



NEWSLETTER

THE ORTHODOX CHRONICLES

Sundays in May

- 3rd - Fifth Sunday of Easter Communion**
- 10th - Sixth Sunday of Easter**
- 17th - Seventh Sunday of Easter**
- 24th - Pentecost**
- 31st - Trinity Sunday**

Church Calendar



- Choir Practice, Wednesdays 7:00 pm
- 5/2 - Women's Luncheon in the Vestry 12:00 - 2:00 pm
- 5/12 & 26th - Intentional Discussions in the Parlor, 7:00 pm
- 5/12 - Soup Kitchen 4-5:30
- 5/13 - Holly Fair Craft Night 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Save the date...

- 6/14 - Childrens and Choir Sunday
- 7/14 - Strawberry Shortcake booth at Family Fun Night 6-9pm
- 7/14 - Soup Kitchen 4-5:30



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Women's Luncheon



Join us tomorrow, May 2nd, for the Women's Luncheon

We are hosting the Women's luncheon this year and have a sign up genius below for items needed. You can also contact Annie regarding the luncheon at: annieschwehm@gmail.com. In addition, monetary donations are welcomed! If you are interested in attending or helping, [Click here to sign up](#).

In our church we place no barriers to receiving communion. Your willingness to partake is the only hurdle. This also means that we also welcome the youngest of our community to the communion table.

To create a more inclusive table for all we use 100% real grape juice (not wine) and gluten free bread.

When taking communion in the pew although there is no wrong way to receive/administer communion it is a pleasure to serve (others) and in the next moment be served yourself. With that in mind this lighthearted video highlights one way communion can be distributed at the pew.

Thank you to Eric Greenberg for creating a helpful video and reminder of our communion practices.

Serving and being served.
A communion how to.

[Link to video](#)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holly Fair 2026



Grandma's Attic:

It's *never* too early to think about the Holly Fair! With the new year upon us, many of us are organizing and cleaning out—and the Holly Fair Committee wants to remind you that we need your stuff! We are happily accepting good-condition, unwanted items to help make Grandma's Attic a success. If you have items you'd like to donate, please email **Amy Pierce** at AmyC1013@verizon.net or text 617-512-0991 to arrange a convenient drop-off day and time.

Crafters Wanted!

We would love to support our craft table by adding new, handmade items—and we need your help! If you are a crafter by trade or simply enjoy crafting as a hobby, we invite you to join us. We are hoping to host a monthly Fellowship Craft Night at the church. These gatherings will not only help us create items for the craft table (which supports church fundraising), but will also provide a fun, social evening to connect and get out of the house during the season. As the saying goes, *many hands make light work*—so let's come together and enjoy a creative night out! If you're interested in hosting a craft or would like more information, please contact **Amy Pierce** at AmyC1013@verizon.net or text 617-512-0991.

Raffle Baskets:

It's never too early to start thinking about raffle baskets! Have you ever received a gift and wondered, "*What will I do with that?*" Unused or unopened items can be the perfect start to a great basket. Do you know someone with a small business or a crafting talent? We would love some help gathering donations—whether it's an item or a gift card. Even clearance sections at stores can spark ideas for creating wonderful baskets while saving money! Baskets can be any theme, any holiday, and for all ages and interests.

We are blessed with so many creative, talented, and generous people in our church. Let's work together to make **Holly Fair 2026** a great success! We would love to welcome more committee members and volunteers of all ages.

If you would like more information about the Holly Fair, please reach out to **Nicole Reynolds, Kerrie Schlager, Dick Kelsay, Andrea Kelsay, Kathy Harsh, Jane Conley, Annie Schwehm, or Amy Pierce,**

Thank you for supporting the Holly Fair—we truly appreciate your generosity! ♥



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Spring Market of Hope - May 2nd at 3pm

***Please see this invitation from our friends at St. Gregory's Church!**

I am a parishioner at St. Gregory the Theologian Greek Orthodox Church, Mansfield. I am also the president of our church's friends of the poor (Philoptochos) chapter. Our Philoptochos is sponsoring an outreach and fundraiser event, Spring Market of Hope, that will take place at St. Gregory (1007 West Street) at 3:00 PM on May 2nd. Our goal is to raise awareness of human trafficking and the exploitation of women in New England with guest speakers who work in our communities to teach about and prevent this reality.

Primary Organizations featured at this event are:

- Jasmine Grace/Beauty from Ashes Ministry (BFAM)
- All Hands In
- Trades of Hope

A keynote address will be given in the church by Jasmine Grace Marino, a trafficking survivor and founder and director of BFAM. Following the presentation, we will gather in the hall for shopping at our Spring Market of Hope which will include survivor-made artisanal goods from the three vendors above. Beautiful Mother's Day gifts will be offered!

100% proceeds of sales will go to the respective organizations.

It would be so wonderful to have you and other members of your parish there. Please feel free to invite colleagues and friends who you think would be interested in attending. This event is free of charge and open to all adults 18 and over.

You can RSVP to me directly or to PHILOPTOCHOSSTGREGORYMANSFIELD@gmail.com. I am also happy to answer any questions you may have about our church, the Philoptochos or this very important event.

Regards,
Yvette Politis



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive

We're excited to share that the **Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive**, hosted by the National Association of Letter Carriers, is coming up on **Saturday, May 9th**—and it's an easy way to make a big difference right from home.

How it works:

Simply place a bag of non-perishable, unexpired food by your mailbox early on Saturday, May 9th, and your mail carrier will pick it up and deliver it directly to the Mansfield Food Pantry.

