

# 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 XLII

April 2009

## Pastoral Reflection

Fr. Mark Sietsema

### The Light Shines in the Darkness

*"Who do men say that I am?"*

This is the question that Jesus asked His disciples shortly before His sufferings and death (Mark 8:27ff.). The disciples show themselves to be yes-men to some degree, because all the answers they give reflect only the positive responses. *"Some say you are John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and others say one of the prophets"* (i.e. come back to life).

Pure Pollyannaism, this answer. They ignored half the polling data. There were another set of opinions floating around the populace of Judea that were less benevolent towards the man from Galilee. We read this in the Gospels: some thought Jesus was a charlatan or a lunatic or a demoniac or — worst of all — a blasphemer.

As we walk through the Gospel stories again this Holy Week 2009, we see once more how the same Jesus evoked two radically different responses in people who met Him. The disciples watched Jesus heal the sick, and they believed in Him as the Messiah. The Pharisees watched the same events and decided that Jesus was possessed.

Two thieves watched Christ being crucified. One found occasion to mock Him; the other, seeing exactly the same thing, found faith to pray for a place in His Kingdom.

The chief priests with laughter watched Him die and taunted Him for His weakness and shame. The Roman centurion, standing by as an eyewitness, declared Jesus to be the Son of God.

In that most holy of weeks some 2000 years ago, all of Jerusalem saw exactly the same events unfolding. But seeing the same thing, they reached two radically different conclusions. Many saw Jesus of Nazareth as a troublemaker from the sticks. But others experienced Him as the presence of God on earth—and it was to these that Christ would reveal Himself after His Resurrection. Not to those who hated Him, because they had already proved that nothing would convince them. Rather, He made His Resurrection known to those who loved Him.

We live in an ambiguous world. We watch history unfold around us—economic distress, strife, conflict, competition, wars and rumors of wars—and we wonder what it's all about. But now, like then, there are two radically different ways of looking at life. One way is to see nothing but randomness and evil, a constant chaos in which the challenge for each of us is to manage a survival of the fittest until the inevitable end swallows us all.

The other way is to look at exactly the same world and to see the presence of God in all things, to see the person of the living Christ orchestrating the events of this world, the deeds of good and evil people, the seeming accidents and trivialities of life; and seeing Him at work, to enjoy His wisdom in weaving all things together for good for those who love Him.

Many people clamor for God to do something spectacular so that they can believe in Him, so that they can be sure that He is there and that we are not alone in the universe. But the events of Holy Week remind us that it's not *what* we see that will inspire us to greater faith, but *how* we see it. If we, like Joseph of Arimathea, are looking for the Kingdom of God (Mark 15:43), we will find it resting in our very hands, as Joseph did when he received the body of the crucified Christ for burial. If we are looking for the presence of God, He will show Himself to us even in the worst circumstances this world can offer, for He is "*a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him*" (Hebrews 11:6).

Nothing different has to happen. We just need eyes to see and ears to hear.

On the night of Pascha you will be offered a flame for the candle in your hand. That flame, when spread around to all, will turn darkness into light, confusion and chaos into clarity. With that flame you are given a choice. You may choose to wait for someone else to turn the lights on for you and free you from darkness. Or you may choose to accept the flame for yourself, to be part of the process of illumination, to play an active role in making the world around you warm and well-lit.

Trust in Christ is a choice, a very active and intentional choice. It is not a choice that anyone has made or can make for you. It is your choice to see the goodness of God at work in the world, your choice to love the Lord and so to receive the revelation of His Resurrection.

With Holy Week 2009, your soul has an opportunity to receive the Light of faith. Open the eyes of your mind, offer up the candle of your soul, and "Come, Receive the Light."

*Kali Anastasi!* A Blessed Pascha to all of us!

## Parish Council

by Stella Economy

The Parish Council wishes everyone in the community a blessed Lenten period and joyous Pascha!

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

### Stewardship and Budget

- ✿ At our March meeting, it was reported that we have 174 pledge units for a total of
- ✿ \$196,259.00 for the year 2009. Last year at this time we had 198 pledge units for a total of \$229,039.00.
- ✿ Included in this issue is a Stewardship form for your convenience in addition to the list of 2009 stewards.
- ✿ Many end of the year statements sent to each steward were somehow lost in the mail. If you failed to get your statement, please stop by the office to pick up your copy or call Mary.

### Parish Council Update

- ✿ Joining us for the Salutations service on Friday, April 3 will be Metropolitan Nicholas.
- ✿ The Parish Council will once again be sponsoring the Agape Dinner after midnight Pascha services. Elan Nichols will chair the event with the help of Angela Vlahakis. If you are interested in helping out, contact Elan or Angela. Please look for details elsewhere in this issue.
- ✿ A visitor at a recent service asked how much we charge for candles. We have always had a free will donation, and will continue to do so. However, if asked we will suggest a donation of \$1.00 for the small beeswax candles, and \$5.00 for the large white candles.
- ✿ Are you interested in helping out on Sundays or for special services? If you are interested, but don't necessarily want to be on the Parish Council we are looking for "Greeters" to help out. Greeters would welcome new members and guests after services, and help them feel at home. If this sounds like something you are interested in, please call Stella Economy, 349-9671 for details.

