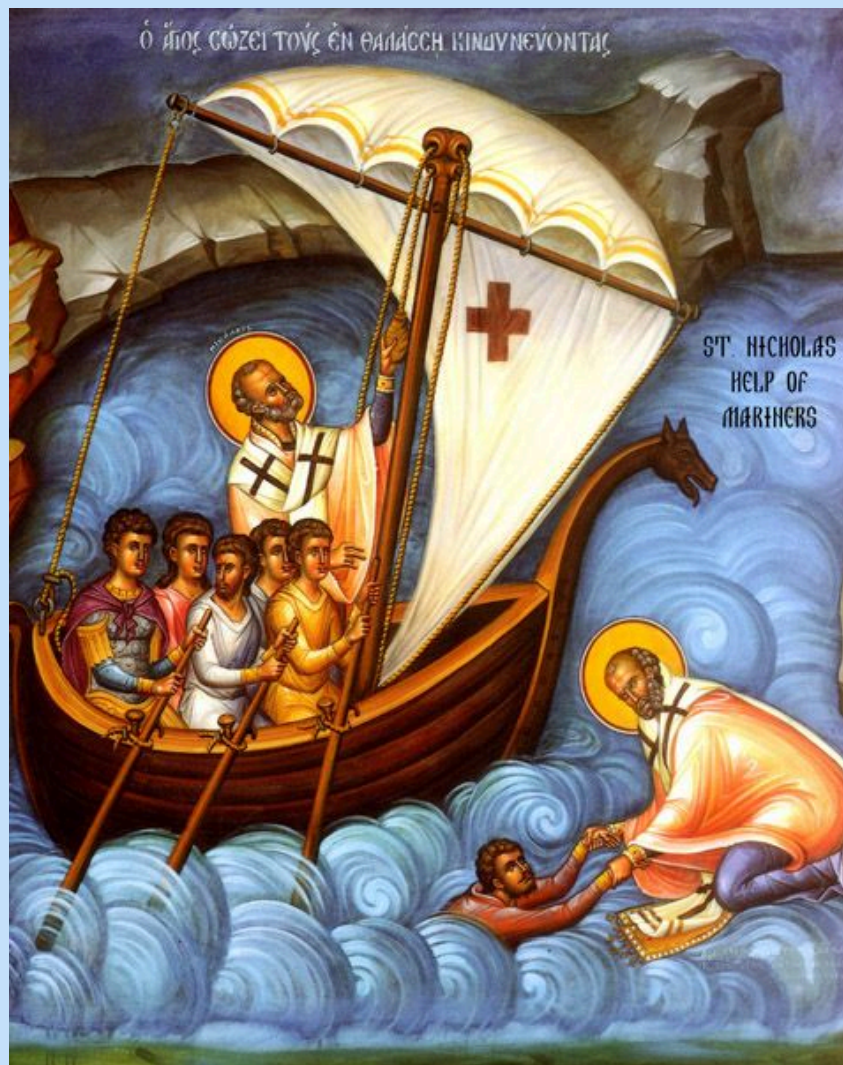




## ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH WEEKLY ONLINE BULLETIN

*We are a Christ-centered community that welcomes all to worship, to pray,  
to serve others and to learn our Orthodox faith*

[View PDF](#)

# JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

August 2nd

9th Sunday  
of Matthew

8:00 AM  
ORTHROS

9:00 AM  
DIVINE LITURGY



## ALSO ONLINE

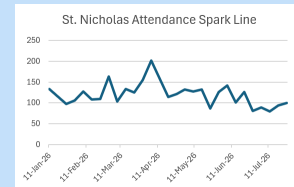


### ATTENDANCE

July 26: 100

2025 Average: 117

[Full Attendance Report](#)



### Divine Services Schedule:

As we enter the period of the Fast prior to the Feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God, we will be holding the following services on the following dates

