

The LAMPLIGHTER

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH of Lansing

"Yea, Thou dost light my lamp; the Lord my God lightens my darkness..." (Psalms 18:28)

Volume XL

August 2007

Making Lasting Love:

The Gift of Chastity

The following essay is written by Presvytera Ann Lardas of Norwalk, Connecticut. She was trying to explain to a questioner why sexual relations are only for those who are married. Her answer, which was really just a long email on a listserve forum, makes the case for chastity as beautifully as anything I have ever read. Please share this with your high school and college aged children. (Fr. Mark)
(Reprinted with permission)

Question: Why is sex only for married people?

Answer: What I tell young people is this ...

Someday, there will be people whom you love more than anyone else in this world, your spouse and children. You owe it to your children to have a good spouse, to be sure that their other parent is someone whom you could leave to raise them, if you die young, with a good conscience. You owe it to them to be married to their mother, so that they will have the protection of both the Church and the State.

We start everything in this life with a blessing. We start the day with a blessing. We ask a blessing for the food we eat and the work which we are about to begin.

So much more so should we ask the Church to bestow God's blessing upon the foundation of the family, which comes about through sex, which should be preserved for marriage so that the family is not threatened.

Sex outside marriage can mean children belonging to you and to someone besides your spouse. This breaks the marriage bond, by introducing something new. That's not fair to the child, and isn't fair to the spouse whom one voluntarily chose, and isn't fair to the children of the marriage.

Sex before marriage can mean bringing a child into the world before things are properly prepared, before one is old enough, before the parents have the maturity to put a child's needs before their own.

Sex before marriage that doesn't result in a child is still devastating, because without even knowing your wife to be, you have taken something that should

be hers and have given it to another. That casts a pall of sadness over the newly established marriage. When a man cheats on his wife, it leaves her feeling that there is, no longer, anyone in this world who loves her best. This is a terrible thing to do to someone. But when he sleeps with someone before her, it is almost as bad, because it means that she cannot be his first love.

And, *it isn't blessed.*

Whereas, if you save yourself for marriage, it's as if you already loved your wife, before you even knew her. You were looking out for your children before they were even conceived.

And more than that, there is a blessing for waiting. There is a blessing for keeping the fast, there is a blessing for praying before starting the day or falling asleep. And there is a blessing upon a life together that has the preparation of prayer and its own form of fasting.

A man and woman who have never known anyone but each other have a ferociously strong bond, and when that union has been blessed by the Church, they become cornerstones of the little church that is their family. They become something that supports children and is a comfort and inspiration to friends. St. Seraphim said that if you acquire the Holy Spirit, then a thousand souls can be saved around you. So much more so, then, when two are working each for the other's salvation.

We want everything that we do in this life to have a firm foundation. Marriage bestows the blessings of the Church upon two people, making them part of a one from which each is inextricable. It is a mystery. And by being faithful to each other, a man and his wife mirror the image of Christ and His Church. This is what you want. This is worthy of sacrifice. It is a blessing upon your children and your children's children.

Hope this helps.

In Christ,

Matushka Ann Lardas

Parish Council

by Stella Economy

August is here and there are still plenty of hot and sunny summer days left that we hope you are taking advantage of. Holy Trinity is a busy place as workers are putting the finishing touches on the redecorating of the Baryames social room and plans for the East Lansing Folk Festival August 10-12 are in the final stages. We hope to see you at the Folk Festival where you can enjoy all the fun the festival has to offer, stop by our food booth for a great meal or visit with fellow parishioners. And don't forget to include Sunday services in your August plans!

The Parish Council strives to keep you informed on what is happening in and around the community as outlined below.

