

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

November 2007

Pastoral Reflection

Fr. Mark Sietsema

Have you ever looked closely at the billboards along Interstate 96? They are truly an intriguing object for study. The challenge of the advertiser is to imprint a message on your mind in just two or three seconds as you whiz by at seventy miles per hour.

The formula for a good billboard seems to be a few carefully chosen words alongside one LARGE image that captures the essence of the product for sale. An auto dealer shows his company name and a fancy car along with its attractive, smiling owner. (Get it? The car will make you happy *and* good-looking, too.) A fast-food joint plasters up a picture of burger and fries along with driving directions (“Next Exit, then Right ¼ mile”). And the billboard for a certain “owl-themed” restaurant, curiously enough, never has pictures of food or even an owl. Instead, this restaurant advertises with pictures just of its waitresses ... so, like I said, you know right away what the product being sold is

Images are important. They often communicate better than words what a company – or a community – is all about. This is why icons play such a key role in our Orthodox theology. They inform the world (and remind us too!) what the essence of Church life is.

Early in November, Lord willing, we will have in place the final touches, the capstones of our iconography project. These last two icons play a central role in our Church, both locationally and theologically. They tell the story of what we are about as an organization. They communicate the end of our life in Christ, using the word “end” both in the sense of *goal* as well as *conclusion*. In a later article we will examine the meaning of the icon of the Dormition of the Theotokos, which will fill the space in the center of the rear wall of the sanctuary.

But directly in front of you, from now on as you enter the sanctuary, you will see the *mission statement*

of our parish: to receive Jesus Christ through Holy Communion and so to distribute Him to all people everywhere.

For on the back wall of the altar, smack-dab in the center, will go an icon of as Jesus Christ as the *Lamb of God*, our Passover sacrifice. The Christ-child is shown reclined on the paten (Greek *diskos*), the special vessel of the Holy Altar which holds the communion bread. This image conveys a basic belief of historic Apostolic Christianity: *Holy Communion is truly a partaking of the body and blood of Christ Himself*. No visitor to our parish can see this image and walk away without understanding that we hold dear this teaching of Holy Scripture. Like the highway billboard, this icon informs clearly and immediately.

Nor will anyone doubt the centrality of this teaching to our Orthodox life. Our whole prayer life revolves around receiving Communion. It is the focal point of our worship experience. It is the primary way in which we express to God both our year-round Thanksgiving (*Eucharistia*) and our requests for His help. We already have the four Hierarchs on the back altar wall leaning in towards something. We now see what that something is: Christ Himself being offered to God’s people and on behalf of God’s people (*kata panta kai dia panta*). This was the reality that these holy hierarchs proclaimed in liturgies and prayers that they wrote; this is the Truth that they lived for and died for!

And not only the hierarchs, but *all* of the other icons around the Church are tied thematically to this Lamb of God icon. Every icon proclaims the Kingdom of God, but that central altar icon reveals the deepest secret of the Kingdom, “*which is Christ in you, the hope of glory*” (Colossians 1:27). In some parishes that central icon is one of Christ and the disciples at the Mystical Supper; in other parishes it is Christ vested as a Priest distributing Communion as we

receive it nowadays. In our parish we have the most lovely and theological Eucharistic icon of all, the Lamb of God, also called the icon of the *Melismos*.

The name *Melismos* (“breaking into pieces”) comes from the action of breaking the consecrated bread (the *Amnos*, or Lamb) that the priest performs just before distributing Holy Communion. On the Lamb of God icon will also be the text of a mystical prayer that the priest recites at this moment: *Melizetai kai diamerizetai o Amnos tou Theou ...* “The Lamb of God is broken and distributed, broken but not divided, forever eaten and yet never fully consumed, but He sanctifies those who partake of Him.”

In truth, this new and central icon expresses best of all just what we are about as a Church. We are an organization that exists for the purpose of growing Christ within ourselves — which we accomplish firstly and fundamentally by frequently receiving his Body and Blood in Holy Communion. People come to Church for lots of reasons ... but not all of these reasons are the right reason! If receiving Holy Communion is not at the top of your list, there is something profoundly wrong with your priorities in life.