**Saturday August 1:** Paraklesis to the Mother of God 5 PM

**Tuesday August 4:** Paraklesis to the Mother of God 6 PM

**Thursday August 6:** Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Transfiguration 9 AM  
NO ORTHROS  
Paraklesis to the Mother of God 6 PM

**Tuesday August 11:** Paraklesis to the Mother of God 6 PM

**Thursday August 13:** Paraklesis to the Mother of God 6 PM

**Saturday August 15:** Orthros 8 AM  
Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Dormition 9 AM

### FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Thank you to the **Gray** family for hosting last week.



# DIAKONIA

A National Ministry of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

REFLECTIONS FROM TODAY'S READING | 1 Corinthians 3:9-17

## "The sure foundation is Christ"

Fr. George Parsenios (HCHC '96)



St. Paul teaches us in today's epistle reading that the only sure foundation of our lives is Jesus Christ. We all receive this foundation as a gracious gift from God in baptism, and our task is to remain firmly fitted within Christ. If a building were to become separated from its foundation, it would easily collapse. Jesus is the head of the Church and we are the body. But how can a body survive if separated from its head? Jesus is the vine and we are the branches. But how can branches bear fruit if they are separated from their vine? If Jesus is our foundation, then we must anchor our lives to him with the cement of Christian habits and virtues, else we shall fall away from him completely. This requires more attention than most of us give it, especially when it comes to raising our children. We are often eager to give them the foundation of Christian life in baptism, but upon this foundation we build with what St. Paul calls hay and wood and grass. Our attention is often focused (for good reason!) on their education, their participation in music and sports, and their development

as successful people in the world. All this is essential. But such formation may crumble when confronted with life's deeper questions and many temptations. To offer our children a more stable structure of faith, we must live that faith ourselves. To teach them prayer, we must pray with them. To teach them charity, they must see us being charitable. To teach them forgiveness, they must see us forgiving. Most especially, we must pray on their behalf. A life built on these practices is a building adorned with gold and silver and precious stones, one that is firmly cemented to its sure foundation, Jesus Christ. Upon this foundation, we build with Christian habits and virtues. For this reason, our divine services command repeatedly, "Let us be attentive." If we attentively build lives of humility, patience, charity, self-control, then we can withstand the fires of temptation and the floods of despair. But if we build lives of self-indulgence and luxury, of pleasure and sinful habits, then anything we build might be easily swept away by the cares of this world.

Fr. George Parsenios is Professor of New Testament at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. [www.hchc.edu](http://www.hchc.edu)

*Li100*

Diakonia is made possible by a generous grant from **Leadership 100**

Scan for today's service text

[bit.ly/parishtexts](http://bit.ly/parishtexts)







Orthodox Christian<sup>™</sup>  
PRISON MINISTRY

## PRISON MINISTRY AWARENESS SUNDAY

Did you know that there are Orthodox Christians practicing their faith in prison? Or that there are prisoners who are ready to repent of their crimes and embrace the Orthodox Church? **Who will minister to them?**

As the national prison ministry of the Orthodox Church, Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM) supports prisoners' unique spiritual needs through longterm case management and provides resources and training to parishes and clergy, enabling them to offer local solutions and fulfill Christ's command to visit Him in prison. As a result, families are reunited, marriages are healed, and thousands of incarcerated men and women have a new sense of peace and restored order in their lives.



**5,073**

TOTAL PRISONERS MINISTERED TO

**65,336**

BIBLE STUDIES, DAILY READINGS, AND  
SPIRITUAL REFLECTIONS SENT IN 2025

*"I was in prison,  
and you visited Me."*

Matthew 25:36

**LEARN MORE AT** [theocpm.org](http://theocpm.org)  
**PHONE:** +1.347.868.6957



ASSEMBLY OF CANONICAL  
ORTHODOX BISHOPS  
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM) is the national prison ministry of the Orthodox Church and an agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States.



