refreshment and assurance, for remembrance of our Lord's Passion and for comfort. Like those who are following a long and tedious path are tired, see a beautiful tree with many leaves, they would sit in its shade and rest for a while and then, as if rejuvenated, they will continue their journey. Likewise today, in the time of fasting and difficult journey and effort, the Life-giving Cross was planted in its midst by the Holy Fathers of the Church to give rest and spiritual refreshment, to make us light and courageous for the remaining task.

Christ comforts us who are, as it were, in a desert until He will lead us up to the spiritual Jerusalem by His Resurrection. Just as the Precious Cross, which is also called the Tree of Life, was planted in the middle of Paradise, so our Holy Fathers planted the Cross in the middle of holy and Great Lent, as a sacred reminder of both Adam's bliss and how he was deprived of it. Remembering also that by partaking of this Tree of Life, the Precious and Life-giving Cross, we no longer die but are kept alive."

St. John Chrysostom, a fourth century Patriarch of Constantinople describes the Cross this way: "The Cross is the proof of the love of God. The Cross is the unshaken wall, the unconquered weapon, the Kingdom of virtue. The Cross has torn asunder our mortgage and rendered useless the prison of death. The Cross has opened Paradise, it has admitted the thief and has guided the human race from impending disaster to the Kingdom of God."

Jesus extends His invitation to us once again to "deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Him." Our Church gives us this Third Sunday of Lent--Mid-point to Golgotha--to pause with Jesus, to refresh ourselves spiritually, to assess our Lenten journey and to continue with greater determination. But the initiative is still ours. There is no way into spring but that we endure the rigors of winter. There is no way we can arrive to Easter Sunday if we do not live the agonies of all our Good Fridays. There is no way we can achieve eternal life with God unless we deny ourselves utterly and totally in Christ. This we do when we endure and sustain our own personal crosses and follow Him.

New Start Time for Divine Liturgy

The start time for Divine Liturgy has been adjusted to 10:00 AM starting as of April. Please plan to arrive a little earlier to join us for the beginning of the Liturgy.

Winter Carnival Greek Night 2016

The Parish Council would like to thank the following parishioners for their support of the recent Greek Night dinner held February 6th. It was a huge success with about 100 people attending from the community. Our parish raised \$1,200.00 from the event and we look forward to hosting this event each year as part of the Newport Winter Carnival. Thank you to John Gioldassis for donating the souvlakia and pitas, Sofia Katsanos for donating the rice and salads, Newport Village Pizza for donating the bread, Grantham Village Pizza for donating the kataifi, and Dunkin Donuts for donating the coffee and assorted pastries. Thank to the following volunteers who helped to set up, serve, clean up, meet and greet guests, and serve in any capacity needed: John Gioldassis, Sofia Katsanos, Jennifer Souliotis, Dimitri and Sandra Tselepidakis, Lina Papandreou, Gayle Fleming, Barbara Georgitsis, Frank Souliotis, and Laura Mosconas.

Congratulations!

On March 20th, Christos Oliver Nanopoulos was baptized in our church by Fr. Andreas who visited from The Dormition of the Mother of God Greek Orthodox Church in Burlington, VT. Christos is the son of Christos Nanopoulos and Kelly Smith. His godparents are Nikolaos and Lindsay Nanopoulos from Milton, VT. We wish him many years of health and happiness!

Stewards of St. Vasilios Greek Orthodox Church as of April 15, 2016

“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

Thank you for your stewardship!

Nick & Artemis Donis	Christos Georgiadis	Arthur & Sarah Katsanos
Saggiotes Trust	Kostas & Sofia Katsanos	Rassias-Miles Family
Dino Vlahakis	Frank & Stacy Souliotis	Aliki & George Souliotis
Laura Mosconas	Gus & Barbara Tampasis	Nick & Helen Stamos
Fred & Liz Tampasis	Nick Tampasis	George & Jennifer Souliotis
Lina Papandreou	Adrienne Camfield	Steve & Nancy Nanopoulos
Phid& Alice Dantos	Solon&Marge Kanakis	Nikolaos& Lindsay Nanopoulos
Christos Nanopoulos	Kelly Smith	Greg & Nancy Tsongalis
Evangelia Davis	Nick& Chrysoula Kontoes	Dimitri & Sandra Tselepidakis
Kimberly Gallant	John & Katie Gioldassis	Vasilios Vasiliadis
Allan & Maria Price	Arnold Johnson	Jackie Miller