- ✿ With a weekly income goal of \$5425.00, our stewardship and loose offering donations are as follows:

July 1	\$2,309.00
July 8	7,271.00
July 15	4,188.70

- ✿ At our July meeting it was reported that we have 196 Stewardship units totaling \$247,815.00.
- ✿ Also at our July meeting budget talks began. It was suggested that we hold 2-3 budget hearings in the early fall to get ideas and feedback from the community. There is interest among the council to present a multi year budget to the community that would include some long term planning. Many non profit organizations have gone to multi year planning which enables them to make and reach goals not otherwise attainable with a year to year budget. It is certainly worth looking into, and we hope to get the community involved. Details as to when the budget hearings will occur will be included in next month's Lamplighter.
- ✿ The redecorating of the Baryames social hall is almost done. Of course there are always 'surprises' when redecorating, especially when the building is 40 years old. We had to: replace the 'Exit' signs by the patio doors and added a new one over the door by the service bar; reposition the microphone wiring; and upgrade the dimmer switches for the ceiling lights. All in all, these 'surprises' were not too bad considering the age of the building. We have been blessed to have Peggy Thodis oversee the entire project from start to finish. She has supervised the project daily from 8:30 AM-1 PM keeping workmen on task and solving any

problems that arose. THANK YOU PEGGY! Mike Karagoulis has been a great help also, rounding up helpers throughout the redecoration project as needed to prepare surfaces, move tables and chairs, take down and reinstall shelving, and clean up the site. THANK YOU MIKE! The money Mike, Peggy and the countless volunteer helpers have saved us has enabled us to say within our budgeted guidelines for this project. We are looking forward to seeing the project completed by the end of August and enjoying our newly redecorated social room for years to come.

- ✿ We still have our green chairs for sale at \$10.00 each, available after services on Sunday and during regular office hours during the week.

Mark Your Calendars

August 10-12-East Lansing Folk Festival

September 15-Fall Dinner Dance, Lansing Center

A TASTE OF GREECE

A Taste of Greece – 2007 was a successful all-parish event organized by representatives from AHEPA, GOYA, JOY, Odyssey, Parish Council and Philoptochos. It was modeled after the fund raiser with the same name inaugurated the year before. The distinguishing mark of the event was again the Drive-Thru feature that maximized the use of the parking lot and the physical layout of the parish.

An event of this nature requires the collaboration of a large number of people working towards a common goal; and this was the case with A Taste of Greece. Close to 50 parishioners were involved in the planning, preparation and implementation of the event. The efforts of no one individual are singled out; the various teams working together on the event are responsible for its success.

Data summary:

A Taste of Greece – 2007 took place Thursday, June 7, 4:30-7:30 pm.

During the three hours 1012 dinners were sold at \$12 each.

60% (603) of the dinners were sold through the drive-thru.

36% (363) were served in the social hall

4% (46) were sold as carry out dinners

419 tickets were sold in advance of the event

392 of the pre-event tickets were redeemed for dinners

620 tickets were purchased at the door.

After expenses and payment of Michigan sales tax, the net receipts were \$7872.31

Philoptochos

by Soussana Tesseris

Our hope is that everyone is enjoying this wonderful Summer. It will not be very long before we are thinking about the Fall schedule and looking at a new school year of activity. All of the organizations at church enjoy having everyone in the church community participate and appreciate all of the help that is given. Always remember that whether you are a member or not of Philoptochos, you are always welcome to come and help us at the coffee hours, baking days, bake sale and any other way that you would like. It is a great way to get to know other people.

Check the church calendar often and know that you are welcome to come and offer your assistance. It will be greatly appreciated.

Mark your calendar for November 7, 2007. It is our annual BAKE SALE and fundraiser for all of the charities that we sponsor.

AHEPA

by Phillip Frangos

A great time was had by all who attended AHEPA Night at Oldsmobile Park on June 23. Although the Lansing Lugnuts lost the baseball game, there was plenty to cheer about and the fireworks after the game were a real treat. Laura Skorich won the drawing for a souvenir and saw her name appear on the scoreboard.

With things slowing down during the summer, there has been little AHEPA business to conduct. The chapter was represented by Nick Limber at the Supreme Convention which was held in Denver. Nick reports that the social events were organized well and enjoyed good attendance.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for AHEPA's Labor Day Picnic which will be held at East Lansing's Patriarche Park on Monday, September 3. As has been the case for several years, all of our Holy Trinity parishioners are invited to attend this picnic free of charge as AHEPA's guests for an afternoon of comfort food, games, and fellowship. The entire pavillion has been rented for AHEPA's exclusive use. The picnic will start at noon.

In the interim enjoy the balance of the summer in good health.

Choir News...

