



ΚΗΠΟΣ ΚΥΡΙΟΥ GARDEN OF THE LORD



A Monthly Newsletter of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Asheville, NC.

May 2016

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ;

Χριστὸς Ἀνέστη! Christ is Risen! المسيح قام! حقا قام! Krishti u ngjall! Christus
ist auferstanden! Christus resurrexit! Christ est ressuscité!
Cristo è risorto! Hristos a înviat! ;Cristo ha resucitado! Христόςъ воскрес! Христос
воскрес! Христос васкрес! Христос воскрес! Hu'ta' QISt! Hu'bejta'!

We have now entered into the season of the Resurrection of our Lord. We have entered with the Lord into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. We have witnessed the betrayal of the Lord by Judas, His trial before Pilat, His mocking by the religious leaders and the soldiers, His terrible crucifixion and death, His removal from the cross and burial, His descent into hades and victory over death, and now we behold His glorious Resurrection!

In this season of the Church, we read from the Holy Scriptures, the book of Acts, about the life of the early Church. The book of Acts was written by the Apostle Luke, and is a continuation of the Gospel according to Luke. It begins with Jesus Ascending into heaven before the very eyes of His disciples, and He tells them to go back to Jerusalem and wait for the Holy Spirit to come upon them, which is known as the day of Pentecost, which means 50, because Pentecost occurred 50 days after the Resurrection.

Obedient to the words of the Lord, the disciples returned to Jerusalem, however they locked themselves in an upper room because they feared the Jews. Because Judas betrayed Christ, and instead of repenting he killed himself, it was expedient that his position be filled by another who was also a witness of everything that Jesus did from the beginning. The Apostle Matthias was chosen to take the place of Judas.

Shortly thereafter, just as Jesus foretold, the Holy Spirit came upon the Holy Apostles, and they were filled with the Holy Spirit. As they spoke, everyone present heard the Apostles in their own native



Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

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Fr. Michael Diavatis - Parish Priest

(828) 785-6589 (Cellular Phone) ♦ FrMichaelD@newrome.org

2016 Parish Council

George Rallis	(2016/17)	President	
Richard Bass	(2016/17)	Vice President	
Julie Delich	(2016/17)	Secretary	
Tommy I. Arakas	(2016/17)	Treasurer	
Dean Nakos	(2015/16)	Assistant Treasurer	
Bess Crider	2016/17	Jimmy Koutsoumbis	2015/16
Jason Ledford	2015/16	Emily Rantzos	2016/17
Pete Stathopoulos	2015/16		

If you are not on our mailing-list and would like to be please contact the Church Office.

Any submission for the Garden of the Lord should be presented to the office by the 15th of each month.

Orthodox Observer

If you do not currently receive the Archdiocesan Newspaper, The Orthodox Observer, and would like to, please contact the Church Office. There is no cost for this service.

Continued from page 1

language, simultaneously. This “speaking in tongues” was not the “speaking in tongues” that we see in the modern charismatic movements, when no intelligible words are formed, but it was the exact opposite. Every one understood, which showed not only the power of the Holy Spirit, but that the Gospel of Jesus Christ was for all people, not just the Jews.

At this point, the Apostles fully understood for the first time the fullness of the Gospel. They then shook off the shackles of fear that had so furiously gripped them, and with great grace and boldness, Peter preached Christ to the Jews. The Holy Scripture tells us that when Peter finished his preaching, the people “were cut to the heart,” that is to say they were spiritually convicted of their wrong-doing and ready to accept Christ. Having been spiritually convicted, they asked “what shall we do?” Peter then tells them that they must repent and be baptized. That very day 3,000 people were baptized in the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

What follows is important, because we get a glimpse into the early life of the Church. We see how the early Christians behaved and what they valued. Acts 3:42 tells us that “*they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers.*” We see here 4 things:

- 1) The doctrine of the Apostles, that is their teachings.
- 2) Fellowship.
- 3) The breaking of the Bread, meaning Holy Communion.
- 4) The prayers, meaning the Liturgical prayers, especially those having to do with the Eucharist, Holy Communion.

When we see this way of life, this is what we as Orthodox Christians continue to this day. Every Sunday we have Divine Liturgy, but for many of us, somehow we feel disconnected and fail to see the continuity of the life of the early Church. We have the teaching of the Apostles in the reading of the Epistle, the Gospel and the Sermon. We have “the prayers” in the Liturgy itself. We have the “breaking of the Bread” in Holy Communion, and we have the fellowship in “coffee hour” following the Holy Services. All four of these “traditions” are important for our Orthodox way of life and our relationship with God and one another. Every Sunday is an opportunity for us to abide in the Apostolic way of life that has been our way for 2,000 years. Come. Pray with us. Commune with us. Spend time with one another. Get to know each other, and learn more about your God, yourself and your holy Orthodox Faith.

I wish you all every blessing during this Paschal season.

Yours truly in Christ Jesus the Risen Lord,

Fr. Michael Diavatis

Announcements

Memorial for Maria Apostolopoulos

A one-year Memorial service will be held on Sunday, June 5 for Maria S. Apostolopoulos. The family invites all parishioners to attend the service as well as a luncheon following Liturgy at the Morris Hellenic Cultural Center (MHCC).

