

SAINT VASILIOS  
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

*Celebrating  
100 Years!*

A GUIDE TO OUR 2006 CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

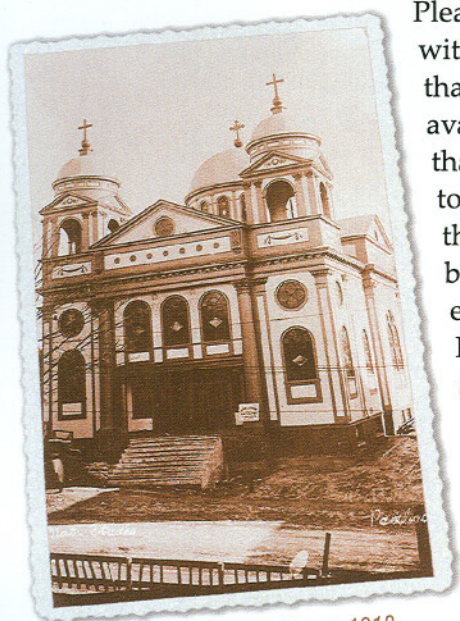




*The Greek Independence Day Parade, c. 1918*

## ***The Remembrance of Our Past Is Also the Inspiration for Our Future***

We are pleased to share this brochure with each of you, containing the schedule of events that have been planned to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of our parish. Great care has been taken to insure that the variety and cost of these events will enable every family of the community to participate in and be a part of our commemoration. The Centennial celebration is based on the conviction that *the remembrance of our past is also the inspiration for our future.*



*Saint Vasilios c. 1918*

Please note that each event is listed with a prominent cutoff date. Until that time, tickets to each venue will be available only to parishioners; after that date, however, tickets will be sold to interested nonmembers as well as the general public. Please save this brochure and reserve your tickets for all events that interest and appeal to you. Remember that *historic celebrations like these are themselves unique*; we hope that you, too, will want to be a part of them for these opportunities will never come again.



## ***Feast of Saint Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia, January 1***

Our Centennial year begins most appropriately with the Feast of Saint Basil the Great on Sunday, January 1, 2006. Our own Metropolitan Methodios will be the celebrant of the Divine Liturgy. The Centennial Committee will distribute information and gifts on that date to kick off the festivities. What better way to celebrate or begin our Centennial than by attending the Divine Liturgy on the feast day of our patron saint. All families

in the community should make every effort to attend this unique and historic event.

## ***100th Anniversary of Recognition by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, February 26***

This day will honor our past elders and will be hosted by our youth, which are the future of our parish. There will be a blessing of a new shrine in the lower level of our Educational Center dedicated to our Church School. Our youth will be the ushers for the Sunday Divine Liturgy, the readers of the day, and the altar servers. The youth will sing the responses in our choir, direct the ceremonies, and serve refreshments following the ceremonies. Past and future will forever be linked during this wonderful celebration. We expect the ceremonies to be attended by officials of various government agencies in our surrounding areas.

*A special Αγοτκλασια will be held to honor past presidents of church organizations including Parish Council, PTA, Philoptohos, and the Saint Vasilios Men's Club.*



*Peabody City Hall*



*The Rachmaninoff Festival Choir*

## ***The Rachmaninoff Festival Choir, March 11 & 12***

The Rachmaninoff Festival Choir will perform Rachmaninoff's *The Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom* in the original 1910 Slavonic setting with Music Director Anthony Antolini and special guest His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios.

The choir, consisting of singers from Bowdoin College Chorus and The Down East Singers of over 80 voices, will perform in our church for a once-in-a-lifetime program not to be missed. The choir will perform from the solea of our church, in front of our beautiful iconostasion, on specially built risers facing the congregation.

The Rachmaninoff Festival Choir has performed throughout the world and has received tremendous reviews. Their performances have been captured in specials by PBS television, and their recordings are available in most fine music retailers. This will be their first and only concert on the East Coast before they leave for their West Coast musical tour. Imagine, if you can, what it will sound like to hear this 80-voice professional choir perform a piece in our church that they have been rehearsing for a year!