- ✿ The transformation of our boy's bathroom in the Sunday School wing into a Unisex/Family/Handicap accessible facility is now complete. A larger door opening and a barrier free space will allow greater access for our parishioners and guests who are in wheelchairs or need extra assistance. In addition, a baby changing station has been installed.
- ✿ Our Spring General Assembly will take place, Sunday, March 29 after Liturgy.
- ✿ **Many thanks to John and Nathan Simmons** who came by the church to rake the lawn and cleanup the winter debris in the planting beds. And thanks also to **Bess Carantza** who donated a 12 cup coffee maker to the church following the 'utter failure' of the previous small coffee maker.
- ✿ Have you signed up for the Meijer community awards program? It's easy to sign up. Contact Mary in the office for details.

### Mark your Calendars

#### Spring General Assembly

Sunday, March 29, 2009

#### Agape Dinner

sponsored by the Parish Council  
after midnight services, April 18<sup>th</sup>

#### Spring Clean Up Day

Saturday, May 2, 10 AM-2 PM

## Legs of Spring Lamb for Sale

After the success of last year, spring legs of lamb will be sold once again. Uncooked and fully cooked legs of lambs are available. The legs average 7-8 pounds and will sell for \$30.00 for uncooked, and \$40.00 for fully cooked legs. Orders can be placed by calling Mary at the church office at 482-7341. Please specify either uncooked or cooked.

Uncooked legs of lambs will be available on Palm Sunday, while the cooked legs will be available the evening of Saturday, April 19.

## Philoptochos

by Mary Volakakis

A big thank you to Elan Nichols for chairing the Zorba Dance this past winter. Assisting her to make this event both popular and profitable were Alexis Voutsaras, Martha Stathopoulos, Dee & Sam Vosovic, George Abdallah, Angela Vlahakis, Tiffy Zachos, Mr. & Mrs. Voutsaras, Dimitri Gavrilis, Gregory *and* the all-important cleanup committee comprised of Elan, Christina, Chris Adams, Elizabeth, Alexis, Angela & Gregory. Plans are already underway for next year's dance which will have a new slant.

Our February coffee netted \$107 for the missions and our March coffee netted \$141 for the IOCC.

Thanks to all who donated to our annual flower fund drive which insures that our church will be decorated with beautiful fresh flowers this Easter.

Our April General Meeting is scheduled to take place on 6<sup>th</sup> of the month, all members should make every effort to attend since there will be important issues to be voted upon.

The feasibility of holding a Festival of Tables in May is being researched. Elections will be held in May also. New members are always welcome.

## SPRING CLEAN UP

May 2, 10:00am - 2:00pm

Sign up sheet will be available starting  
Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>.

## Agape Dinner

The Parish Council Cordially invites you and your family to join us in celebration of our Lord's Resurrection at our Agape dinner, immediately following midnight service.

Saturday, April 19

Join us for fellowship at this annual event  
Menu will include Lamb, potatoes, vegetable  
and rice pudding.

Donations for the dinner are welcome

## Odyssey

by Zana Litos

### Greek Independence Day Program, 2009

On Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009, during the coffee hour at the large social hall, the students of the Odyssey presented a short program to our community celebrating this important event. This year's program had the goal to present the Greek Revolution and the birth of Modern Greek State through poems and essays. The young students recited different poems, while the high school students presented modest essays they wrote on this topic.

Although some of our young and high school students started learning Greek just last September, all students performed in Greek language. English translation of the program and of students' work was provided in each table following the same order of the program.

On behalf of the Odyssey Board, I want to congratulate all the Odyssey students and teachers for their enthusiasm, hard work and for turning it in an enjoyable event shared by all in attendance. They made us proud. Thank you!

### Candle Donations

Parishioners have asked what constitutes an appropriate donation for candles. The Parish Council asks parishioners to consider the following as suggestions for donations at the candle stand.

Small Beeswax candles: \$1.00 each

Large Paraffin candles: \$5.00 each

Your offerings at the Pangari (candle stand) are — like all of your stewardship — a freewill offering. The candles are not “sold,” but are made available by the parish for your use in prayer. These amounts are suggested simply as guidelines for those who wish to support this ministry of the parish.

Thank you.

## Greek Independence Program

**Marina Kimbouris** (poem)  
*O Thourios tou Riga*

**Katie & Sam King** (high school essay)  
*Greek Revolution of 1821*

**Alexander Sietsema** (poem)  
*Celebration*

**Jacob Simmons** (high school essay)  
*The Poet of Freedom: Dionysius Solomos*

**Matthew Sietsema** (poem)  
*My Country Greece*

**Nikki Nicolaou** (high school essay)  
*The Hidden School*

**Christopher Pridnia** (poem)  
*25<sup>th</sup> of March*

**Maria Sine** (high school essay)  
*The Beginning of Revolution*

**Madelyn and Teddy Samra** (poem)  
*Oh My Country.*

**Alexis Hruska** (high school essay)  
*Greek Heroes: Georgos Karaiskakis*

**Nikos Hruska** (poem)  
*My Country Greece*

**Marina Kimbouris** (poem)  
*25 of March*

### Congratulations

to Jennifer Hogg (and to parents Dan and Kathy) on her DAR Good Citizen Award. Jennifer sings in our church choir, plays varsity tennis for DeWitt High School, serves as a peer assistance leader, and works on food and blood drives (among many other activities). We are proud of her. Well done, Jennifer!