From the Family of the Dearly Departed Joan Aliferis

We want to sincerely thank all those who attended the Trisagion and Funeral and shared their condolences and memorable moments with us. Being there for us was certainly a great comfort. Thanks also to the hall cooking staff, to those who brought food, set tables, served, or coordinated and kept track of

items, sent flowers or cards, or visited our mother in the nursing home.

May God Bless All of You. And May Her Memory be Eternal!

From the Kondilis Family

We would like to thank all those who supported the fundraiser for Dean Kondilis and made it such a success. We know that that will be a great help to the family. It is very difficult to deal with a diagnosis such as this and also to have to deal with the financial difficulties it brings. So thanks also to all of you who cooked, brought food, and donated time or food.

God Bless You All!

Sunday School

Grades	Teachers
Pre-K: 3, 4 & some 5 year olds.	Toni Barlas & Despina Ledford
K - 2nd Grades	Kiki Koufaliotis & Maria Treskas
3rd - 5th Grades	Georgia Barlas & Gabriela Livanos
6th, 7th & 8th Grades	Presvytera Nikol
9th - 12th Grades	Maria Katsigiannis

Date	Location	Lesson
May 1	No Class. Pascha. Agape Picnic.	No class.
May 8	Normal Class. Mother's Day.	The Church Building: The Sacred Place: The Candili
May 15	Normal Class	The Church Building: The Sacred Place: The Artoforion & the Diskopoterion
May 22	Last day of Class.	The Church Building: The Sacred Place: The Censer
May 29	No class. Memorial day weekend.	No class.
June 5	Sunday School Party.	

Prosforon

May 8 – Linda Apostolopoulos

May 15 – Golfo Katsigianis

May 22 – Mary Pappas

May 29 - Popie Zourzoukis



Prosforon

June 5 – Evangelia Zourzoukis

June 12 – Katina Zoumbos

June 19 – Varvara Moutos

June 26 - Eleni Kaltsounis

Parish Council Pangari Duty

May 1 – Every One!

May 8 – Bess Crider & Julie Delich

May 15 –

May 22 -Pete Stathopoulos & Jimmy Koutsioumbis

May 29 -

June 5 –

June 12 –

June 19 –

June 26 -



Coffee Hour and Luncheons

May 1 – Pascha! Agapi Picnic!

May 8 – Mother’s Day Luncheon

May 15 – Makaria for Joan Aliferis

May 22 -AHEPA Hotdog Fundraiser

May 29 -



June 5 – 1 Year Memorial Luncheon for Maria Apostolopoulos

June 12 –

June 19 – Pentecost Sunday Community BBQ

June 26 -

May Schedule



Ἡμερολόγιον Μαΐου

No Fasting this week. Χριστὸς Ἀνέστη! Christ is Risen!

Sunday, May 1. Great and Holy Pascha.		Κυριακή, 1 Μαΐου. Μέγα καὶ Ἅγιον Πάσχα.
Monday, May 2. St. George. Orthros. Divine Liturgy.	9:00 AM 10:00 AM	Δευτέρα, 2 Μαΐου. Ἁγίου Γεωργίου. Ὁρθρος. Θεία Λειτουργία
Friday, May 6.		Τρίτη, 6 Μαΐου.
Saturday, May 7. Agapi Picnic at Diakonia Center. See flier in the back of this Newsletter.	11:00 AM	
Sunday, May 8. Thomas Sunday. St. John the Theologian. Mother's Day. Mother's Day Luncheon. Orthros. Divine Liturgy.	8:45 AM 10:00 AM	Κυριακή, 8 Μαΐου. Τοῦ Θομᾶ. Ἁγίου Ἰωάννου τοῦ Θεολόγου. Ἡμέρα Μητέρων. Ὁρθρος. Θεία Λειτουργία.
Sunday, May 15. The Myrrh Bearing Women. Orthros. Divine Liturgy. 40-day Memorial for Joan Aliferis	8:45 AM 10:00 AM	Κυριακή, 15 Μαΐου. Τῶν Μυροφόρων. Ὁρθρος. Θεία Λειτουργία.
Saturday, May 21. Saints Constantine and Helen. Orthros. Divine Liturgy.	9:00 AM 10:00 AM	Σάββατον, 21 Μαΐου. Τῶν Ἁγίων Κωνσταντίνου καὶ Ἑλένης. Ὁρθρος. Θεία Λειτουργία.
Sunday, May 22. The Paralytic. Orthros. Divine Liturgy.	8:45 AM 10:00 AM	Κυριακή, 22 Μαΐου. Τοῦ Παραλυτικοῦ. Ὁρθρος. Θεία Λειτουργία.
Sunday, May 29. The Samaritan Woman. Orthros. Divine Liturgy.	8:45 AM 10:00 AM	Κυριακή, 29 Μαΐου Τῆς Σαμαρειτίδος. Ὁρθρος. Θεία Λειτουργία.