Most needed items include:

- Snack items (cookies, peanut butter crackers, Goldfish, etc.)
- Cereal (full-sized boxes — *no Cheerios needed*)
- Taco kits, Hamburger Helper, and taco/fajita seasonings
- Sides (boxed or bagged mashed potatoes, Knorr side packets, Pasta Roni — *no rice needed*)
- Chef Boyardee canned pasta, mac & cheese, and ramen

This is one of the Pantry's largest food drives of the year, and your participation helps us continue to support local families in need.

Thank you for helping us **Stamp Out Hunger** in our community!



DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Winter/Spring Intentional Discussions

Join us as we journey through the powerful stories in 2 Samuel, a book filled with courage, calling, and God's hand at work in the lives of unlikely people.



Summer Sermon Series: Rooted: Growing Deep in Faith

This summer we'll explore what it means to build a strong, enduring life in Christ. Through Scripture, we'll be guided from being planted in Jesus and nourished by God's Word to experiencing spiritual pruning, bearing lasting fruit, and growing through both community and challenge. Each week emphasizes deepening trust, strengthening identity in Christ, and learning to live on mission, so that we are anchored firmly enough to stand through life's storms.

Join us this summer in the vestery at 9:30 am
June 21st - September 6th

Pastor Marissa Rapoza



“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.” 2 Peter 3:18

May is a month of great growth. The budding trees finally bloom all their leaves. Flowers spring up from the ground and fill our yards and landscape with their beauty. We don't always see the beginnings of those budding trees or blossoming flowers because growth is a steady, often quiet process. You don't notice it day by day, but over time, it transforms everything. Peter's final words aren't about standing still or reaching a finish line, they're about continuing to grow.

We often think that spiritual growth is about knowing more; in reality, it's about becoming more like Christ. Grace reminds us that we are loved as we are, while knowledge draws us closer to who Jesus truly is. Together, they shape a life that reflects Him more clearly.

There will be seasons when growth feels slow or even invisible. But every moment spent seeking Christ, through prayer, Scripture, or simple trust, is part of that process. God is not in a hurry but is always at work.

Today, take one small step forward. Lean into God's grace. Seek to know God just a little more. Growth doesn't require perfection, just willingness.

Prayer:

Lord, help me to grow in Your grace and in knowing You. Shape my heart, deepen my faith, and guide me closer to You each day. Amen.



Emma Ceurvels, Music Director

Happy May-my favorite month!

It's hard to believe we are almost entering the summer months. We look forward to Choir and Children's Sunday on June 14th, when we'll celebrate with some special music. Now is a great time to "try out" the choir if you've ever thought about doing so. Join us on a Wednesday evening at 7pm and see what it's like--no pressure ever!

Personally, I spent time this past month recording "Find Love", a song I wrote for my four boys this past fall. My dad was able to play guitar and sing on the recording, and my brother Sam played a beautiful lap steel guitar part. My dad put together a beautiful lyric video to the song for use with the Convergence Music Project. You can view it by clicking [here](#). I hope it is meaningful to you!

With love,
Emma

Sunday School/Children's Ministry



Sunday School Schedule

May 3: Intergenerational Sunday - No Sunday School

May 10: Sunday School

May 17: Sunday School

May 24: Sunday School

May 31st: Sunday School



Meghan Rego, Children's Ministry

We are excited to wrap up the Sunday School year with Children's Sunday on June 14, 2026. If any child would like to lead a part of the Children's Sunday service but cannot make it to Sunday School in the coming weeks please let me know and I will ensure that they are included.

Church Council and Ministry Leaders

Council

Moderator - Peter Ham
Treasurer - Kim Greenberg
Clerk - Rick Haines

Deacons

Chair - Eric Greenberg
Nate Adkins
Kerrie Schlager
Deb Svenson
Dick Kelsay

Parish Relations Team

Co-Chair - John Partridge
Co-Chair - Peter Ham
Laurie Geminiani
Krista Young
Will Reynolds
Kerrie Schlager

Ministry Leaders

Christian Ed. - Meghan Rego
Hospitality - Annie Schwehm
Prayer Team - Mary Hourigan
Missions - Dick Kelsay, Kathy Harsch,
Rick Haines

Trustees

Nicole Reynolds
Carol Ham
Dick Kelsay

Staff

Office Administrator - Emma Ceurvels
office@occmansfield.org
Sexton - Ed O'Connell

Electronic Ways to Give
QR Code (paypal)
E-Giving (forms in office)



The Congregational Church of Mansfield
An Open and Affirming United Church of Christ Congregation

Leadership Communication

As we move through this new program year, we are aiming to provide streamlined communication for the congregation to our leadership team. Please refer to the following contact information if you need to contact a member of our leadership team.

Leadership Preferred Method of Communication Contact information Update

Pastor Marissa Rapoza - pastor.marissa@occmansfield.org or
508-207-7803 (cell)

Office Admin/Music Director, Emma Ceurvels - office@occmansfield.org
To schedule an event at the church, order flowers for the communion table, sign up for coffee hour, and anything music related, please contact Emma using the office email to ensure all information is in one place.

Council Officers

Church Moderator, Peter Ham - peterwham@comcast.net
Treasurer, Kim Greenberg - kim.greenberg12@gmail.com
Clerk, Rick Haines - jalama23@gmail.com

Ministry Leadership

Head Deacon, Eric Greenberg - greenberg.eric101@gmail.com
PRT Co-Leader, John Partridge - partridge_john@wheatoncollege.edu 508-243-0019 (cell)
Prayer Team, Mary Hourigan - Omahourigan@yahoo.com
Sunday School, Meghan Rego - meghanrego233@yahoo.com
Hospitality, Annie Schwehm - annieschwehm@gmail.com

Trustees

For all building related issues, please contact a trustee

Carol Sosman Ham - Sosham@comcast.net 774-266-6220 (cell)
Nicole Reynolds - 508-951-2036 (cell)
Dick Kelsay - dickkelsay@yahoo.com