[PRAYER LIST](#)



OCN  
WEEKLY PRINTABLE  
CHILDREN'S  
WORD

**Printable Version**



Click on the list above to offer your prayers for those in need of prayer

[PRAYER IN TIME OF NEED](#)

[PRAYER FOR THOSE GOING THROUGH DEPRESSION](#)

**Building the foundation**

[READ MORE](#)

*Follow us* @stnicholaslex  
**ON ALL SOCIAL MEDIA**



*Follow and like us! We like you!* ❤️

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

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**SPANAKOPITA WORKSHOP!**  
**FRIDAY, AUGUST 14TH, AT 10 A.M.**  
**ST. IRENE'S HALL**

Calling all volunteers!

Please come help make trays of **spanakopita** for the Gyrofest.  
We will start at 10a.m. and work until we have completed **15 trays**.

Please contact Stasi Le ([asarantosle@gmail.com](mailto:asarantosle@gmail.com)) or Mandy Zervoglos ([mzervoglos@gmail.com](mailto:mzervoglos@gmail.com)) for information or questions.



**Dolmathes Workshop!!!**

As you have seen through several emails, our church is having a one day festival on September 26th. Thus, we need many hands to help us prepare our delicious food. We are holding a Dolmathes workshop on **Thursday, August 20th at 10 AM** in the church hall. Please RSVP to Maria Zallas if you can attend - 617-571-6977 or [zallas.maria@gmail.com](mailto:zallas.maria@gmail.com).

## Calling all social media enthusiasts, content creators, and digital storytellers!

St. Nicholas is seeking an individual to oversee its digital marketing and social media presence, promoting parish events, activities, and important communications.

Whether you're already skilled in digital media or interested in learning, this opportunity could be for you. Donate your time by doing something fun and creative!

Contact Presvytera Maureen at [mparsenios@msn.com](mailto:mparsenios@msn.com) or call or text at 609-865-4883.



### HELP BRING THE GOSPEL TO LIFE – DAILY:

We're looking for volunteers to help Fr. George share a short daily Bible reading with our parish. If you have a heart for Scripture and a few minutes a day, this is a simple and powerful way to serve. Young adults especially encouraged and all are welcome. Interested? Reach out to Mary at [office@stnicholaslex.org](mailto:office@stnicholaslex.org).

### Be the Invitation: Record a Weekly St. Nicholas Video

Our parish is inviting **you** to help welcome others to Divine Liturgy in a simple and meaningful way.

Each week, parishioners record a short video invitation connected to the Sunday Gospel, just 10–20 seconds, spoken from the heart.

#### How it works:

- 📱 Scan the QR code to sign up for a date
- 🎥 Record a short video on your phone
- 💬 Speak naturally (like inviting a friend)
- 📤 Upload your video (due 5 days before your Sunday)



No need to be perfect. Joy, warmth, and authenticity matter most.

Each video posted also helps support our parish through a special grant opportunity.

Thank you for helping us share the love of Christ and build connection in our community.





## **FOOD DONATIONS** **WANTED**

Please share your non-perishable, unexpired food items in the food donation cart in St Irene's Hall.

This basket will stay in the Hall and be donated when ever it is full.

If you have any questions please ask Emily Babalas  
([edbabalas@gmail.com](mailto:edbabalas@gmail.com)).

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## **MINISTRIES**

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### **Strategic Planning Update**

(Click the Strategic Plan Implementation report below)