June Schedule



Ἡμερολόγιον Ἰουνίου

Sunday, June 5. The Blind Man. Orthros. Divine Liturgy.	8:45 AM 10:00 AM	Κυριακή, 5 Ἰουνίου. Τοῦ Τυφλοῦ. Ὅρθρος. Θεία Λειτουργία.
Thursday, June 9. The Ascension. Orthros. Divine Liturgy.	9:00 AM 10:00 AM	Πέμπτη, 9 Ἰουνίου. Ἡ Ἀνάληψις. Ὅρθρος. Θεία Λειτουργία.
Sunday, June 12. The Holy Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council. Orthros. Divine Liturgy.	8:45 AM 10:00 AM	Κυριακή, 12 Ἰουνίου. Τῶν Ἁγίων Πατέρων Α΄ Οἰκουμενικῆς Συνόδου. Ὅρθρος. Θεία Λειτουργία.
Sunday, June 19. Pentecost. Orthros. Divine Liturgy.	8:45 AM 10:00 AM	Κυριακή, 19 Ἰουνίου. Πεντηκοστή. Ὅρθρος. Θεία Λειτουργία.
Monday, June 20. Of the Holy Spirit. Orthros. Divine Liturgy.	9:00 AM 10:00 AM	Δευτέρα, 20 Ἰουνίου. Τοῦ Ἁγίου Πνεύματος. Ὅρθρος. Θεία Λειτουργία.
Sunday, June 26. All Saints. Orthros. Divine Liturgy.	8:45 AM 10:00 AM	Κυριακή, 26 Ἰουνίου.. Τῶν Ἁγίων Πάντων. Ὅρθρος. Θεία Λειτουργία.
The Apostle's Fast Begins June 27 to June 29		
Monday, June 29. The Holy Apostles Peter and Paul. Orthros. Divine Liturgy.	9:00 AM 10:00 AM	Δευτέρα, 29 Ἰουνίου. Τῶν Ἁγίων Πέτρου καὶ Παύλου. Ὅρθρος. Θεία Λειτουργία.

Koinonia

HTGOC Youth Ministries Focus

"Behold how good and pleasing it is when brothers dwell in unity." Psalm 133:1



Saturday of Lazarus, the youth met for fellowship and the folding of palm crosses.



Youth Lenten Retreat

On Palm Sunday, Father Michael met with the children for a lesson on Holy Week.
What a wonderful lesson!

Youth Ministry Share Site:
www.htgocyouthministryasheville.shutterfly.com

It is recommended that parents become members of this site, as it will be our main communication hub for events, registrations and sign-ups.

Membership is FREE!

Mark Your Calendar

GREEK SCHOOL

LAST DAY - Friday May 27th

NEXT YEAR 2016-2017

Greek School will begin on Friday, September 9th. Mrs. Vicky is considering a Sunday class. She will also be restructuring Greek School classes, by level rather than age. She will be assessing students and will present her recommendations. Current students, registration forms will be sent home. Prospective students, you may contact the Greek School Teacher.

ADULT CLASSES

Many have requested an adult Greek Conversation class. If you are interested, please contact the Greek School Teacher.

GREEK SCHOOL TEACHER:

Mrs. Vicky Themistocleous (themis850@yahoo.com)

GREEK CAMP

JUNE 13th - 17th

Registration deadline is June 1st and must be done on the share site. Refer to the included flyer for details.

VCS (Vacation Church School)

JUNE 20th - 23rd

Val Prytyshach has accepted a volunteer position as the VCS Director. Maria Katsigianis and Georgia Barlas will be working alongside Val this year to establish a Curriculum and procedures. Registration deadline is June 1st and must be done on the share site. Refer to the included flyer for details. Thank you Val!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

REGISTRATION REQUIRED by July 1st! Forms will be mailed to each family with the presentation of our new Sunday School Program. Additional forms will be available in the church office, share site and Pangari. Forms must be returned to the office or the designated box on the Pangari by July 1st.

August 20th - Teacher & Volunteer Workshop

More Information coming soon!

August 21st - Youth Ministries Kick-Off Parties 2016-2017

More information coming soon!

September 11th - 1st day of The Three Hierarchs Sunday School. Registration required.



Task Force Updates

Father Michael and the Parish Council asked that a Task Force be formed to review and create a plan for revamping/reviving our Youth Ministry at HTGOC. The task force consists of Jason Ledford (PC Youth Liaison), Georgia Barlas, Effie Stamatiades, Angie Edwards and Socrates Katsadourous. Mia Gilman and Presvytera Nikol have also volunteered to help develop our curriculum. The following Youth Ministry Team has been created for the 2016-2017 Ecclesiastical Year.

YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM

Sunday School Co-Directors:

Michelle Malsbury & Joann Cortes

Sunday School Teachers:

Dora Willoughby, Debbie Ledford, Maria Treskas, Kiki Koufaliotis, Gabriella Livanos, Georgia Barlas, Presvytera Nikol, Peter Gilman, (Open positions for 2 additional teachers)

Youth Ministries Directors

ANGELS (0-2 YRS): Steffie Rantzos

FAITH (3 & 4 YRS): Melissa Stamatiades

H.O.P.E. (K5-2ND): Debbie Ledford

J.O.Y. (3RD-6TH): Kiki Koufaliotis

G.O.Y.A. (7TH - 12TH): Maria Katsigianis

GO.Y.A. Advisors: Dino Zourzoukis, Gus Stamatiades

VCS Director: Val Prytyskach

Lenten Retreat Director: Still Open

As soon as the Sunday School Ministry and Youth Ministries are finalized, the Task Force will focus on Hellenic Dance & Greek School. **We are blessed for this commitment to the future of our church! Thank you!**

Jesus called them to Him, saying, "Let the children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the Kingdom of God". Luke 18:16-17



HTGOC Greek Camp June 13th - June 17th



**It's Almost Summer,
Time to Travel!**

**Don't Miss A Chance
to Travel in Greek!**

From packing and planning, passports and airports, to the Beach, Mountains, Attractions, Dining, and more!

When: Monday, June 13th - Friday, June 17th

Where: Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

Time & Cost: Ages 3 & 4: 3:45 - 4:30, \$15 for the entire week
Ages 5 - 18: 4:30 - 6:00, \$30 for the entire week

Potluck & Fellowship: At 6:00, we will enjoy a Potluck dinner and fellowship!

Registration: Those who are currently enrolled in Greek School may sign-up on the Shutterfly Share Site. Please become a member at your earliest convenience as this will be our main communication hub. If you are not currently enrolled in Greek School and would like to register, please complete the registration form. It is located in the Narthex and must be returned in the Youth Ministry box or church office.

**Registration
Required by June 1st!**

Payable to: HTGOC Greek School, with "For Greek Camp" at the bottom. Submit payments to church office.

HTGOC presents VCS 2016

Vacation Church School



Date: June 20th - June 23th

Time: 4:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Where: Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

Who: FAITH (3-4 Yrs), HOPE (K5-2nd) & JOY (3rd-6th)

VCS Director: Val Prytyskach (valentina.prytyskach@bcsemail.org)

Schedule

- 4:30 - 4:45** Meet in the Church for Welcome, Opening Prayer and Group Division
- 4:45 - 5:30** Group A, Lesson with Father Michael
Group B, Craft
- 5:30 - 5:40** Transition
- 5:40 - 6:25** Group B, Lesson with Father Michael
Group A, Craft
- 6:30** Potluck Dinner & Fellowship

Volunteers will be needed to assist in various positions. Parents, please keep this in mind as you plan for that week. A sign-up sheet will be sent out via the share site. Stay Tuned!

Registration Required!

All families participating in the HTGOC Youth Ministries are required to become members of our Shutterfly share site (free membership), as it is now our main communication hub.

The Sign-Up sheet is available on this site.

www.htgocyouthministryasheville.shutterfly.com

Registration Deadline - June 1st!

Ecclesiastical Committee Thank You



Great Lent is such a busy time for this committee!

Cleaning: Both men and women took on the role of servant at the mid-point of Lent and helped deep clean the Church. It was as if we became Mary and anointed the feet of Christ; or Martha who served the Lord with her hands. Everyone who helped clean asked to remain anonymous as the effort was truly offered to the Lord.



Flowers: So many hours and so many different hands have helped decorate the icons and other "Holy Hardware" during Lent and Holy Week. With joy in our hearts we offer God the most beautiful things we can create, and we thank Him for that opportunity. We also appreciate the many monetary donations for flowers that enable us to create beauty during this most sacred time. Thank you everyone! *Bess Crider, Ecclesiastical Liaison*

MHCC Committee Thank You

A recent event at The MHCC benefitted from the help of several parishioners who volunteered to assist as part of their Stewardship to our Church. Because of a family emergency, our Event Coordinator could not be present as the on-site attendant for a large party being held at our hall. The following folks graciously stepped up and filled those hours as attendant so that the event could go on as planned. This also saved our Church several hundred dollars in attendant fees. Many thanks go to

Richard Bass, George Zourzoukis, Dean Nakos, Pete Stathopoulos and Jim Zourzoukis.

It's A Girl!

Congratulations go to Kris Kraft and her husband Jeremy Atterton on the birth of their daughter Amelia Mae Atterton on 4/12/2016. Baby's stats: 7 lbs. 11 oz. & 21 inches long; and she's already been present for a couple of new bookings! She is a big hit with clients! ;)



Praise for Anna Katsigianis

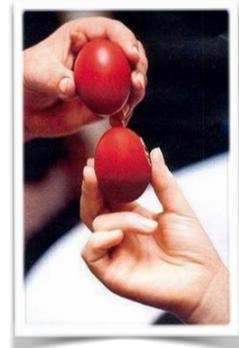
Anna Katsigianis, daughter of Jimmy & Maria Katsigianis created a clay replica of a violin and it was voted the best by her class. It was displayed at Asheville Mall with art from other schools in Buncombe County.