How can you love Jesus Christ if for weeks and months on end you can casually pass on His gift of Himself to you?? How can you grow to be more like Him if you turn your nose up at the request He made of us, to “*do this in remembrance*” of Him?

Simply put, you cannot. And the new Lamb of God icon reminds us constantly and immediately of what this community is really all about. This parish is not fundamentally about fund-raisers or festivals; it is not about basketball or bowling tournaments; it is not about youth programs or senior groups; it is not about ethnic pride or family values or good citizenship.

This Church is about Holy Communion ... and the life of repentance and worship that prepares us to receive worthily. The new central icon is our billboard: in one large image and a few words, it conveys the essence of our identity. This is the end, the goal, or our existence as a community and nothing else!

Has the Church Lost Its Young People?

by Fr. Andrew Demotses

In any adult conversation about religion, we often hear people make the comment that the church is losing its young people. I often wonder exactly what people

mean by this statement. It seems to me that people do not usually expect that it will be taken literally, but rather intend to express the conviction that somehow the church has failed to appeal to young people.

The truth of the matter is that the church has no young people to lose. God has entrusted children to the care and nurture of their parents, and not the church. St. Paul places the responsibility for children exactly where it belongs when he writes to the Christians in Ephesus, “Parents, do not treat your children in such a way as to make them angry. Instead, raise them with Christian discipline and instruction.” (6:4). Solomon, in his wisdom, advised us to “Teach a child how he should live while he is young, and he will remember it all of his life.” (Proverbs 22:6).

It is not the responsibility of the church to decide at what hour your teen must be in. It is not the priest who tells your child what TV program he may watch. The church does not choose the friends your children bring home and play with at school. If you do not come to church as a family on Sunday, the best and most enthusiastic Church School teacher is of no use to your child. No church can teach a child to pray in a meaningful way, when that child comes from a home that is barren of prayer and faith in God.

It is not the job of church or school to give children a sense of values and moral direction. It is the job of the parents to whom they belong. The gift of faith is not acquired in a sixty minute Church School lesson or a youth program activity. Rather it is the result of careful nurture, living example, and faithful living on the part of concerned and devoted parents. It is true that every day children are lost. But it is important that we place the blame for this tragedy exactly where it belongs!

Fr. Andrew Demotses is the senior priest of St. Vasilios Church in Peabody, MA

Do You Belong to the Church?

by Fr. Mark Sietsema

Isn't that a funny question? You almost certainly wouldn't be receiving this newsletter or reading this article if you didn't belong to the church, would you? Or maybe this is just a gentle reminder to fill out your membership forms in time for Stewardship Sunday on November 4?

No. This is a serious question, a soul-searchingly profound question. It is not asking what you might

think. Read it again. Do *you* belong to *the Church*? Because left to ourselves and our worldly ways of thinking, we want to think just the opposite: that the church belongs to us. As President Reagan once said of the Panama Canal, "We bought it, we paid for it, it's ours!"

Saint Paul sees it differently: "*You are not your own; you were bought with a price*" (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). Don't you see? It is not a question of what belongs to us (like, say, a church building). It is a question of whom we belong to! The Church belongs to God, which "*He obtained by the blood of His own Son*" (Acts 20:28). You are a part of the "property" in that transaction: you belong to God and to His Church. Therefore, nothing in this world is truly yours. You are merely a caretaker ... a manager ... a STEWARD!

Truly belonging to the Church means putting the Church's needs as your top priority. You should know that the Church's needs are great. As a parish, our annual stewardship barely allows us to scrape by to keep things running at a minimal level of functioning. Since the money is never there, we haven't even begun to think about the ways in which we should start bearing fruit as a community: sponsoring seminarians, developing outreach programs, adopting needy families ...

Do you belong to the Church? Show that you are "possessed by God" on Stewardship Sunday through a thoughtful and serious commitment of the financial resources God has loaned to you.

Parish Council

by Stella Economy

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

General Assembly

- ✿ At our October 7th General Assembly the following business transpired: the introduction of our 2008 Stewardship campaign; presentation of the final report for the Baryames social hall redecoration; nominations for Parish Council and Board of Elections; and the introduction of a Fall Fund Raiser Raffle.
- ✿ Nominees for the Parish Council include: Maria Alexander, Elaine Christofilis, Curt Kosal, Elan Stavros Nichols, Spiro Voutsaras and Nonie Vsetula. Statements from the candidates are included in this month's Lamplighter.