## Sunday School News

by Nonie Vsetula

Congratulations on a job well done; to all who participated in the Oratorical Festival. I just wanted to express my joy at how well these young people champion their faith through this act of research and sharing what they have learned about their faith. In the Senior Division 1<sup>st</sup> place went to Sam King, 2<sup>nd</sup> place to Mark Brown. In the Junior Division the 1<sup>st</sup> place winner was Maura Grimm and taking 2<sup>nd</sup> was Brian King. Again congratulations to all on a job well done!

### Up Coming Events:

#### Lazarus Saturday-April 11<sup>th</sup>

There will be a pancake breakfast and folding of the palms following the Liturgy. Please plan on coming this is fun for the whole family.

#### Holy Saturday Liturgy- April 18<sup>th</sup>

This Liturgy is a special teaching Liturgy. In this Liturgy the church give s us a preview of what is to come with the resurrection of Christ. The children are encouraged to come to this as Fr. Mark will be making the Proskedia out in front of the Holy Doors. This is a great time for the kids and adults to see what we don't normally see!

#### Pascha-April 19<sup>th</sup>

There will be an Easter Egg Hunt on the church lawn following the Agape Vespers on Sunday, April 19 at 12 noon.

Donations of plastic eggs are need for this event. If you were willing to buy a few it would be greatly appreciated. Your donations can be placed in a box that will be in the hallway of the Sunday school wing.

Fr. Mark would like any of the young people who are bilingual are willing to participate in readings for the Agape Vespers to please contact him. It is always a treat to hear the good news of Christ's resurrection in different languages.

#### Vacation Bible School-June 22-25

I am still looking for volunteers to help with VBS - Please contact me at [CelticCat63@aol.com](mailto:CelticCat63@aol.com) or via phone 402-2102

## St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival

by Jan Munk

On Sunday, March 15, the annual St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival was held in our parish. This yearly festival enables our 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students to prepare a speech from a list of topics from the archdiocese and deliver the speech to a supportive audience of parents, friends, and fellow parishioners. This year, we had two junior division (7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade) speakers and four senior division (10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade) speakers.

Maura Grimm and Brian King spoke in the junior division. Maura's speech was on the importance of being familiar with the life, ministry, and writings of St. Paul. Brian spoke on how the effort to live a Christian life resembles an athletic activity.

Our senior division speakers were Mark Brown, Katie King, Sam King, and Andrea Krantz. Mark and Sam spoke about the appropriate attitude of a Christian towards money and wealth. Katie and Andrea spoke about the importance of reading the Bible for Christians today.

Sam King was awarded first place in the senior division and Maura Grimm in the junior division. Sam and Maura will represent our parish at the district festival at Assumption Church in St. Clair Shores on April 25.

Many thanks to Jerry Munk for organizing this year's festival, to our judges Nick Gavrilides, David Nichols, and Bess Stamatakos, and to our timekeeper Christina Munk. Thanks also to the Philoptochos Society for generously underwriting the awards for our speakers.

### Prayers for the Sick

Luba Evanoff  
Ron Fandrick  
Goldie Heos

# Orthodox Theology 101

by Nick Gavrilides

When discussing our Orthodox faith or reading articles about it, some of the terms and definitions can seem rather daunting. Sometimes this can lead to an “overwhelmed” feeling, which could lead to an indifferent attitude—“let the priests and theologians worry about that stuff” etc.

Some Orthodox concepts are, in fact, abstract and hard to understand; sometimes there is not even a universal statement on what a given Orthodox teaching is, and we have a plethora of different opinions. There are, however, some basic Church teachings that an informed Orthodox Christian should know.

## **Bear with me, these are good things to know... The Doctrine of the Holy Trinity:**

Orthodox Christians worship the One True God. Throughout human history, the Living God has revealed Himself and His triune existence. Through the Bible, the oral tradition of the first Christians and the experience of the Saints, we understand God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

To better understand this fundamental Christian doctrine we should familiarize ourselves with the term *hypostasis* (hy-pos-ta-sis). The philosophical meaning of the word is “the underlying, essential nature of a thing.” This definition helps us understand the Orthodox Christian theological meaning which is “the unique nature of the One True God.”

In early Christian writing the term was synonymous with “essence.” In the fourth century the Church standardized the term to describe any of the Holy Trinity. Each “Person,” Father, Son or Holy Spirit has the “divine nature” fully and equally.

The Holy Trinity is three separate “Hypostases,” but each are of the same divine essence, with the Father as the eternal source of the other two. Each Hypostasis is uncreated, however, Scripture teaches us the Son is eternally begotten and the Holy Spirit eternally proceeds from the Father. One God, existing in three distinct “hypostases,” each made of the same divine “essence,” coequal and uncreated. Due to our limited language and faulty human comprehension, that is about the best we can do with this revelation.