In July, Lynne and Philip Karagoulis, Ann and Sarah Grimm, and Ruthie Munk represented our church at the Mid-Eastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians convention in Columbus, Ohio. It was a wonderful time of fellowship with about 120 choir members from the Metropolis of Detroit and from the Metropolis of Pittsburgh. Both Metropolitan Nicholas and Metropolitan Maximos joined us for the weekend as well. It was a very busy convention in which we learned and sang new music for the Liturgy, and also learned a bit about the hymns of Vespers. This year's convention was the first time that we have focused on the music of a service besides the Liturgy, and it was a good addition to the weekend. Holy Trinity was one of a few parishes who sent "youthful" representatives. We continue to be especially grateful for the younger members of our choir, who serve as an inspiration to us and to the members of other churches!

Condolences

Condolences to Phillip and Tula Frangos on the passing of Mrs. Maria Frangos

Odyssey

by George Lafkas

The Odyssey Greek Language Program is looking forward to an active 2007-08 school year. Registration packages will be mailed out to former students and potential new students in August. The Odyssey Program will continue to offer Greek classes and cultural events for a variety of skill levels and age groups.

We plan on providing introductory classes for young children, high school age and adults. Intermediate classes will also be offered to these age groups along with our popular adult Greek conversation class. If you are interested in learning Greek or just improving your Greek language skills, the Odyssey Program will try to provide a learning setting for you.

Remember, if more than one family member registers for Odyssey classes the additional members receive a discounted registration fee. This year our Lansing Wolverine Chapter of the Order of AHEPA will be providing four half tuitions scholarship for Holy Trinity members participating in the Odyssey Program.

If you do not receive a registration package in August, please contact the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church office at 517/482-7341.



Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

Annual Fall Dinner Dance

Sponsored by the Parish Council

Saturday, September 15, 2007

The Lansing Center
333 E. Michigan Avenue
Downtown Lansing

Tickets: Adults - \$35.00, Students - \$20.00, Children under 12 - \$10.00



Dear Holy Trinity Church Member,

Each church family is being asked to provide the PROSPHORA for a designated Divine Liturgy. Listed below is your name along with the other women for next month's Sunday, Saturday, and weekday Liturgies. If you are unable to make the Prospora for your family's designated date, you may make a donation of \$15 instead.

If you are making your bread, three loaves are required. Please make sure the Sphragida (Prosporon seal) is clear. Your bread should be delivered to the church 1 or 2 days before it is needed. Church office hours are 9am to 1pm Monday through Friday. Please call the church before coming to make sure someone is there to receive the bread.

Fresh Prospora is always preferable, but if you cannot make it yourself and cannot find someone to make it for you, you may make your donation check out to "Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church", write Prospora on the memo line and mail or deliver it to the church office. You should include with your bread or your donation a **list of your family's names of living and departed for commemoration**. These names will be read on your assigned date, so include your full name and assigned date at the top of your list. As Father Mark advised in the Lamplighter, "Just the first names are sufficient in either Greek or English – no nicknames or pet names, just the full saint's name that the person was given at Baptism."

God bless you for your service!

Liturgy Date

Church Member

Sunday, August 5
Sunday, August 12
Wednesday, August 15
Sunday, August 19
Sunday, August 26

Georgia Kaplan
Lynne Karagoulis
Coleen Karakitsos, Dormition of the Theotokos
Vasiliki Karakitsos
Vicki Kateyiannis

*Please, record your date on your calendar.

Prospora Date: _____

Name: _____

Prayers for the living

Prayers for eternal memory

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
 1701 East Saginaw Street
 Lansing MI 48912
 Office: 482-7341 Fax: 482-8524

8:45 am ORTHROS
 10:00 am DIVINE LITURGY
 Fellowship Coffee following
 Liturgy

August 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Church Calendar Meeting, 10am Paraklesis, 7pm	2	3 Paraklesis, 7pm	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Coffee Hour-Karagoulis Family			Paraklesis, 7pm		GREAT LAKES FESTIVAL—FUNDRAISER August 10-12	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Parish Council Meeting, 7pm NO Paraklesis Service	Great Vespers, 7pm	Dormition of the Theotokos, Liturgy 10am			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Coffee Hour hosted by Grimm Family						
26	27	28	29	30	31	
	Philoptochos Board Meeting, 6:30pm					