- ✿ Elected to the Board of Elections were Mike Curtis, Lou Stamatakos and Louie Vlahakis.
- ✿ Nominations for the Board of Auditors were tabled.
- ✿ Parish Council elections will take place after services on Sunday, November 4, until 3 PM.

Stewardship

- ✿ To date we have 202 stewardship units who have pledged \$250,740.00 this year of which \$165,989.00 has been received.
- ✿ Our 2008 Stewardship campaign is chaired by Elaine Christofilis and Alexis Popoff. The 2008 pledge forms and stewardship information have been mailed. Please call the office if you did not receive this information.
- ✿ Stewardship Sunday is November 4. Father Mark will speak about stewardship in his sermon and we ask that you return your forms by this day.
- ✿ Our budget for 2008 will be based on the Stewardship Pledges we receive. We will have a General Assembly on Sunday, December 2 that will address the budget for next year. Please make every effort to make a realistic pledge so that a realistic budget can be presented.

Parish Council Update

- ✿ A thorough cleaning of the kitchen took place under the leadership of Philoptochos. In addition, Eleanor and Robert Spalding donated a power washer to the church which was used in the cleaning. Many thanks to Philoptochos and the Spaldings for their help in keeping our kitchen sparkling!
- ✿ Several unused office items were donated to Holy Dormition Monastery in Rives Junction and several unused kitchen items were donated to the Traverse City Mission Church.
- ✿ The directories are here! They will be handed out after services or can be picked up in the church office.
- ✿ A second Fall Clean Up day has been scheduled for Saturday, November 17 from 10 AM to 2 PM. Both indoor and outdoor clean up will occur, so come dressed for the weather, bring work gloves and a hearty appetite, as lunch will be served to those who serve! Contact either Mike Karagoulis or Curt Kosal for details.

Mark Your Calendars

November 4 - Parish Council elections, until 3 PM
 November 4 - Stewardship
 November 17 - Fall Clean up day, 10 AM-2 PM
 December 2 - General Assembly
 December 16 - Fund Raiser Drawing

Parish Council Nominees 2007

The nominees this year are Nonie Vsetula, Elan Nichols, Elaine Christofilis, Spiro Voutsaras, Curt Kosal and Maria Alexander. Their statements are below.

Nonie (Anastasia) Vsetula

My name is Nonie Vsetula and I have been a member of Holy Trinity since 2000. During these past seven years I have been an active participant in parish life, including serving as a member of the iconography oversight committee, and helping at various festivals and dinners. I have worked with our youth programs including GOYA, Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. I am a weekly participant in the liturgical life of the church and attend discussion groups and Bible studies as well.

I will bring my love for God and his people to the task of council member. I will work diligently for continued physical and fiscal growth of this parish, and for the spiritual growth of her people. I come to the council with a mind that is open to new and creative ideas, yet tempered with an understanding of the importance of tradition, both liturgical and cultural.

Mrs. Elan Stavros Nichols

I first began attending Holy Trinity in 1997-1998, when I started law school at Michigan State. Currently I am on the Board of Directors of Philoptochos, and I have been a student of the Odyssey program for a few years. I have sung in the Pascha choir and I have volunteered for other activities like the booths at local fairs and church clean up days. In college I attended Orthodox Christian Fellowship and the Hellenic Students Association. I am running for Parish Council because I really love being involved in this Church and involved with its wonderful people, and I would like to help in whatever capacity is needed to work toward the Church's mission of serving Christ in all it does.

I am an associate attorney at McClelland & Anderson, LLP, in Lansing, and my husband David Nichols and I live in Haslett.

Elaine Christofilis

My name is Elaine Christofilis and I am lifelong member of Holy Trinity. I have been serving on the Parish Council for the last three years. I have served as Parish Council Secretary for the last two years. I have participated in the following: Stewardship Campaign Committee, Taste of Greece Fund-raiser, East Lansing Folk-Festival, Philoptochos, Sunday School teacher, Vacation Bible School, and JOY advisor.