## **Christology:**

In Scripture Jesus Christ was shown to be the second of the Holy Trinity Incarnated (en-fleshed)—the Word of God and man at the same time. How the unity of human and divine exist in Jesus is called Christology.

In the fourth century, due to the erroneous teachings of an influential priest named Arius, it became necessary for the Church to clearly define its position on the divinity of Christ. After Christ’s divinity and equality with the Father was in creedal form, it became necessary to define the unity of the divine and human natures in Jesus. It took the Church four councils, over several centuries, to offer a full clarification of the Orthodox position. When we make the sign of the cross, our ring and little fingers lay down across our palm; this is a symbol of Orthodox Christology—Jesus Christ is at once both fully God and fully man.

Orthodox Christology is: Jesus Christ is one Person who has two unconfused natures, fully God and fully human. These natures exist in perfect unity and are not blended or mixed at all. The divine nature operates under its own divine will and the human nature under its own human will.

## **Eschatology:**

There is good news here, Orthodox eschatology is very simple.

Eschatology is the branch of theology that attempts to deal with the end of the world. Although we may hear many speculations on how events are to play out in the future, Orthodox teaching is simply this—He (Christ) will come again to judge the living and the dead; His kingdom shall have no end—you may recognize that from the Creed we say together on Sunday. Anything beyond what we state in the Nicene Creed is a matter of opinion, not official doctrine.

There we have it, three major Orthodox concepts that on the surface may appear difficult to understand, but really are not too bad. All these clarifications of Church teachings are based in scripture; I would be happy to share where in the Bible they are referenced, at anyone’s request.

## AHEPA

by Phillip Frangos

On Palm Sunday, April 12, AHEPA will hold its traditional Fish Plaki Dinner and Graduate Reception. As was the case last year, tickets will cost \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children under the age of 12. The high school graduates being honored this year include Theodore Alexander, Kristi Bates, Amy Chammas, Michael Fragale, Jennifer Hogg, Sam King, Erica Krantz, Eleni Nicolaou, and Cristiellen Heos Zarvas. Members of the chapter are asked to help in preparations at the church on Saturday morning, April 11, and on the day of the event. Contact Vackis Nicolaou at 881-7039 to volunteer.

Wolverine Chapter will present Holy Trinity's Odyssey Program with a financial contribution at the Palm Sunday event. In previous years the amount presented has been \$1,500.00

Zana Litos, Director of the Odyssey Program, is on the staff at Michigan State University Department of Modern Languages where she teaches Modern Greek. Through her dedicated efforts, two outstanding students in the MSU program will be honored by AHEPA at a special awards ceremony at the university on April 24.

Congratulations to chapter member Themistocles Frangos who will be in Washington, DC, in April to participate in the National Intellectual Property Moot Court Competition. Themis and his team partner represented Loyola University School of Law in the regional competition in Chicago on March 20-22. Twenty eight teams competed for the top two spots in the region and the right to represent the region in the Washington competition. Following their victory in the region, the Loyola team will go up against seven other teams - two from each of four regions - in the national competition.

Wolverine Chapter will sponsor a high school junior to Wolverine Boys State this summer. A youngster who is interested in getting hands on experience on the workings of state government in an exciting and stimulating environment should apply for the opportunity to be sponsored. Any interested eligible student

should contact Nicholas Limber at 482-2202 prior to May 15.

Once again AHEPA is providing stipends equivalent to one-half the cost of this year's Diocesan Summer Camp at Rose City, MI. There are several sessions for various age groups. Interested students should apply in writing to Phillip Frangos at 998 Applegate Lane, East Lansing, MI 48823, indicating their interest, age, grade in school, and related personal information. Applications must be received by April 30.

Interested parties are again reminded that it will be AHEPA Night at Oldsmobile Park for the Lansing Lugnuts baseball game on Saturday, June 27. The game will be followed by a fireworks display. Tickets cost \$9.00 and may be purchased by contacting George Lafkas at 351-3121.

## The Perfect Definition

Fr. Anthony Coniaris tells this story ...

One Sunday morning a visitor in a church was highly displeased with the pastor's sermon on stewardship. As he left, he met the pastor at the door and heatedly said: "That's all we ever hear from the pulpit nowadays. That's all you preachers know how to preach any more — Give! Give! Give! Well I for one am sick and tired of it, and I want you to know about it!"

The pastor stood there for a moment as if thinking and then quietly said, "My friend, I want to thank you for the finest definition of the Christian religion that I have ever heard."

That's it, isn't it? Give! Give! Give! — That is exactly what our heavenly Father does for us every minute of every hour of our entire lifetime. That is exactly what Christ did on the cross for each sinner. And what a grand description of the Christian's relationship to his Lord and to his neighbor!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

On Wednesday, April 8 Saint Andrew's Orthodox Church will be hosting a pan-Orthodox Presanctified Liturgy beginning at 6 pm. There will be a Lenten potluck afterwards; parishioners are welcome to bring a dish or just to come and dine after worship.

Parishioner Support is available. The parish stands ready to help parishioners who have financial needs. Simply communicate with Fr. Mark (in complete confidence) about the needs of yourself or another.