Thank you to everyone who helps make Pascha special:

- Fr. Michael, Chanters & Choir;
- Alter Servers & Pangari;
- Volunteers who continue our Pascal traditions of folding palm crosses, dying red eggs, cooking magiritsa & roasting lamb;
- People who clean & serve and stay until the job is done and lock up;
- Donors of fresh flowers and the decorators of the tomb & icons;
- Those who remember their Church in prayer and attended our many services.

You help make Pascha more meaningful and memorable!





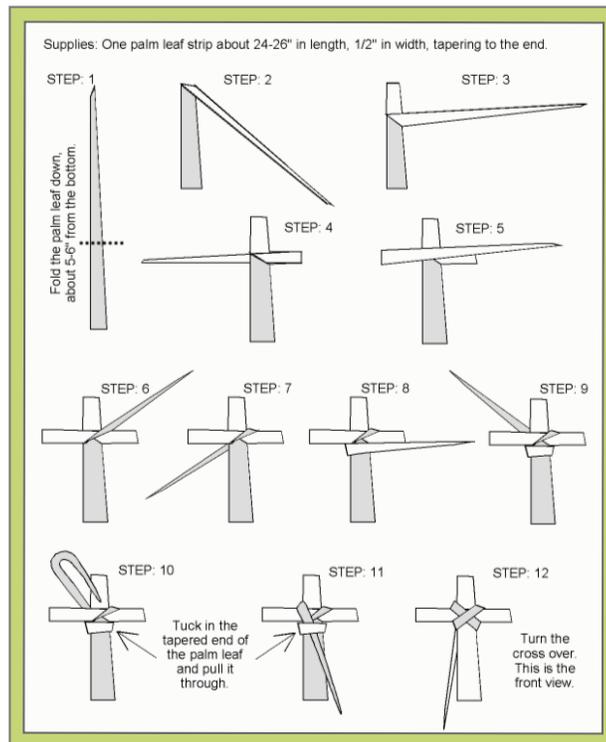
PALM SUNDAY PREPARATIONS ON SATURDAY OF LAZARUS

PALM FAQs

Four types of palm trees grow in the Holy Land: the coconut palm, the date palm, the plantain or banana palm, and THE Palm tree of the Holy Scriptures.

The type referred to in Holy Scripture:

- Grows 80-90' tall
- Is deep rooted, very strong yet flexible
- Bears a grapefruit-sized fruit all year long and it is edible all year long as well
- When a palm is cut down the entire palm tree may be used, with the trunk making good timbers for building and it is termite proof
- The leaves are used to make paper and also to make roofs or shelters for poorer people
- It is a symbol of fruitfulness, uprightness, steadfastness, health and longevity
- Palm trees are mentioned over 200 times in the Bible



MAY NEWS

& THE MORRIS HELLENIC COMMUNITY CENTER



The MHCC is heading into it's busiest months beginning in June and continuing throughout the rest of the year. There are a lot of bookings for weekends through mid-December. We expect there will be some late bookings coming in this summer, as this was the case for last year also. With your prayers, we could have a record year and see almost if not all weekends booked this year.

With regard to using the community center, The Parish Council would like to remind all groups that there is an approved policy and proper protocols in place for our organizations wishing to use The MHCC. First, it is advisable to communicate with the Parish Council; second, notify the office with details so that Alisa is informed & can answer questions or requests; and third, if the plan includes use of The MHCC then the Event Coordinator Kris Kraft keeps that schedule-which changes quite often. It is therefore necessary that everyone follow these three steps in order for us to function as a team. Just like a family, we all have to communicate. And the team functions better if we all share the same information.

Note: If you would like the community to consider sponsoring an event, let's say a fund raising coffee, benefit luncheon or speaker for example, then the proper protocol is to bring it to the Parish Council for consideration and approval first, as another purpose or plan may be under consideration for that time. Once that step is done, following steps 2 & 3 should happen to firm up all the details.

As The MHCC becomes ever more popular as an event venue, it is important that all groups wishing to reserve the hall, do so in a timely manner. This scheduling should be done thru both the Church Office (as a courtesy & for good communication) and also thru The MHCC Event Coordinator, Kris Kraft at 828-713-2280 or by emailing her at mhccEVENTSmail@gmail.com.

A copy of this Policy Document is included in this month's bulletin and a hard copy will be available in the Church Office for each organization to keep on file for future reference. All Presidents and Ministry Liaisons should pick up their copy for reference.

We are grateful for your taking the time to keep the community center looking good and for supervising your children's use of the hall. Remembering that it is our home away from home will keep it in good condition and a source of pride for all in the community.