*There will be only two performances, and seating is very limited. After a limited time, we must open the ticket sales to alumni of Bowdoin College and the general public. Do not delay, but run to purchase these very limited tickets for the entire family. Generations to come will speak of this performance.*

## ***A Musical Afternoon with the group Journey to Ithaca at the Frank L. Wiggin Auditorium, Peabody City Hall, May 7***

The Journey to Ithaca artists are accomplished composers, lyricists, interpreters, and musicians, who will take us on a musical journey through our Greek ancestral homeland.

Their contemporary music has its origins in traditional folk music. Their unique synthesis of contemporary and traditional folk music will have you singing and clapping before the night is done. You will hear wonderful, new compositions along with songs and lyrics of famous Greek musical composers of the past. We are pleased and proud to introduce this group, which has performed many concerts to great acclaim from the metropolitan Boston area to the North Shore.

We expect this to be a lovely Sunday afternoon concert of contemporary and traditional Greek music.

*Seating is very limited and once the tickets have been offered to our parish, they will be made available to the public as well.*

*Journey to Ithaca*





## ***Centennial Dinner Dance, September 16***

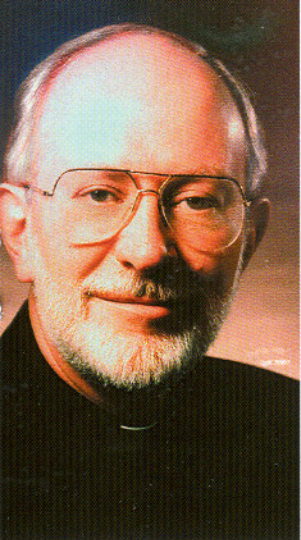
Although a number of events have been scheduled to mark our Centennial year, the cornerstone of our celebration will take place at the Danversport Yacht Club on Saturday, September 16, 2006. This festive evening has been planned to provide all of us with a truly memorable experience, befitting the occasion of our centennial year as a parish.

The evening will begin with an elegant cocktail hour and hors d'oeuvres, followed by dinner and dessert. At the conclusion of the meal, there will be a short commemorative program of about 15 minutes in length, and then the music will begin.

The Danversport Yacht Club was chosen as our dinner-dance venue because of the extraordinary size of its dance floor. This will enable us to enjoy the music of the Orfeas Orchestra, and to participate in the dances that are such a precious part of the cultural legacy we received from our immigrant forebears.

Set aside this evening, of all evenings, for an event filled with dining, music, and fellowship.

*Black Tie Optional*



## ***Honoring Father Andrew J. Demotses, Our Parish Priest of Thirty-Nine Years, November 26***

This year, we have a twofold celebration that at times feels almost bittersweet. It will be the 100th anniversary of our parish, and also the year in which our priest of over 39 years will be retiring from our parish.

How do you honor someone who has dedicated his life to our spiritual well-being? How do you thank someone who has worked tirelessly for all of us for 39 years? How do you thank someone for putting his personal life second so that he could assist us with our daily lives first? How do you thank the person who was present when you were married, when you baptized your child, when you buried a loved one, when you were joyful, and when you were struck by a tragedy and needed consolation? How do you thank our presiding priest for bringing our presence in the community to a level that others strive to emulate? How do we honor or thank someone for his unconditional love?

You join him in what has been most important in his life: his faith in Jesus Christ. You join him as he leads us all in prayer on Sunday, November 26. Please make every effort to attend as we make a special presentation to Father Andrew on behalf of our entire community.

*The Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom will be celebrated by Rev. Andrew J. Demotses with a brunch reception hosted by our parish to follow in the Educational Center. All in our community are welcomed. Do not miss an opportunity to honor Father Andrew and to thank him for his 39 years of service.*



## ***Archpastoral Visit by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, December 2 & 3***

Every Archbishop has made an official visit to our parish during its long history. As one of the largest parishes in our Metropolis, which has supported our great Archdiocese continuously for generations, we are pleased that His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America has accepted our invitation to make an official visit to our parish for our Centennial year.

The most important aspect of our celebration in 2006 is the joy and thanks we express in our prayers. Our parish continues to prosper and grow. Praise God! We continue to be a beacon of Orthodoxy on the North Shore. We will continue to be attentive to this great responsibility that is our inheritance, and build upon this great historic foundation. Join us in celebrating this milestone as the leader of our church in America joins us in prayer.