Registration for the Metropolis of Detroit Summer Camp is now available online at <http://www.detroit.goarch.org/mdsc/>. For those who have never been to Rose City Camp before, there is a special offer for attending Week One (June 28-July 4); registration will be \$250 instead of the usual \$310. Scholarships are also available through AHEPA and Philoptochos.

Is your son attending MSU next year? The son of Fr. Michael Varlamos is looking for an Orthodox Christian roommate when he starts next year. Contact Fr. Mark if you would be interested in having introductions made.

Metropolitan Nicholas will be joining us for the Salutations Service of the 5th Friday of Great Lent, April 3. This service begins at 7 pm and lasts for about two hours. There will be a fellowship hour afterward sponsored by Philoptochos. Please plan on attending this service to greet our hierarch and spiritual father.

Lamplighter sponsorships are a wonderful way to commemorate a departed loved one or offer a prayer or thanksgiving for the living. Please contact Diana Voutsaras for details if you would be willing to make a gift to the church in support of the parish newsletter.

The parish gratefully acknowledges the gift of George Platsis to the parish library of a copy of the book *Religion of Peace? Why Christianity Is And Islam Isn't* by Robert Spencer. This compares and contrasts the history and values of the two religions on the issue of violence in the name of God. Please check with the church office if you are interested in borrowing this book.

Holy Week is approaching quickly! The choir is preparing music, and would welcome help from any interested parishioners. A women's ensemble will be singing the Hymn of Cassiani on Holy Tuesday evening, a men's ensemble will sing "Simeron Kremate" on Holy Thursday evening, and a youthful ensemble (high school and college) will sing the Paschal Canon at the Paschal Vigil. Singing in these ensembles is a one-time commitment, and would be a wonderful way to participate in the worship during Holy Week. If you are interested in singing with us, please contact Ruthie Munk at (517)402-2409.

## Treasurer's Report

by George Mansour

In another part of this issue of *The Lamplighter* the financial statement for February 2009 is published. This is an effort to keep the community informed about the parish's receipts and disbursements. The published statement is for the main parish account, the one that shows revenue received from stewardship, candles, open collections and other sources. It is also the account from which payroll and operational expenses are disbursed.

As a general rule, financial statements will appear in two sites: A copy of the statement will be posted on the parish bulletin board following the meeting of the Parish Council at which it is received and approved. The Council usually meets on the second Monday of each month. The February statement was posted on March 10, the day following the Council meeting. The statements are also published in *The Lamplighter* in the issue following the Council meeting at which they are approved. Thus, the current issue (April) is the one immediately following the March meeting.

There is some good news to report this month.

- ✿ Stewardship for February 2009 is up approximately 21.5% over February of last year. \$22,901 versus \$18,847.
- ✿ Total revenue received was up approximately 17% over February of last year: \$24,305 versus \$20,768.
- ✿ In comparison, stewardship for the first two months of 2009 represented 18% of the amount budgeted for the current year: \$47,392 of \$264,525.
- ✿ Stewardship for the same period last year represented 25% of the amount budgeted for that year: \$64,271 of \$258,075.
- ✿ Expenditures in February of this year represented 7.7% of budgeted expenses for the year: \$25,009 of \$321,452.
- ✿ In comparison, expenditures in February of 2008 were 8.5% of budgeted expenses: \$27,550 of \$324,840
- ✿ As a result, \$2,540 less was expended in February than during the same month of last year.

- ✿ The bottom line for February 2009 shows a deficit of -\$703. Keep in mind that the budget the General Assembly approved for the current year was built with a deficit of -\$2,977 for the year.
- ✿ If every month continues to be like February 2009, we will end this year well below the projected deficit. In fact, with a concerted effort the parish can end 2009 with no deficit at all.

### U of M Modern Greek Program Event:

"Rebetiki Istoría," a group of the finest rebetika musicians in Athens, will perform a FREE concert on

Saturday, April 25, 2009 at 8pm

at the Stamps Auditorium, Walgreen Drama Center, 1226 Murfin Avenue, North Campus in Ann Arbor. This is an evening not to be missed. There are no tickets for the concert. Please arrive early for good seats. For more information call 734-936-6099.

### Condolences

to Irene and George Gazos on the unexpected passing of Irene's sister Maria (Constandakis) Robinson in Indiana.

to Georgia and Perry Markakis on the passing of Georgia's brother Miltos Papathanasiou in Greece last week.

to the Mangopoulos and Nicholoff families on the passing of Douglas Mitchell.

May their memory be eternal!

