



Metropolis of Boston

SAINT ATHANASIUS THE GREAT

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

4 Appleton Street, Arlington, MA 02476

“Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear” (Eph. 4.29)

Dear Faithful Stewards of St. Athanasius,

As we start the new ecclesiastical year, we need to come together as a parish to meet our challenges and move forward in our 53rd year as a parish.

His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios relieved Fr. Kastanas of his pastoral responsibilities at St. Athanasius on July 27, 2017. Many have been awaiting a more detailed statement from Metropolitan Methodios regarding Fr. Kastanas. However, it our understanding that on August 1st Fr. Kastanas filed a lawsuit against the Metropolis of Boston. The case is ongoing and it is unlikely that the Metropolis will make any type of statement, while this lawsuit is pending.

We have faced many challenges as a parish over the last half century and always found the fortitude to come together and prevail. As we enter our second half century, we need to concentrate on healing and strengthening our St. Athanasius parish.

Our church is our sanctuary. It's where we grew up, where we formed our earliest friendships; where we went to Sunday school and Greek school; became altar servers or junior choir members; where we learned about our religion and our culture. It's where we learned how to work together and give back, as GOYA members in our teenage years; learning from our parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents and Godparents, the importance of loving our church and working together for a common goal, supporting our beloved St. Athanasius parish. We later graduated to positions of greater responsibility, as Parish Council, Philoptochos and PTO members. It's where many of us became examples for our children and the children of our fellow parishioners, as both Sunday School teachers and Greek School teachers. It's where we were baptized, married, baptized our children, and buried our loved ones. For over 50 years, our beloved church, St. Athanasius the Great, is a constant that binds us together.

Church is where we go to pray to God for many things; for the health of our children, parents and loved ones; for the health and well-being of innocent people in tragic situations all over the world, for forgiveness of our sins and transgressions and those of others; and for our own salvation and that of everyone around us. We treat each other with patience, kindness and love, despite our differences and differing opinions. There are no “sides”, no right and wrong side; there's only one side...the side of God.

Keeping these thoughts in my mind and in my heart, I ask that we all come together in grace and harmony; that we remember we are all one family who belong to our beloved St. Athanasius parish.

As September marks the beginning of the new church year, please come to our church and celebrate the Divine Liturgy as a family.

Faithfully,

Constandinos Ioakimidis

St. Athanasius Parish Council President

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