Approved Groups & Use Policy for The Morris Hellenic Cultural Center

1) Authorized Groups

This is the official policy for all authorized organizations within the Holy Trinity Community who wish to use The MHCC for their group's functions. Requests for usage of The MHCC by outside organizations/groups may be granted by the Parish Council as deemed appropriate. Authorized Groups include:

Parish Council	HOPE / JOY / GOYA
HT Foundation	Sunday School
Philoptochos	AHEPA
Greek School	Daughters of Penelope Evrythnian Association

2) Considerations for Use

- Event must be scheduled with Event Coordinator and the Church Office as far in advance as possible; and the date is subject to availability of the space.
- No rental fee, security deposit or booking fee for authorized organizations using The MHCC. No security or attendant is required for your events, unless alcohol is to be served on the premises. (Example: evening dinner, cocktail party, auction, fundraiser, etc)) Please refer to The MHCC's Facility Use Policy- Alcohol Use Guidelines (Item 6).
- Authorized Groups may use the facility for fund raising purposes.
- Authorized representative(s) (President, Program Coordinator or Teacher/Leader) for the above groups shall arrange for:

1. Booking/reserving the space with the Event Coordinator, including all cooking times or rehearsal requirements (Subject to availability);

2. Setup/break down of podium,tables,chairs, serving lines,etc;

3. Food Service - self catered/pot-luck,and to include the use of kitchen and equipment; any group wishing to use the kitchen for cooking must adhere to the MHCC Facility Use Policy- Kitchen Use(Item 9) and Cleanliness Guidelines (Item 10b).

4. Kitchen cleanup - include timely notifications if hiring temporary cleaning crew and be responsible for the associated costs.

5. Trash and garbage removal to the outside

receptacles following event.

6. Groups wishing to avoid additional cleaning fees should supervise their volunteer efforts to meet cleanliness standards established in Facility Use Policy (Item 10b).

7. Securing both the MHCC building & the church gates.

8. Reserve & comply with guidelines for using the MHCC electronic equipment (sound system, microphone, projector,television, screens). Arrange this thru the Event Coordinator in advance, fill out appropriate lending forms and be responsible for the use and return of equipment.

Any costs incurred by your event will be directed to your group. Example: linen rental and cleaning, temporary cleaning crew, replacement of lost articles, cords, etc. and will be payable to Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church.

We ask that your group respect the facility as if it were your home, returning it to useable condition and ready to show to the next person or group.

Please return the hall to it's original condition upon departure; arrange tables and chairs neatly, pick up all food and paper, wipe tables clean, sweep/mop as necessary, and do a bathroom check. All lights should be turned off. All doors and exits should be checked and locked. Secure the church property by locking gates.

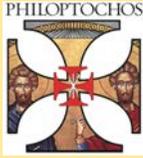
All food or beverages (including serving pieces) brought in for event shall be removed from the premises by close of event. (from the kitchen, ball room, etc.)

All decorations for event shall be removed (or returned to proper storage location) by close of event.

Authorized groups may use the MHCC furnishings with prior approval from Parish Council. Example: dishes, glassware, serving equipment, decorations, etc. Each group is responsible for the restoration of these items to their proper storage locations and doing so in a timely manner.

If you must cancel your event, please do so as soon as possible, since we may have other groups looking at your reserved date.

Your voluntary compliance in these matters is very much appreciated.



2016 Philoptochos Members To Date

Anagnostopoulos, Elizabeth
 Anagnostopoulos, Mary
 Apostolopoulos, Paula
 Arakas, Catherine
 Arakas, Sue
 Balomenos, Eula
 Barlas, Ismini
 Barlas, Vasso
 Chakales, Mary
 Dean/Xenakis, Hope
 Delich, Julie
 Diavatis, Presbytera Nikol
 Gailey, Irene
 Gilman, Mia
 Griffis, Mackey
 Jones, Starry
 Kaltsunis, Helen
 Katsadourous, Dora
 Koutris, Margaret
 McGovern, Karen
 Moutos, Angeliki
 Moutos, Varvara
 Nickolopoulos, Bessie
 Pappas, Mary
 Papakonstantinou, Vickie
 Poulos, Athena
 Rantzou, Emily
 Siatis, Evelyn
 Soufleris, Virginia
 Stamatiades, Effie
 Tsiros, Anastacia
 Xenakis, Anna
 Zeis, Frosene
 Zogzas, Dena
 Zoumbos, Katina
 Zourzoukis, Andrea
 Zourzoukis, Julia
 Zourzoukis, Mary
 Zourzoukis, Popie

Thank you for submitting your 2016 membership dues of \$30 to Sue Arakas.

Philoptochos Board & Officers - 2016

Athena Poulos - President
 Dora Katsadourous - V. President
 Julie Delich - Secretary
 Hope Xenakis - Ass't. Secretary
 Sue Arakas - Treasurer
 Paula Apostolopoulos - Ass't. Treas.
 Mary Chakales
 Helen Kaltsunis
 Barbara Moutos

Philoptochos Society

The next general meeting is

Sunday May 15, 2016 after church.



Message from President Athena Poulos

I am continually inspired by the degree of dedication to our beautiful Philoptochos Society that our members exhibit. Just this month we had a tremendous outpouring of love for one of our recently deceased members, **Joan Aliferis**. Our sympathies go to her family. Joan was one of our most dedicated members who worked tirelessly not only for Philoptochos, but for our Church as well, never missing any opportunity to give her time and talents over the years. May her memory be eternal dear sister.