### **Vespers on Saturday, December 2, Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom on Sunday, December 3**

Celebrated by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America

A reception and luncheon will follow the Divine Liturgy in the ballroom of the Hawthorne Hotel, honoring Archbishop Demetrios. Elegantly decorated for the Christmas holiday, the Hawthorne will provide us with a beautiful wine bar, hors d'oeuvres, followed by dinner and dessert.

The program will be both enjoyable and inspirational and will consist of a classical Christmas musical selection and a brief exhortation from our Archbishop in which he will share with us his vision of our next 100 years.

*There is a very limited supply of tickets, so we urge you to get tickets early and avoid missing this closing event of our Centennial year celebration.*

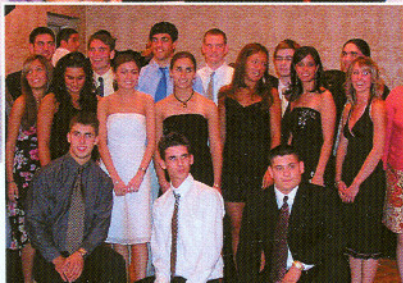




## ***The Saint Vasilios Endowment Fund***

Every Centennial celebration is about three things – the past, the present and the future. While the past can inspire us, we cannot change it, and while the future cannot be controlled, it can be influenced for the better by actions of the present. That process of change for the better speaks directly to the purpose of the Saint Vasilios Endowment Fund.

Our offering to the Endowment Fund is our *gift to the future*. What we give is never spent, but is invested to provide a source of income that will enrich and support our parish endeavors for the uncounted generations yet to come. Your gift, made today, makes you a real presence in the life of Saint Vasilios for as long as it exists as the principal sentinel of Holy Orthodoxy on the North Shore, and insures the quality and effectiveness of our witness to the Christian faith. We invite each of you to participate in this sacred endeavor through your personal contribution. The proceeds from all these wonderful Centennial events will do much toward enriching the Saint Vasilios Endowment Fund.





## ***Centennial Commemorative Album***

As planning for the Centennial commemorative album began, the members of the committee were struck by how many families had carefully saved previous albums from our 50th anniversary and Educational Center ground-breaking ceremonies. As we looked at these albums and their well-worn pages, it was obvious that they had been opened and turned many times as people remembered events, beloved friends, and family members who participated then in the life of our parish, but have since passed.

Years from now, the events and the people who participated in the 2006 Centennial events will also be remembered with nostalgia and fondness by those who turn the pages of the Centennial album. This album is not a simple ad book. Professionally designed and printed, it will contain our history, a record of the events of the 2006 Centennial year, and will express and embody our hopes for the future.

Lavishly illustrated, beautifully bound, and carefully written, it will grace many homes for years to come as children and grandchildren leaf through its pages. We hope that you, too, will want to be a part of this tangible reminder of a truly historic year. Please consider purchasing a congratulatory message in the album, and help us to find others who might also share a desire to participate.

# *Dates to Remember*

## **Sunday, January 1, 2006**

Feast of Saint Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia.  
Divine Liturgy celebrated by His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios of Boston

## **Sunday, February 26, 2006**

100th Anniversary of recognition by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## **Saturday-Sunday, March 11 & 12, 2006**

Rachmaninoff's *The Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom*  
Performed by the Rachmaninoff Festival Choir

## **Sunday, May 7, 2006**

A musical afternoon with the group Journey to Ithaca  
Frank L. Wiggin Auditorium, Peabody City Hall

## **Saturday, September 16, 2006**

Centennial Dinner Dance  
Danversport Yacht Club, Danvers, Massachusetts

## **Sunday, November 26, 2006**

Honoring Reverend Andrew J. Demotses  
Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom followed by a brunch reception in the  
Educational Center

## **Saturday, December 2, 2006**

Archpastoral visit by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America  
Evening Vespers service

## **Sunday, December 3, 2006**

Archpastoral visit by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America  
Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom followed by a reception at Hawthorne  
Hotel Ballroom, Salem, Massachusetts

## **Saturday, December 9, 2006**

Saint Vasilios Men's Club Christmas Party  
Educational Center, Peabody, Massachusetts. *(All proceeds to benefit  
Centennial 2006 Year endowment efforts.)*



Rev. Andrew J. Demotses, Presiding Priest  
Speros C. Venios, Parish Council President  
Stephen S. Kalivas, Centennial Celebration Chairman

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