**Holy Trinity Operations  
Revenues Disbursements  
Budget vs. Actual  
February 28, 2009**

			YTD	2009
		Feb. 28, 2009	Jan - Dec. 09	Budget
<b>REVENUES</b>				
	Stewardship Donations	22,901.67	47,392.17	264,525.00
	Hall Rental	0.00	0.00	2,750.00
	Lampighter Income	0.00	250.00	1,200.00
	Loose Offering			
	Candles	617.10	667.10	0.00
	Cash from Collection Tray	132.00	988.13	18,000.00
	<b>Total Loose Offering</b>	<b>749.10</b>	<b>1,655.23</b>	<b>18,000.00</b>
	Loose Offering Second Tray	0.00	0.00	2,500.00
	Fr. John Poulos	300.00	300.00	0.00
	Philoptochos	0.00	0.00	3,000.00
	Fundraising Events			
	Fundraising Events	0.00	0.00	24,000.00
	Work Free	100.00	100.00	0.00
	<b>Total Fundraising Events</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>24,000.00</b>
	Agape Dinner	0.00	0.00	1,000.00
	Other Donations (Prosfora, Rewards, etc.)	230.00	250.00	1,500.00
	Interest Income	0.00	66.14	0.00
	Other Miscellaneous Income	25.00	25.00	0.00
	<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>24,305.77</b>	<b>50,038.54</b>	<b>318,475.00</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>				
	Personnel			
	Guest Clergy	690.18	690.18	1,750.00
	Payroll	10,602.00	22,890.35	119,126.00
	( Choir Director, Custodian, Odyssey, Priest, Secretary, Bookkeeper)			
	Payroll Tax Expense	1,460.87	2,887.29	29,622.00
	Priest Benefits (Auto, Medical, YMCA)	2,244.00	4,488.00	27,672.00
	Educat. & Liturgical Programs			
	Bible Study	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Choir	0.00	0.00	1,000.00
	Library	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Odyssey	0.00	0.00	3,500.00
	Oratorical Festival	0.00	0.00	75.00
	Sunday School	0.00	245.53	2,000.00
	Youth - OCF	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Youth Activities - GOYA	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Youth Activities - JOY	0.00	0.00	0.00
	New Member Outreach	0.00	0.00	250.00
	Parishioner Support	0.00	0.00	1,240.00
	<b>Total EDUCAT. &amp; LITURGICAL PROGRAMS</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>245.53</b>	<b>8,065.00</b>
	Archdiocese Disbursements			
	National Ministries	2,941.50	5,883.00	35,000.00
	ArchD Benefits Program	450.00	900.00	5,700.00
	<b>Total ARCHDIOCESE EXPENSES</b>	<b>3,391.50</b>	<b>6,783.00</b>	<b>40,700.00</b>
	PC DONATIONS			
	Metropolis of Detroit	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
	PC Donations - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Rose City Camp Donations	0.00	0.00	250.00
	<b>Total PC DONATIONS</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2,250.00</b>

**Holy Trinity Operations  
Revenues Disbursments  
Budget vs. Actual  
February 28, 2009**

		Feb. 28, 2009	YTD Jan - Dec. 09	2009 Budget
<b>Oratorical Festival</b>				
	District	0.00	0.00	50.00
	National	0.00	0.00	50.00
	Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Local Charity	0.00	0.00	1,000.00
	Second Tray	0.00	0.00	2,500.00
<b>Total Oratorical Festival</b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>3,600.00</b>
<b>OPERATIONAL COSTS</b>				
	Archive Expense	0.00	0.00	100.00
	Bank Charges	-21.00	36.94	300.00
	Computer Expenses	0.00	0.00	500.00
	Conferences, Laity	0.00	0.00	1,000.00
	Conferences, Priest	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
	Curb Assessment	0.00	0.00	550.00
<b>Fundraising Events</b>				
	Agape Dinner	0.00	0.00	1,000.00
	Dinner Dance	173.26	173.26	9,500.00
	Fundraising Events - Other	0.00	0.00	1,500.00
<b>Total Fundraising Events</b>		<b>173.26</b>	<b>173.26</b>	<b>12,000.00</b>
	Insurance	0.00	0.00	9,200.00
<b>Loans</b>				
	Interest and Processing Fees	1,731.51	3,465.41	29,000.00
	Loan principal	766.83	1,531.27	0.00
	Renovations Loan - Interest	150.75	301.96	3,500.00
<b>Total Loans</b>		<b>2,649.09</b>	<b>5,298.64</b>	<b>32,500.00</b>
	Lampighter Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Postage	184.00	310.00	2,000.00
	Candles	0.00	254.00	0.00
<b>Supplies</b>				
	Cleaning Supplies	231.95	231.95	0.00
	Office	12.98	161.33	2,000.00
	Sanctuary	60.72	60.72	5,100.00
	Kitchen	0.00	444.58	2,000.00
<b>Total Supplies</b>		<b>305.65</b>	<b>898.58</b>	<b>9,100.00</b>
	Incorporation Fee	0.00	0.00	20.00
	Maintenance & Repair	2,073.95	5,298.18	18,000.00
	Priest Cell Phone	41.68	89.72	516.00
	Telephone Parish	181.26	375.85	2,100.00
<b>Utilities</b>				
	Electric	778.72	1,373.27	7,600.00
	Gas	568.00	1,136.00	6,800.00
	Water	170.55	327.50	2,000.00
<b>Total Utilities</b>		<b>1,517.27</b>	<b>2,836.77</b>	<b>16,400.00</b>
<b>Total OPERATIONAL COSTS</b>		<b>7,105.16</b>	<b>15,571.94</b>	<b>106,286.00</b>
<b>Total Disbursements</b>		<b>25,009.20</b>	<b>52,621.72</b>	<b>321,452.00</b>
<b>Net Revenue</b>		<b>-\$703.43</b>	<b>-\$2,583.18</b>	<b>-\$2,977.00</b>