Spartanburg Name Day Event Friday May 6

As is our long standing tradition, we are invited to share in the celebration of the **St. Nicholas, Spartanburg's Philoptochos Name Day Luncheon** event. This year it is being held on Friday, May 6, 2016. If you are interested in attending, please notify **Athena Poulos 828-299-7743 by May 2nd** so that we can submit a headcount for lunch. We also need several ladies (or gents!) who are willing to drive so that we can car pool. Let's make an effort to continue this beautiful tradition.



Montford Music & Arts Festival Saturday May 22

Our Philoptochos Chapter will once again sponsor a booth at the Montford Festival, selling pastries and Spanakopita, as well as water. We need 2 or 3 people to work each of the three hour shifts as follows:

10 AM - 1 PM Need 2-3 people
 1 PM to 4 PM Need 2-3 people
 4 PM to 7 PM+ Need 2-3 people

— or for as many hours as you can work that day. Dawn Stucker has again volunteered to set up for us and Hope Xenakis will be available that day as the Contact Person. (Many Thanks, Dawn & Hope!) The last shift will need to bring any remaining foods and pans, etc. back to the Community Center, be responsible for the money and locking up.

Of course, if we run out of food then you may get to leave early!

Please consider volunteering —remember many hands make light work! Each year we donate the proceeds from this Festival to a local charity! Past recipients have been The Women's Shelter and Memorial Mission Hospital. It's all for a good cause, so please come to the festival and support our efforts! The Montford Festival is a very nice neighborhood & family-based event and is becoming more popular every year.

Please sign up to work at our neighborhood Montford Festival and lend Philoptochos a helping hand. Thanks!

SAVE THE DATE!

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St. Symeon lived from 949 to 1022. He was born in Galatia and educated in Constantinople, and became the abbot of the Sacred Monastery of St. Mamas. He is one of three saints that the Holy Church has given the title "Theologian," the other two being the Holy Apostle John and St. Gregory of Nazianzus.

OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION

In what it consists - how Christ's Resurrection takes place in us, and in it the resurrection of the soul. The mystery of this resurrection. Delivered on the Monday of the second week of Pascha.

Brethren and fathers,

Already Pascha, that joyful day, that day of all gladness and delight, the day of Christ's resurrection, has arrived in the circle of the year. But rather, it happens daily and eternally in those who know its mystery, and so has filled our hearts with unspeakable joy and gladness. Likewise it has broken off the labor of the holy fast, or, rather, it has perfected our souls and encouraged them as well. So, as you see, it has come and invited all the faithful together to rest and to thanksgiving. Let us therefor give thanks to the Lord, who has brought us over the sea (Wisdom 10:18) of the Fast and led us with joy into the harbor of His Resurrection. Let us give thanks to Him, both those who have nobly and zealously completed the course of the Fast with fervent resolve and struggles of virtue, and those of us as well who have been weak in this matter through neglect and weakness of soul. He it is who in great generosity gives crowns to the zealous and duly rewards their labors, and also in mercy and loving kindness

grants forgiveness to the weaker. He sees the dispositions and intentions of our souls rather than the labors of our bodies, by which we exercise ourselves in virtue, whether we increase our asceticism out of eagerness of soul or practice less than the zealous ones because of the weakness of our bodies. According to our intentions He measures out the prizes and the gifts of the Spirit to each one, whether He grants fame and glory to one who is zealous or leaves him still in lowliness and in need of more strenuous perfection.

Christ's Resurrection Mystically Reproduced in us

But, if you will, let us look and carefully examine what is the mystery of that Resurrection of Christ our God which takes place mystically in us at all times, if we are willing, and how Christ is buried in us as in a tomb and how He unites Himself to our souls and rises again, and raises us with Himself. Such is the aim of our discourse.

Christ our God was hanged on the cross and nailed on it (Colossians 2:14) the sin of the world. He



tasted death (Hebrews 2:9) and went down to the uttermost depths of hades (Ephesians 4:9). Again, He returned from hades into His own spotless body, from which He had in no way been separated as He descended hither, and forthwith He rose from the dead. After that He ascended into heaven with great glory and power (Matthew 24:30). So, likewise, as we have now come out of the world and entered into the tomb of repentance and humiliation by being assimilated to the sufferings of the Lord (Romans 6:5, 2 Corinthians 1:5, Philippians 3:10), He Himself comes down from heaven and enters into our body as into a tomb. He unites Himself to our souls and raises them up, though they are undoubtably dead, and then grants to him who has thus been raised with Christ that he may see the glory of His mystical Resurrection.

Union with the Mystical Reality

Christ's Resurrection is thus our resurrection, ours who lie here below. He who has never fallen into sin (Hebrews 4:15, 7:26), as it is written, nor lost anything whatever of His own glory, how will He ever be raised up or be glorified, since He is always glorified above all and remains the same, "far above all rule and authority (Ephesians 1:21)?" As has been said, Christ's Resurrection and His glory are our glory. Through His Resurrection in us it comes into being in us, is shown to us, and is seen by us. Once He has appropriated what is ours, that which He works in us He attributes to Himself. The resurrection of the soul is union with life. The body is dead and cannot live or be called alive unless it receives the living soul in itself and is joined to it, though not mingled with it. Likewise the soul cannot live unless it is ineffably and without confusion united to God, Who is truly the Life eternal (1 John 5:20).