My role within the church has evolved from participating in the Sunday School as a student, to being a member of the Parish Council. This involvement has shaped me into the Greek Orthodox Christian that I am today. I believe that our children are our future and we need to continue to encourage their involvement in our faith. Holy Trinity has taught me to love my Orthodox faith and I would like to continue to give back to this parish, which has given so much to me throughout my life.

Spiro Voutsaras

My name is Spiro Voutsaras. I live in East Lansing with my wife Diana and our 2 children Niko and Paulena. I have attended Holy Trinity since 1975 when I started at Michigan State University.

I am a successful Financial Advisor and believe the knowledge and financial creativity I have gained over the past 24 years would be a great asset to our Church. I possess excellent problem solving and multi-tasking skills. I am a positive thinker and have the ability to motivate others. I sincerely wish to offer these gifts in service to our Parish.

Curt M. Kosal

In addition to serving on the Parish Council for the last three years, I serve as our parish's cantor and in the altar. I have also been a student and Board member of the Odyssey program. Due to the hard work of so many talented people during the past three years, the parish has achieved many significant accomplishments including the completion of the iconography project and the social hall renovation. I am proud to have been a part of the Parish Council that saw these and many other projects to completion, and I am very excited about everything that is happening in our parish. Our Sunday school program is vibrant and alive, our choir is growing, and I believe that we are poised as a parish to experience some very exciting things in the future in the service of our Lord Jesus Christ. I would very much like the opportunity to continue to assist our priest in the ministry of this parish and I look forward to serving another term on the Parish Council.

Maria Alexander

My name is Maria Alexander, I have been a member of this Church Community for 21 1/2 years. Before that I was a member of SS Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Merrillville, IN. I have been involved with Orthodox Church activities since my early youth. I held a GOYA position in my teenage years, and taught Sunday School at the Indiana Church until I moved to Michigan to be with my husband Michael. We have two children, Dimitri and Theodore who have absorbed Christian values from our home and Church, and they too have been

involved in our community activities. With two friends from our Church community we rekindled HOPE, a youth group for elementary age. I have helped with the annual bake sales, served on the Odyssey board and also, functioned as a GOYA advisor, which I enjoyed, getting to know many of the families and children. Now I would like to serve our Church community by being a member of the Parish Council. I would like to see our young people more involved and active in the community.

Clergy-Laity Conference

by Curt Kosal

Memphis, Oct. 17 - 19, 2007 - I had the privilege of attending our Metropolis Clergy-Laity Congress as a delegate representing Holy Trinity and it was truly a blessing and a great experience! The congress began with a keynote address by His Eminence, Metropolitan Nicholas, where he spoke of the parable of the wedding feast (Luke 14:15-24), reminding us of our calling to spread the Gospel and the Truth of Orthodoxy "that my house might be filled". I also attended some terrific seminars by various priests from our Metropolis. We went on an enlightening trip to the National Civil Rights Museum where we were surprised and delighted to learn that the Rev. Billy Kyles, who was active in the early civil rights movement and was with Dr. Martin Luther King when he was assassinated, would be speaking to our group. For me the real highlight was the fellowship with our brothers and sisters and clergy from around our Metropolis, as well as a chance to see His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, who is a very gentle and warm individual.

I won't go into too much detail about the seminars - though they were all very good - but would like to touch on a few key points from two of them. Fr. William Cassis of Holy Trinity-St. Nicholas in Cincinnati, Ohio, spoke on "The Message of the Gospel: Hearing the Call to Return (or) If God is Talking, Why Can't I Hear Him?" He told us that God speaks in remarkably different ways: sometimes in an obvious manner and sometimes not. He spoke of the importance of waiting upon the Lord, and that in order to hear God it is necessary to have a prayer LIFE, not simply prayer moments, and reminded us that prayer is work. He also said that we often don't hear God because we don't really want the answer we might get. As any loving father would, God also says "No" or "Not Right Now", and sometimes God's answer is silence. He also spoke of the need to set aside a separate place for prayer and spiritual reading where we can cut out some of the ambient noise of our busy lives. He said that the greatest place to hear

God, though, is the Church, and through all of the liturgies and means that the Church provides. He said that ultimately we discover God in profound patience.