## Strategic Plan Implementation Update June 21, 2026



|                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Religious Education</b> | <b>Co-Captains: Maria Decoulos and Judy Gray</b>                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Accomplishments</b>     | Executed the goal: At least 80% of parish youth completed a revised and updated full academic year Sunday School program with goals and objectives for each grade level.<br>Student presentation planned for June Graduation. |
| <b>Plan</b>                | Consider setting the next set of goals for Religious Education.                                                                                                                                                               |

|                                   |                                                                                                                           |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Stewardship and Engagement</b> | <b>Co-Captains: Penelope Tzougros and Stephanie DeVasto</b>                                                               |
| <b>Accomplishments</b>            | Presented findings to the Strategic Implementation Team.<br>Completed evaluation of adult and youth stewardship programs. |
| <b>Plan for Next Month</b>        | Determine conscious overlap with the Outreach Committee.<br>Finalize adult and youth stewardship program.                 |

|                            |                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Renovation Program</b>  | <b>Co-Captains: Carol Bearse and Bob DeVasto</b>                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Accomplishments</b>     | Completed fundraising brochure to share with potential donors.<br>Reengaged architects to better understand engineering costs.<br>Met Geotech engineer onsite to address conservation items. |
| <b>Plan for Next Month</b> | Scheduled fundraising planning with the fundraising consultant in July.<br>Start fundraising in July.                                                                                        |

|                                                  |                                                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Outreach, Evangelism, and Welcoming (OEW)</b> | <b>Team Members: Emily Babalas, Charlie Marge, Nicholas Zervoglos</b> |
| <b>Plan for Next Month</b>                       | Project Mexico Trip planned. Several parishioners are participating.  |

Thank you to all the co-captains and team members for the great progress on implementing the strategic planning goals.

## Community Transformation Team



## CTT (RENOVATION) UPDATE

We have had a busy summer working behind the scenes on contract negotiations with our architect and the engineers involved with our new facility upgrade. We have hired an attorney to oversee these negotiations thus enabling us to sign these contracts by August 1. We hope to have engineering reports completed by October.

We also have had a workshop with our fundraiser, Nick Chakos. He informed us that our brochure and video are almost complete.

We will begin to solicit donations for our Capital Campaign that will support new construction. Stay tuned for more good news.

We want to thank our parishioners for their support and patience. We are moving forward!

Please check out our [website](#) where we provide all the latest information and developments regarding the transformation of our facility.

If you have any questions, please contact Carol Bearse Mackintosh.

## Stewardship



Happy Summer!

I am happy to report the following data on our pledges/giving since January 1, 2026:

| # of Pledges (indiv/fam) | Pledge amt (total) | # of indiv/ fam paid | Amt paid (total) | % Amt paid (total) | Remainder to goal |
|--------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 46                       | \$111,282.00       | 109                  | \$140,935.98     | 64%                | \$79,064.02       |

Summer is in full force! I hope all of you are enjoying or have plans to enjoy the beautiful weather we are experiencing - despite the recent profound rain and heat wave. St. Nicholas is thriving because of your beautiful efforts. By December 31, 2026, we hope to meet our goal of \$220,000 - we are less than \$80,000 away. Let's continue to support our community!

Quick links:

- Want to sign up for a church ministry? Fill out this survey: <https://app.onechurchsoftware.com/stnicholaslex/forms/8>
- Want to submit a pledge? Go to <https://stnicholaslex.onechurchsoftware.com/>, log in, and follow the prompts under the "\$ Giving" tab
- Want to give a donation?
  - OPTION 1: If you already have a One Church account, submit an offering by going to <https://stnicholaslex.onechurchsoftware.com/>, log in, click [Give Now](#) (in the gray bar on the left of your screen), and follow the prompts
  - OPTION 2: If you don't have a One Church account, submit an offering by going to <https://app.onechurchsoftware.com/stnicholaslex/giving> and follow the prompts
  - OPTION 3: Mail in a check/cash to St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, 17 Meriam Street, Lexington, MA, 02420
- Questions? Contact [stewardship@stnicholaslex.org](mailto:stewardship@stnicholaslex.org)

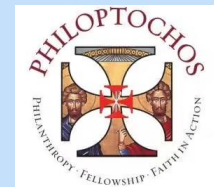
For those who have pledged and/or given thus far - THANK YOU!!