## STEWARDSHIP LIST 2009

Abood, Reva  
 Alexander, Dimitri  
 Alexander, Helen  
 Alexander, Michael & Maria  
 Alimonos, Tasos  
 Alimonos, Voula  
 Arvanites, Art & Rhea  
 Arvanites, Christopher  
 Avanesyan, Natalia

Baryames, Charles & Rosalie  
 Baryames, Chris & Betty  
 Benca, Ted & Connie  
 Binioris, Savvas  
 Blaj, Anita  
 Bontos, Athena  
 Brancheau/Heos, Jeffrey & Pamela  
 Branoff, Dennis & Alexis  
 Brown, Alex & Mary  
 Butzin, Eleni

Carantza, Gus & Bess  
 Carey, Dena Despina  
 Chamis, Chris  
 Christofilis, Demetra  
 Christofilis, Elaine  
 Christofilis, John & Glykeria  
 Christophill, James & Irene  
 Cloumas, Martha  
 Colovos, Nick & Karen  
 Constant, Dimitri  
 Constant, Erikkos & Maria  
 Constant, Nadina  
 Corey, Rita  
 Curtis, Koula

Danigelis, Paul & Mea  
 Dart, Katina  
 Deliyanne, Gregory  
 Dellis, Diane  
 Dines, Gregory  
 Doumas, Robert & Betsy

Evanoff, Luba  
 Economy, George & Stella  
 Esch, Andrea

Farran, Richard & Pamela  
 Fitzgerald, Hiram & Dolores

Foster, Cassandra  
 Fragale, Tony & Georgia  
 Frangos, Maria  
 Frangos, Phillip & Tula  
 Frangos, Themistocles  
  
 Garyet, Nickolas  
 Gavrilides, Gregory & Rosemary  
 Gavrilides, Nicholas & Dana  
 Gavrilis, Dimitris & Emma-Jane Arnold  
 Georgiou, Nicolas & Anna  
 Geovanes, Pauline  
 Gialama, Katerina

Haggerty, Ethna  
 Hayward, Ken & Nancy  
 Hoag, Cynthia  
 Hoffman, Toni  
 Hogg, Daniel & Kathy  
 Hostetler, Alicia  
 Howell, Elaine

Jansen, Maryellen  
 Jennings, Kay  
 Jildeh, Katy  
 Jildeh, Samir  
 Joseph, Yvonne

Kafantaris, George & Maria  
 Kaliyanakis, Andreas  
 Kaliyanakis, Helen  
 Kaplan, Bob & Georgia  
 Karabatsos, Mike & Marina  
 Kafantaris, George & Maria  
 Karagoulis, Michael & Lynne  
 Karakitsos, John & Coleen  
 Karakitsos, Vasiliki  
 Kateyiannis, Christos & Vicki  
 Katsiris, Jim & Athena  
 Katsiris, Peter & Frances  
 Kavalaris, Gus & Connie  
 King, Joanna  
 Kontis, Irene  
 Kosal, Curt & Leslie  
 Kotsifis, Marina  
 Kotsifis, Mary  
 Koukios, Jeanette  
 Kouklis, Gus  
 Krantz, Gregory & Georgia

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Kritselis, Nicholas	Sabbagh, Z. George	Webster, H. Richard & Joan
Kritselis, William & Elaine	Saites, Harry	Willard, Patricia
Lafkas, George	Samouris, Peter	Woods, Richard & Nicole
Lahanas, George & Shelley	Samra, Ted & Ina	Zabrodsky, Nicholai
Laskaris, Bertha	Schaeff, Dorothy	Zachos, Terri
Laskaris, Gus & Tamera	Seegraves, Atinas	Zois, Evelyn
Limber, Nicholas	Sgouris, Katherine	
Litos, Alexander & Zana	Sietsema, Fr. Mark & Presvytera	
Malvetis, Anastasios	Siettas, Nick	
Malvetis, Nancy	Simmons, Nathan & Vyvien	
Mangopoulos, Nick	Sinadinos, Charlotte	
Mangopoulos, Stavros & Maria	Sinadinos, James & Barbara	
Manolakoudis, Kostas & Sophia	Skorich, Dan	
Mansour, George & Mary Ann	Smith, Richard	
Markakis, Pericles & Georgia	Southerland, Edwin & Debra	
Mendoza, Mary	Spalding, Eleanor	
Mengiseu, Asnakech & Ketema	Spiridakos, Gregory & Effie	
Metros, William	Stajos, James & Cecilia	
Millis, Mark	Stajos, Jan	
Munk, Christina	Stamatakos, Louis & Bess	
Munk, Gerald & Janice	Stathopoulos, Dimitri & Martha	
Munk, Ruth	Stepanovich, Dennis	
Nasif, Michel & Alice	Strangas, Elias	
Neros, Donna	Suzic, Ljubica & Milan	
Nichols, David & Elan	Suzic, Nenad	
Nicolaou, Peter & Electra	Tarpoff, Archie & Margaret	
Nicolaou, Vackis & Koula	Tassopoulos, Andreas	
Pappas, George & Ann	Tassopoulos, Eleftheria	
Pappas, Jim & Julia	Tassopoulos, Demos	
Pappas, Stephanie	Tassopoulos, Maria	
Pascalenos, Olga	Tegge, Frank	
Pascalenos, Peter	Tesseris, George & Sousanna	
Pascalenos, Tom	Tesseris, Spiro & Sophia	
Pehlivanoglu, Nikolaos	Thodis, Peggy	
Peponis, Gus & Margaret	Tolas, George	
Perentesis, Stephanie	Tolas, Petro	
Pike, Shannon & Christine	Tzumakas, Spiridon & Krisoula	
Pogoncheff, Metodi & Marcia	Vanis, Alex & Antonia	
Popa, Eugen & Crina	Vanis, Stuart & Elizabeth	
Popoff, Alexis	Vivio, Frank	
Popoff, Daniel	Vlahakis, Angela	
Poroshin, Sergey & Marina	Vlahakis, Angelos & Betty	
Pridnia, David & Liana	Vlahakis, James & Susan	
Priggooris, Peter	Vlahakis, Louis & Mary	
Putnam, Chuck & Debbie	Vlahakis, Marilyn Joan	
Rahib, Margaret	Vlahakis, Nicholas	
Rouches, Billie	Volakakis, Mary	
Rzepka, Ellen	Vosovic, Sava & Dolores	
	Vsetula, Richard & Nonie	