Another very interesting seminar was conducted by Eva Kokinos, the Youth Director for our Metropolis. It was titled "Youth Speak -What Your Kids Want You to Know." She said that in her experience with the youth of our Metropolis, the modern stereotype that today's kids are overstimulated, overcommitted and disconnected is simply not true. She said that our children are interested in their parents' religion but they want real answers! They want to know how it relates/translates into /their /lives; how to make it /their own/. She said that our teens want us to know that they ARE seeking for answers, however, all too often we are not listening. They also want us to know that if they don't feel they are getting answers within the community or Church they WILL look elsewhere. She also warned us that teens in particular get disenchanted when they see unchristian behavior in the Church - they are observing everything! They are yearning to be part of the community where they can be accepted and valued. We don't need to try to "create" experiences for our youth, but put them together in a safe and loving environment and they WILL have a real experience where strong bonds are made.

These, as well as all of the other seminars and liturgies, etc., were all enriching but the real highlight for me was the fellowship with other wonderful Orthodox Christians. We are so blessed to have such talented and committed Christians in our Metropolis and it was such a joy to talk and share ideas and be encouraged by them all. We are also blessed to have such an intelligent, loving and godly group of clergy in our Metropolis. Before I converted to Orthodoxy, I served on what would be the equivalent of our parish council in two protestant denominations as well as being on the regional board of a national para-church organization, and I can tell you that I have never seen such a wonderful group of clergy as these, gathered in one place.

Last but certainly not least it was, as always, a joy to get to spend even a little time with His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas. We are very very blessed to have such a warm, loving, and holy man as our spiritual leader (and he's got a great sense of humor to boot). I know that there are some people who have had a bad experience with some hierarch or other. To them and to everyone else I simply say: do yourself a favor and take every opportunity you can to get to know the Metropolitan better.

As you can see, it was a very wonderful experience and I want to thank you for sending me as your delegate. I learned much that I can take into my work in our parish and I return with a renewed spirit and desire to serve our Lord in any way I can.

Philoptochos

by Mary Volakakis

Our annual Student Welcome Dinner on October 7th was well attended. The guests appreciated the array of favorite, delicious fare that was served buffet style. Thank you to the ladies who provided the home cooked cuisine.

Inspired by Ken Burns' new series *The War*, local PBS station WKAR recently interviewed Michigan veterans of WWII, giving each participant a videotape of his interview. Lou Stamatakos, a tail gunner with the rank of staff sergeant during WWII shared his personal tape at the October 16th OPA gathering. It was fascinating, triggering many memories that, in turn, engendered a stimulating question and answer session.

As this issue of The Lamplighter is being printed, we are working at a fever pitch producing trays of pastries, getting boxes assembled, pre-orders packaged, and attending to the seemingly millions of details needed to be done in order for a successful bake sale to be accomplished. Our supporters have been generous with their time and energy – thank you all. We hope to see all of you on **Wednesday, November 7** at the Athenian Bake Sale.

Due to time constraints, there will be no OPA Gathering in November, nor Philoptochos meetings. Please mark your calendar for the Philoptochos annual Christmas party (yes! already!) that will take place Monday, **December 3rd**.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Prayers for the Sick

Karen Colovos
Goldie Heos
Mary Ann Mansour

Rosemary Gavrilides
Vasiliki Karakitsos
Richard Lycos

Odyssey

by George Lafkas

Still looking for more school age students for Greek language classes

Our enrolment of younger age school children is low again this year. We strongly recommend that parents reconsider enrolling their children in Greek classes this year. Two area high schools are now giving high school credit for attending our Odyssey Greek language classes for high school students. Giving your child an early foundation in Greek language could pay major benefits in few years. Call the church office at 482-7341, for more information,

"Pizza and a Movie II" a Success

The Odyssey Board would like to send out a special thank-you to everyone who attended the "Pizza and a Movie II" fund raiser on February 18, 2007. The event was close to a sellout and the feedback from those attending was that it was an evening well spent. Odyssey will be sponsoring another movie night on Sunday, March 2, 2008. We send out an additional thank-you to Vackis & Koula Nicolaou, Mike and Maria Alexander and Goodrich's Shop Rite for donating supplies to this affair.