Alexis Papathanasiou (Dr. Alexis Zallas, DVM)  
Stewardship Chair

### JUNE 2026 UPDATE

### JUNE 2026 Honor Roll

## Philoptochos



### Click for the 2025-26 Philoptochos Meeting Schedule

### St. Irene's Philoptochos Stewards as of June 21, 2026

### **Philoptochos End of the Year Celebration:**

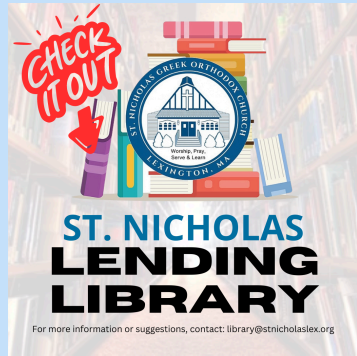
We had a beautiful evening on June 1, in the backyard garden of Charlene Colt, where we celebrated our Philoptochos End of the Year Party, with an amazing potluck dinner. The evening was enjoyed by 12 of us, as we, once again, contributed our funds to many charities. There was much happiness and laughter, along with the serious work that we must do. Here are the donations that we made to close out our year:

Boston Pregnancy Center \$500  
Metropolis of Boston Camp \$500  
Scholarship to Metropolis for Boston Camp. \$500  
Crossroads Scholarship Fund. \$1000

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO SAVE THE DATE** for our Sip and Paint evening on Friday evening, October 16. More details to follow.

God Bless our St. Nicholas family. We could not do this amazing work without your love and support. We are so grateful for all of you, our St. Nicholas family!

## Lending Library



### NOTES FROM THE LIBRARY:

**Spiritual Counsels of Saint Paisios (6 vol. set) now available!** St. Paisios the New (1924-1994) was one of the most loved and revered Elders of our times. Living as a monk on Mount Athos, he spent his nights in prayer and his days guiding, consoling, healing, and giving spiritual rest to countless people who took shelter in him. The wise spiritual counsels of the Elder have been collected in these six volumes under the following titles: **With Pain and Love for Contemporary Man, Spiritual Awakening, Spiritual Struggle, Family Life, Passions and Virtues, On Prayer.**

Please email the [library](mailto:library@stnicholaslex.org) if you have any requests or questions, we'd love to hear from you.

## Fellowship



### REMINDER:

Do you enjoy a nice cup of coffee and a piece of pastry following each Sunday's Divine Liturgy? Of course, you do. That's why we're asking those who have not sponsored a Sunday fellowship hour in a while to please sign up for the many opening dates available. We all like to chit-chat with our fellow parishioners with a coffee in-hand. So, please step forward. It's real easy.....all you need to bring is some pastry (nothing fancy) and a gallon of milk. The church supplies the rest (napkins, plates, cups, etc.). If you have questions, just call the church office.

Thanks much for answering this appeal. We all will appreciate and thank you.

## Hey Ministry Leaders and eBulletin Contributors!

*Keep your updates fresh and informative!*

Email any digital photos or updates to [rdiorio18@gmail.com](mailto:rdiorio18@gmail.com) by noon on Friday, and they will appear in the electronic bulletin. Also be sure to copy [office@stnicholaslex.org](mailto:office@stnicholaslex.org) by Wednesday noon if you would like the content to appear in the paper bulletin.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

***Riding this weekend!!!***





# 2026 PAN-MASS CHALLENGE

## DONATE TO SUPPORT OUR RIDERS!



**100% of All Donations Support Dana Farber  
and The Jimmy Fund**

**Elena Proakis  
Ellis**

Donate by scanning  
the QR code  
or go to  
[https://profile.pmc.org/  
EP0203](https://profile.pmc.org/EP0203)

SCAN ME



**Anthony Gray**

Donate by scanning  
the QR code  
or go to  
[https://profile.pmc.org/  
AG0489](https://profile.pmc.org/AG0489)

SCAN ME



**Peter Lloyd**

Donate by scanning  
the QR code  
or go to  
[https://profile.pmc.org/  
PL0196](https://profile.pmc.org/PL0196)

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**Lou Saledas**

Donate by scanning  
the QR code  
or go to  
[https://profile.pmc.org/  
LS0274](https://profile.pmc.org/LS0274)

SCAN ME



**PAN MASS CHALLENGE • August 1-2, 2026**

The St. Irene's Philoptochos invites you  
to a special evening event!