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**Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church  
1701 East Saginaw Street  
Lansing, MI 48912**

**2009 STEWARDSHIP**

**We invite you to become a Steward and Member of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Lansing, Michigan. We ask you to please:**

- Provide the information requested on this sheet about you and your family
- Write in the amount of your 2009 Stewardship Pledge at the bottom
- Sign the form
- Return it to the Parish office

**STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY is September 21, 2008**

Family Name:

Your Name:  Your Date of Birth:

Spouse's Name:  Spouse's Date of Birth:

Orthodox- You?

Orthodox - Spouse?

**Children under 21 years of age**

Address:

Child #1:

City:  State:

Date of Birth:

Zip:

Child #2:

Date of Birth

Telephone #1:

Child #3

Date of Birth

Telephone #2:

Child #4

Date of Birth

Email Address:

**2009 Stewardship Pledge \_\_\_\_\_**

**By signing this pledge form, you affirm your wish to be a member of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 1701 East Saginaw Street, Lansing, Michigan, for the calendar year 2009.**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

# April 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Presanctified Liturgy, 5pm	2	3 NO Odyssey Classes Salutations, 7pm	4
5 40 Day Memorial- Georgana Popoff Choir hosts coffee	6 Philoptochos General Meeting, 7pm Parish Council Meeting, 7pm	7	8 Pan-Orthodox Presanctified Liturgy, 6pm at St. Andrews Parish, potluck follows	9	10 NO Odyssey Classes	11 Saturday of Lazarus, Liturgy 10am Pancake Breakfast & Palm Weaving: Confessional Time; Children's Choir Practice
12 PALM SUNDAY AHEPA Graduate Recep- tion & Fish Plaki Luncheon 1st Bridegroom Service, 7pm Western Easter	13 2nd Bridegroom Service, 7pm	14 3rd Bridegroom Service Hymn of Cassiane, 7pm	15 Holy Unction Service, 3:30-6:15pm	16 Institution of the Eucharist, 7:30am Twelve Gospels, 6:30pm MARSP Luncheon, 11-2pm	17 HOLY FRIDAY Royal Hours, 8am Vespers of Apokathelosis, 2pm Lamentations, 6:30pm NO Odyssey Classes	18 Divine Liturgy, 10am Paschal Vigil, 11pm Parish Council Dinner
19 HOLY PASCHA Resurrection of Jesus Christ, Agape Service 12noon Easter Egg Hunt	20 Lampighter Deadline	21	22	23 St. George, Divine Liturgy, 10am	24 Odyssey Classes, 4:30- 6:30pm	25
26 OCF hosts coffee Poikilia & Classic Movie Fundraiser, 6pm	27	28	29	30		

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 Fellowship Coffee following Liturgy

# May 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 Philoptochos hosts coffee, Southside Community Kitchen focus	4 Philoptochos General Meeting, 7pm	5	6	7	8 FINAL Odyssey Classes, 4:30-6:30pm Wedding Rehearsal	9 Nicholas Vlahakis Wedding
10 GOYA hosts coffee & Mother's Day Tea Mother's Day	11 Parish Council Meeting, 7pm	12	13	14	15	16 Philoptochos Luncheon, 12 Noon Helmet Safety Drive - 9-2pm parking lot
17 Sunday School & Odyssey Commencement, coffee hosts	18 Lampighter Deadline	19 OPA Gathering, 1-3pm	20	21 St. Constantine & St. Helen, Liturgy 10am MARSP Luncheon, 11-2pm	22	23
24 'open' coffee host	25 Memorial Day Observed Parish Office Closed	26	27	28	29	30
31 AHEPA hosts coffee						