OXI Day Program

On October 28, 2007, the Odyssey Program students presented a short program and dance demonstration to our community during the coffee hour. Because of the enthusiasm and hard work of our students and teachers an enjoyable event was shared by all in attendance.

Keep up the good work

I also want to thank all the Odyssey Board members, teachers, students and Odyssey friends who have helped with coffee hours and Pizza and a Movie II. Without your time and effort we would not have the national recognized program serving our Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Community.

Condolences

Our condolences to the families of Chuck Baryames and Chris Baryames on the passing of their sister Delia Zarafonetis in Grand Rapids. May her memory be eternal!

PARISH - WIDE EFFORT - Reminder

This fall Holy Trinity is sponsoring a fundraiser to round out the parish's efforts to reach the target approved by the General Assembly for raising funds in 2007. The intention is to raise monies to be applied to the principal of our roof loan.

In the 2007 approved budget, \$22000 was set as the goal for this year's fundraisers. Thus far, two events - *A Taste of Greece* and the *Folk Festival* - the parish have raised \$13000. A parish-wide raffle was inaugurated in October and will continue to mid-December with a view towards achieving this year's goal.

The Parish Council is asking parishioners to help sell tickets. If every family can sell 4 tickets, we can easily reach the goal.

The purchasers targeted in this fundraiser are people outside of our parish community - our neighbors, merchants, acquaintances, business associates.

When asked, please show your willingness to support the parish in this effort. With everyone's help, we can reach our goal.

*** Fall Raffle 2007 ***

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

1ST PRIZE: \$2000 * 2ND PRIZE: \$1000 * 3RD PRIZE: \$100

Drawing: December 16, 12:30 - 1:00 pm
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 1701 E. Saginaw Street, Lansing

If fewer than 250 tickets are sold, the drawing will revert to a 50/50 Raffle with a minimum prize of \$1500 awarded)

Contribution: \$30 (4 tickets for \$100) License: R93930

Thank you for your help and support!

Youth Choir Announcement

Holy Trinity is starting a youth choir! Our first practice will be after church on Sunday, November 25th, and will last about forty minutes. All children in elementary school and junior high are welcome to participate. We will be learning some music for the Christmas season on the 25th. Also, all students will be welcome in the choir loft the first Sunday of each month beginning December 2nd. Please call Ruthie Munk at 487-1434 with any questions.

Prosfora

November 4	Georgia Krantz
November 11	Elaine Kritselis
November 18	Kathleen Kyriakopoulos
November 2	Shelley Lahanas, Entrance of the Theotokos
November 25	Bertha Laskaris
December 2	Tammy Laskaris
December 6	Nikki Lennox, St. Nicholas Liturgy
December 9	Tina Lewis
December 16	Chrisoula Limber
December 23	Zana Litos
December 24	Nancy Malvetis, Nativity Eve
December 25	Maria Mangopoulos, Nativity of Our Lord
December 30	Debbie Mangopoulos
December 31	Sophia Manolakoudis, St. Basil the Great Liturgy

Siettas Family Thank You

I wanted to share my pride in our Greek Community, and share something that can make us all proud. As you know, my son, Captain Gus Siettas of the US Army is the only member of our Greek community who has been serving in Iraq. I want to take a moment to thank everyone for your concern, well wishes, and prayers through these tough times. I am so proud of my son's commitment and hard work. Gus has been back and forth to Iraq numerous times, and we are so thankful to have him home safe every time. It has been difficult knowing my son is so far away fighting in a war. It is comforting to know our family has your support. A review was written pertaining to his performance in Iraq:

Outstanding performance by a combat proven leader and gifted intelligence officer. CPT Siettas' performance as the ACO's Iraqi Team Leader has been nothing short of remarkable. Planning, resourcing, and leading a series of deployments into Iraq, Gus brought an amazing array of technical, analytic, and collection capabilities and improvements to the Multi-National Corps Iraq (MNC-1) Commander's battlespace. By personally visiting every Brigade Combat Team in the MNC-I area of operation, CPT Siettas led the deployment of a series of teams equipped with a terminal guidance capability that is directly responsible for the kill or capture of in excess of 300 High Value Individuals in the Corps' battlespace. In addition, Gus led a technical team which significantly improved the collection and processing capability at every Army SIGINT site in Iraq. Leading from the front and by example, CPT Siettas has made a significant difference for our Soldiers and Army in the War on Terror.

