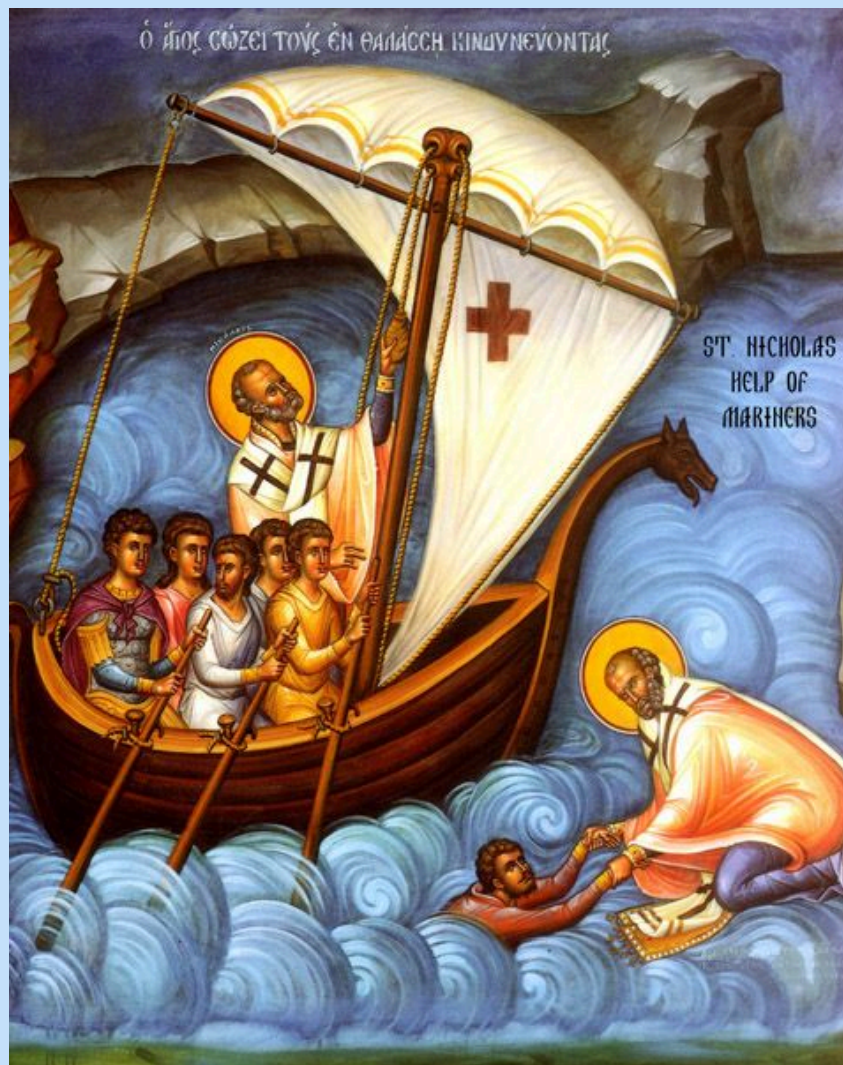




ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH WEEKLY ONLINE BULLETIN

*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

July 12th

6th Sunday
of Matthew

8:00 AM
ORTHROS

9:00 AM
DIVINE LITURGY

ATTENDANCE

July 5: 89 people

2025 Average: 117 people

[Full Attendance Report](#)



ALSO ONLINE



Chanters:

CHARLIE MARGE
TERI STEVENS

TRISAGION

For **Fr. Joseph Tzougros (6 months)**, brother of Penelope Tzougros

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Hosted by **Penelope Tzougros**

Thank you to Ghada and Don for hosting last week.

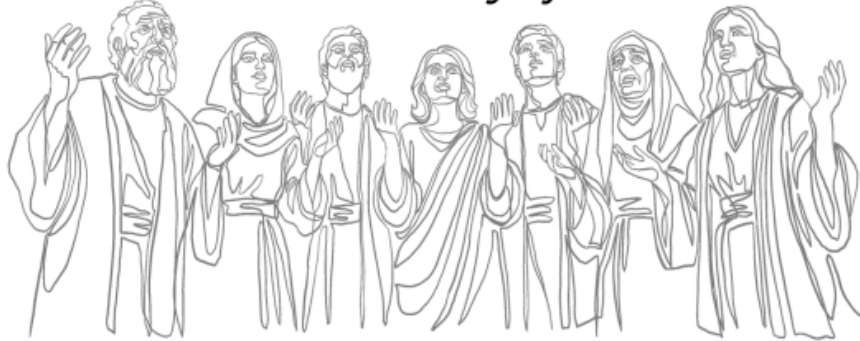


DIAKONIA

A National Ministry of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

REFLECTIONS FROM TODAY'S READING | *Romans 12:6-14*

"Christians are a body of believers..."