# ***SIP & PAINT NIGHT!***

*Sip, paint  
& have FUN!*

**October 16, 2026  
6:30 PM**

St. Irene's Hall  
St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church  
17 Meriam Street, Lexington, MA

***\$50 per person***

## ***Event Highlights***

- Easy step-by-step painting guided by Art by Katerina
- All art supplies included
- Complimentary beverages & mezedakia
- Take home your very own masterpiece
- No experience necessary

## ***For Reservations***

Please make checks out to **St. Irene's Philoptochos**.  
Contact Stephanie DeVasto at (617) 908-9372 or  
stephbob1976@aol.com for information and tickets.

**ART** by Katerina



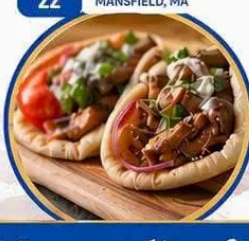




# 2026 Greek Festivals

IN NEW ENGLAND

|                                                                       |                                                             |                                                                     |                                                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>MAY 15-16</b><br>ST. PHILIP CHURCH<br>NASHUA, NH                   | <b>JUNE 20-21</b><br>ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH<br>MANCHESTER, NH  | <b>AUGUST 22-23</b><br>ST. GEORGE CHURCH<br>PITTSFIELD, MA          | <b>SEPT 17-20</b><br>ANNUNCIATION CHURCH<br>BROCKTON, MA                  |
| <b>MAY 22-24</b><br>ST. VASILIOS CHURCH<br>PEABODY, MA                | <b>JUNE 25-27</b><br>HOLY TRINITY CHURCH<br>PORTLAND, ME    | <b>AUGUST 29</b><br>HOLY TRINITY CHURCH<br>HOLYOKE, MA              | <b>SEPT 17-19</b><br>HOLY TRINITY CHURCH<br>NORWICH, CT                   |
| <b>MAY-JUN 29-31</b><br>TRANSFIGURATION CHURCH<br>LOWELL, MA          | <b>JUNE 26-28</b><br>ST. CATHERINE CHURCH<br>BRAINTREE, MA  | <b>AUGUST 29-30</b><br>ASSUMPTION CHURCH<br>MANCHESTER, NH          | <b>SEPT 18-20</b><br>ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL – BOSTON<br>BROOKLINE, MA     |
| <b>MAY-JUN 29-31</b><br>ANNUNCIATION CHURCH<br>WOBBURN, MA            | <b>JULY 10-11</b><br>ST. GEORGE CHURCH<br>CENTERVILLE, MA   | <b>SEPT 4-5</b><br>ANNUNCIATION CHURCH<br>DOVER, NH                 | <b>SEPT 18-20</b><br>ST. GEORGE CATHEDRAL<br>MANCHESTER, NH               |
| <b>JUNE 4-7</b><br>ST. ATHANASIOS CHURCH<br>ARLINGTON, MA             | <b>JULY 10-11</b><br>ST. GEORGE CHURCH<br>DARTMOUTH, MA     | <b>SEPT 4-5</b><br>HOLY TRINITY CHURCH<br>LEWISTON, ME              | <b>SEPT 19-20</b><br>STS. CONSTANTINE & HELEN CHURCH<br>ANDOVER, MA       |
| <b>JUNE 6-7</b><br>HOLY TRINITY CHURCH<br>DANIELSON, CT               | <b>JULY 10-12</b><br>ST. DEMETRIOS CHURCH<br>SACO, ME       | <b>SEPT 4-6</b><br>ST. GEORGE CHURCH<br>LYNN, MA                    | <b>SEPT 19-20</b><br>ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST – BOSTON<br>BOSTON, MA          |