Before this union in knowledge, vision, and perception it is dead, even though it is endowed with intellect and is by nature immortal. There is no knowledge without vision, nor vision without knowledge. This is what want to say - there is vision, and in the vision there is knowledge and perception; but I say this about spiritual things, for in the physical realm there is perception even apart from vision. What do I mean? A blind man who hits his foot against a stone feels it, but a dead man does not. But in spiritual things, unless the mind comes to the contemplation of the things that are above thought, it does not perceive the mystical activity He who has not arrived at contemplation in spiritual matters and claims that he perceives the things that are above intellect, word, and thought is like him whose eyes are blinded and who has a sensation of good or bad things that he experiences, but does not know what is in his hands or at his feet, even if they are for him matter of life or death. Since he is deprived of the faculty and perception of vision he in no way perceives the bad or the good things things that come upon him. Thus he will often lift up his staff to ward off his enemy and possibly strike his friend instead, while his enemy stands before his eyes and loughs at him.

Who is Able to Experience the Resurrection

Most men believe in the Resurrection of Christ, but very few have a clear vision of it. Those who have no vision thereof cannot even adore Christ Jesus as the Holy One and as Lord. As it is written, "No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord,' except by the Holy Spirit" (1 Corinthians 12:3), and, elsewhere, "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth" (John 4:24). That most sacred formula which is daily on our lips =does not say, "having believed in Christ's Resurrection," but, "having beheld Christ's Resurrection, let us worship the Holy

One, the Lord Jesus, who alone is without sin." How then does the Holy Spirit urge us to say, "Having beheld Christ's Resurrection," which we have not seen, as though we had seen it, when Christ has risen once for all a thousand years ago, and even then without anybody's seeing it? Surely Holy Scripture does not wish us to lie? Far from it! Rather, it urges us to speak the truth, that the Resurrection of Christ takes place in each of us who believes, and that not once, but every hour, so to speak, when Christ the Master arises in us, resplendent in array (Psalm 93:1) and flashing with the lightnings of incorruption and Deity. For the light-bringing coming of the Spirit shows forth to us, as in early morning, the Master's Resurrection, or, rather, it grants us to see the Risen One Himself. Therefore we say, "The Lord is God, and He has given us light" (Psalm 118:27), and we allude to His Second Coming and add these words, "Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord" (Psalm 118:26). Those to whom Christ has given light as He has risen, to them He has appeared spiritually, He has been shown to their spiritual eyes. When this happens to us through the Spirit He raises us up from the dead and gives us life. He grants us to see Him, Who is immortal and indestructible. More than that, He grants clearly to know Him who raises us up (Ephesians 2:6) and glorifies us (Romans 8:17) with Himself, as all the divine Scripture testifies.

A Faith that Lives in Deeds

These, then, are the divine mysteries of Christians. This is the hidden power of our Faith, which unbelievers, or those who believe with difficulty, or rather believe in part, do not see nor are able at all to see (1 Timothy 6:16). Unbeliever, those who believe with difficulty, or believe in part, are those who do not show their faith through works. Apart from works the demons also believe (James 2:19) and confess Christ to be God and Master. "We know who you are" (Mark 1:24), they say, "you are the Son of God" (Matthew 8:29), and elsewhere, "These men are the servants of the Most High God" (Acts 16:17). Yet such faith will not benefit the demons, nor even humans. This faith is of no use, for it is dead, as says the divine apostle, "Faith apart from works is dead" (James 2:26), just like works without faith. How is it dead? Because it has not in itself God who gives life (1 Timothy 6:13). It has not laid hold of Him who said, "He who loves Me will keep My commandments, and I and the Father will come and make Our home with him" (John 14:21-23), so that by His coming He may raise from the dead him who has attained faith and give him life, and grant him to see Him who has risen in him and who has raised him up. For this reason such faith is dead, or, rather, they are dead who have faith apart from works. Faith in God is always alive, and since it is living it gives life to those who come with a good intention and receive it. Even before they have practiced the commandments it has brought many out of death into life and has shown them Christ our God. Had they persevered in His commandments and kept them until death they too would have been preserved by them - that is, in the state to which faith alone had brought them. But since they "turned aside like a bent bow" (Psalm 78:57) and speared themselves on their former actions, they inevitably at once made shipwreck of their faith (1 Timothy 1:19) and miserably deprived themselves of the true riches, who is Christ our God.

So I urge you, let us keep God's commandments with all our might, so that we may not share in their fate, but enjoy both present and future blessings, that is, the very vision of Christ. To this may we all attain through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, to Whom be glory forever. Amen.

MOTHER'S DAY GREEK LUNCHEON & BAKE SALE

SUNDAY MAY 8, 2016

Sponsored by

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Last updated 4/26/16

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Total amount pledged: \$97,269

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The May Edition of the Garden of the Lord is
Sponsored in Memory of

Joan Aliferis

A 40-Day Memorial will be held on Sunday, May 15
followed by a Makaria
in Her Memory.
All are Welcome!