Fr. George Parsenios (HCHC '96)

In an age of "Internet Orthodoxy," many people try to live the Christian life without joining an actual Church community. In today's epistle reading, however, St. Paul teaches that the Christian life requires us to join a fellowship of believers. We see this in three different ways. First, no single person possesses every Christian virtue. Today's reading opens by explaining that each one of us receives a different gift in proportion to God's grace. Some people excel at serving their neighbors humbly, while others serve as leaders with gifts for exhortation and encouragement. One person may "be constant in prayer," while another person has the gift of teaching. No single person has all these gifts. If we follow Christ by ourselves, then we follow him incompletely. Second, even if a single person were blessed and skilled enough to accomplish everything necessary, how would he have the time?

In the Long Rules #7, St. Basil the Great recognizes that devotion to one task invariably means neglect of others. If a person is fully devoted to teaching, how can he at the same time be available to show hospitality? How can one person be constant in prayer while also exhorting others or giving aid to those in need? Each day has only so many hours. If we are to accomplish all that is required, then we must work collectively, not individually. Finally, many Christian virtues require a neighbor to practice them. How can we show hospitality if we never encounter other people? How can we forgive our neighbor if there is no one around us to cause offense? Even monasteries base individual effort in collective striving. Monks and nuns each have different gifts, and like the rest of us they must exercise those gifts in community, not in isolation.

Fr. George Parsenios is Professor of New Testament at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. www.hchc.edu



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

Scan for today's service text

bit.ly/parishtexts



From Metropolis of Boston Philoptochos:

History of Operation Housewarming

With outreach at the forefront of our mission as a philanthropic organization, and through the support, guidance, and inspiration of His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios, Operation Housewarming was established in 2012 by the Metropolis of Boston Philoptochos in partnership with VA New England Healthcare System. The mission of the program is to assist homeless veterans of the VA New England Healthcare System in their transition to independent living.

Through Operation Housewarming, household items are donated by Philoptochos Chapters, Parishes, and individuals to create a welcome basket for each veteran including plate ware, cleaning supplies, towels, and more. The items are then brought to the local Veterans Affairs programs and distributed. Monetary contributions or gift cards in lieu of the listed items are also welcome. The funds are used by the Metropolis Philoptochos to purchase items from the wish list. The full Operation Housewarming Wish List and donation instructions can be found here.

Under the leadership of His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios, at a small Christmas gathering in 2012 with veterans and VA Leaders of the VA New England Healthcare System, we quickly implemented this ministry and began outreach to our communities in early 2013. The first delivery of Housewarming Baskets began with VA Medical Centers in Bedford and Brockton, Massachusetts, representing the largest homeless veterans' programs in the VA New England Healthcare System. The program was quickly embraced by all Philoptochos Chapters, Clergy and Stewards across our Metropolis.

The first collection and delivery of baskets in May 2013 occurred from the home of one of the Chairwomen of the ministry. The items collected, completed 40 baskets from her home parish in Brockton, MA through the support of the Parish Priest, Philoptochos Chapter, GOYA and parishioners at large.

Subsequently Chapters in close proximity to the Metropolis began collecting the Wish List items and bringing them to the Metropolis Center where the Program Chairs organize and coordinate with VA representatives for delivery to the veterans on a regular basis. This ministry continues to thrive due to the overwhelming support and generosity of all the Philoptochos chapters and parish communities at large.

The program is promoted on an on-going basis with an emphasis on Memorial Day; National Independence Day; Veterans Day and Christmas Holidays.

How has Operation Housewarming grown?

- Beginning in 2014 Chapters at great distance from the Metropolis are provided with guidance and contact information for delivery to a VA facility closest to their respective parish.
- In 2018 the program was expanded to include homeless female veterans and veterans with children.
- In 2019 the Metropolis Philoptochos began providing Christmas presents to the veterans and children at the VA Medical Center; Bedford MA. The Philoptochos Chapter of Brockton provided the same for those at the VA Medical Center; Brockton MA.
- In 2020 the program has been expanded to include homeless veterans living in foster homes. These veterans cannot live alone due to developmental disabilities yet are borderline for hospitalization. People have opened their homes to them offering them a safe and nurturing environment. Ultimately avoiding hospitalization altogether. The Metropolis Philoptochos provided the items on their Wishlist which are activities for keeping them stimulated particularly during the "Stay at Home" pandemic.

The success of Operation Housewarming in our Metropolis has caught the attention of the National Philoptochos and the program gained national recognition and became a National Philoptochos initiative. The VA New England Healthcare System extended recognition to our Metropolis and Philoptochos for the work with veterans on two occasions:

- o Friends of Social Service Award in 2018
- o Certificate of Appreciation in 2020 to both chair ladies

Over the years, VA representatives and veterans who have partaken in this program have attended Philoptochos meetings to not only express their gratitude but also make known the impact that we are truly having on the veteran community. Our Metropolis Board continues to receive recognition for its work from the Veteran's Affairs Leadership.