| <b>JUNE 12-14</b><br>HOLY TRINITY CHURCH<br>LOWELL, MA                | <b>JULY 11-12</b><br>ASSUMPTION CHURCH<br>IPSWICH, MA       | <b>SEPT 4-6</b><br>STS. ANARGYROI CHURCH<br>MARLBOROUGH, MA         | <b>SEPT 25-27</b><br>ST. NECTARIOS CHURCH<br>ROSLINDALE, MA               |
| <b>JUNE 12-14</b><br>TAXIARCHAE CHURCH<br>WATERTOWN, MA               | <b>JULY 17-19</b><br>ST. SPYRIDON CHURCH<br>NEWPORT, RI     | <b>SEPT 11-13</b><br>ANNUNCIATION CHURCH<br>CRANSTON, RI            | <b>SEPT 26</b><br>HOLY TRINITY CHURCH<br>CONCORD, NH                      |
| <b>JUNE 18-21</b><br>STS. CONSTANTINE & HELEN CHURCH<br>CAMBRIDGE, MA | <b>JULY 24-26</b><br>ANNUNCIATION CHURCH<br>NEWBURYPORT, MA | <b>SEPT 11-12</b><br>HOLY TRINITY CHURCH<br>FITCHBURG, MA           | <b>OCT 16-17</b><br>ST. LUKE CHURCH<br>EAST LONGMEADOW, MA                |
| <b>JUNE 19-20</b><br>ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH<br>PORTSMOUTH, NH            | <b>JULY 25</b><br>DORMITION CHURCH<br>BURLINGTON, VT        | <b>SEPT 11-13</b><br>DORMITION CHURCH<br>SOMERVILLE, MA             | <b>NOV 4-6</b><br>ST. SOPHIA CHURCH<br>NEW LONDON, CT                     |
| <b>JUNE 19-21</b><br>ST. SPYRIDON CATHEDRAL<br>WORCESTER, MA          | <b>AUGUST 21-23</b><br>ASSUMPTION CHURCH<br>PAWTUCKET, RI   | <b>SEPT 11-13</b><br>ST. GEORGE CATHEDRAL<br>SPRINGFIELD, MA        | <b>NOV 6-7</b><br>HOLY APOSTLES STS. PETER & PAUL CHURCH<br>HAVERHILL, MA |
|                                                                       | <b>AUGUST 22</b><br>ST. GREGORY CHURCH<br>MANSFIELD, MA     | <b>SEPT 12-13</b><br>STS. CONSTANTINE & HELEN CHURCH<br>WEBSTER, MA | <b>DEC 5</b><br>ST. GEORGE CHURCH<br>KEENE, NH                            |



Metropolis of Boston Parishes



[boston.goarch.org](http://boston.goarch.org)



MetropolisofBoston



MetropolisofBoston





METROPOLISOFBOSTONCAMP.ORG

|                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>SESSION 1</b> | <b>SESSION 2</b> | <b>SESSION 3</b> | <b>SESSION 4</b> | <b>SESSION 5</b> |
| June 29 – July 5 | July 6 – 12      | July 13 – 19     | July 20–26       | July 27 – Aug 2  |



**AGES 8-18 | SPACE IS LIMITED**  
Registration Opens March 1st at 7pm



**Mark your calendars:** *Fall General Assembly: Sunday, November 15th*

## PLACE A BUSINESS AD?

If you are interested in placing an ad in our weekly bulletin, please contact the [church office](#).

In addition, we welcome supporting you or loved ones who are fundraising for a cause, by publicizing your appeal.





Try email marketing for free today!