Congratulations Perry Markakis

Congratulations to Perry Markakis who was recently honored at the 5th International Congress of Food Technology held in Salonica, Greece. Perry was officially recognized with a plaque at the Congress for his many years of dedication and his contributions to the field of Food Technology and Human Nutrition. In addition, Perry who in his 32 years as professor at MSU was advisor and mentor to more than 130 Masters and PhD students from all over the world, was also honored at a private dinner by former students who, years back, had come from Greece to MSU for graduate studies under him and are now holding high positions in Greece at the University, Government and Industry. Close to 40 of them had gathered with their spouses from all over Greece and Cyprus to honor him at a very touching and emotional demonstration of love, respect, admiration and appreciation for his academic guidance, as well as for his help and support through those most difficult for them years of their life away from family and home. Their own plaque says it all: "To our teacher and precious counselor Dr. Pericles Markakis Emeritus Professor at MSU, with our love and infinite respect for what he has contributed both as a scientist and as a human being. The MSU Graduates." As Perry, a man of very low profile has often said, these are the true and lasting rewards and riches of an academic career.

Wedding Congratulations

Nate and Sarah (Vsetula) Osborn
Glen and Mary (Abdallah) Lewis

From Bess Stamatakos Author of "Tea Leaves and Dreams"

To all members of Holy Trinity Orthodox Church: I have been so blessed to be a member of a church community that has been so strongly supportive and encouraging with my efforts to sell my newly published novel: TEA LEAVES AND DREAMS. The book was very well received and I thank you for your support and for your encouragement in this endeavor. Thanks, thanks, and more thanks. The book is now in its second printing and more books are available. Check my website: tealeavesanddreams.com.

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

November 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY AHEPA Coffee Hour Parish Council Elections Spanakopita Baking Day Daylight Savings Time ends	Cupping Baked Goods, 9am	Package Pre-Orders, 9am Salad Preparation Election Day	Athenian Bake Sale 10am-4pm	Saragli Baking Day Bible Study, 8:30pm	Almond Cake Bake Day Odyssey Classes, 4:30- 6pm	Spanakopita Bake Day, 10am (today & Sunday)
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Parish Council Coffee Hour Veterans Day	Parish Council, 7pm			Bible Study, 8:30pm	Odyssey Classes, 4:30- 6pm	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
				Nativity Lenten Period begins Bible Study, 8:30pm	Odyssey Classes, 4:30- 6pm	FALL CLEANUP DAY II 10am
O.C.F. Coffee Hour	Lampighter Deadline		Entrance of Theotokos into the Temple, Liturgy 10am	Thanksgiving Day NO Bible Study	NO Odyssey Classes	
25	26	27	28	29	30	
NO Sunday School NO Coffee Hour Saint Catherine				Bible Study, 8:30pm		

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8:45 am ORTHROS
 10:00 am DIVINE LITURGY
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December 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 GENERAL ASSEMBLY Discussion of Budget Choir Coffee Hour	3 Christmas Potluck Party, 6pm	4 Saint Barbara	5 Saint Savas	6 Saint Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, Liturgy 10am	7 Odyssey Classes, 4:30- 6pm	8 Holiday Decorating
9 Philoptochos Coffee Hour—St. Spyridon	10 Parish Council Meeting, 7pm	11	12 Saint Spyridon	13	14 Odyssey Classes, 4:30- 6pm	15
16 Youth Group Coffee Hour & Holiday Raffle Christmas Caroling, 4pm	17 Interfaith Meeting, 1pm Lampighter Deadline	18	19	20 G.L.A.R.S.P. Luncheon, 11-2pm	21 NO Odyssey Classes	22 Social Hall Rental- Roberta Schneiderman
23 Sunday School Coffee Hour & Christmas Program	24 Vesperal Divine Liturgy, 5pm	25 The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, Liturgy, time tba	26	27 Saint Stephen	28 NO Odyssey Classes	29
30 NO Sunday School Parish Council Coffee New Parish Council Oath of Office	31 Circumcision of Jesus Christ; St. Basil the Great, Vesperal Divine Liturgy, 7pm New Year's Eve					