Our brave service men and women have made great sacrifices to serve our country and to protect all of us. It is important to show them that we appreciate their sacrifice that we care and are eager to assist them as they return to civilian life and a new chapter in their lives.



PRAYER LIST

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](#)



Printable Version

Use your gifts!

[READ MORE](#)

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ON ALL SOCIAL MEDIA



Follow and like us! We like you! ❤️

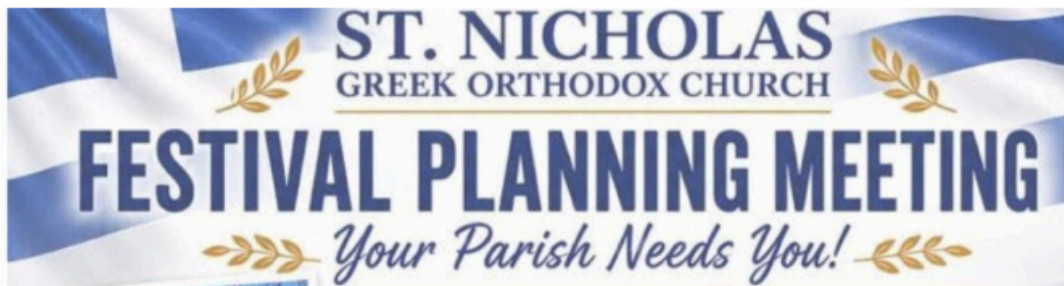
ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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 or call or text at 609-865-4883.



Everyone is welcome to join the next general festival meeting:

Wednesday, Jul 15, 2026
07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
via **Zoom**

Meeting ID: 840 5928 6977

We look forward to everyone getting involved!

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.

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).

MINISTRIES

Strategic Planning Update

(Click the Strategic Plan Implementation report below)

Strategic Plan Implementation Update June 21, 2026



Religious Education	Co-Captains: Maria Decoulos and Judy Gray
Accomplishments	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. Student presentation planned for June Graduation.
Plan	Consider setting the next set of goals for Religious Education.

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

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

Outreach, Evangelism, and Welcoming (OEW)	Team Members: Emily Babalas, Charlie Marge, Nicholas Zervoglos
Plan for Next Month	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



Dear parishioners,

We are pleased to announce that we are moving forward with Phase 2 of the Design and Development. This phase involves hiring the engineers to look at our design before going before the Design Review Board for the town of Lexington. We will have more details at the May 4 General Assembly. We also hope to launch our Capital Campaign in May. Thank you for your ongoing support and patience.

Thank you,
Carol

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 (individual)	Pledge amt (total)	# of indiv/ fam paid	Amt paid (total)	% Amt paid (total)	Remainder to goal
45	\$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://www.onechurchsoftware.com/stnicholaslex/forms/8>
- Want to submit a pledge? Go to <https://stnicholaslex.onechurchsoftware.com/>, log in, and follow the prompts under the "S 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://www.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

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

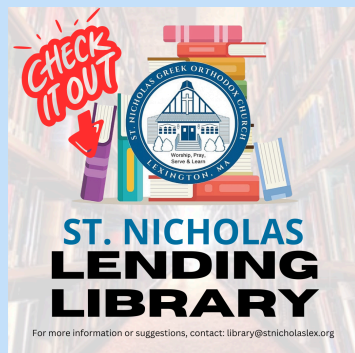


Click for the 2025-26 Philoptocos Meeting Schedule

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

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR PAINT NIGHT OCTOBER 16th: Philoptochos is hosting a Sip and Paint Night with the artist, Katerina Delegas, who will guide us through creating our individual paintings. No experience necessary! Come and join us for a really fun evening and support your Philoptochos! Sure to be lots of fun!

Lending Library



NOTES FROM THE LIBRARY:

Fellowship



REMINDER:

Do you enjoy a nice cup of coffee and a piece of pastry following each Sunday's

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](#) if you have any requests or questions, we'd love to hear from you.

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 by noon on Friday, and they will appear in the electronic bulletin. Also be sure to copy office@stnicholaslex.org by Wednesday noon if you would like the content to appear in the paper bulletin.

UPCOMING EVENTS:



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
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Peter Lloyd

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SCAN ME



Lou Saledas

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

SCAN ME



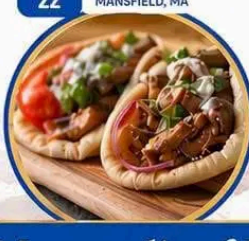
PAN MASS CHALLENGE • August 1-2, 2026



2026 Greek Festivals

IN NEW ENGLAND

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



Metropolis of Boston Parishes



boston.goarch.org



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METROPOLISOFBOSTONCAMP.ORG

SESSION 1	SESSION 2	SESSION 3	SESSION 4	SESSION 5
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!