



KHΘΙΟΣ ΚΥΠΙΟΥ GARDEN OF THE LORD



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

July 2016

Anger and Sadness: Examples in Christ

On the first evening of our Vacation Church School with our youth at Holy Trinity I was discussing with the children the topic of how Jesus loved. During the lesson I asked the children if Jesus ever became angry. The overwhelming majority said no. When I affirmed to them that indeed He did, I asked them when they thought this might have occurred. One child answered "When He was put on the Cross." Another postulated "When He was betrayed." Certainly, to our way of thinking, betrayal and unrighteous punishment, particularly punishment with a sentence of death, are reasons to become angry. It only makes sense that if we were betrayed or punished unrighteously that we would be angry should we suffer the same. However, Jesus did not become angry in these circumstances, but rather sad.

In the Gospel of Luke we read in 22:41-44 when Jesus was about to be betrayed the following: *"And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed, saying, 'Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.' Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground."*

So if Jesus did not become angry then, when did this happen? It was in the Temple, when the outer courtyards were filled with money changers and others who sold livestock.

John 2:13-16 *Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. And He found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers doing business. When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money and overturned the tables. And He said to those who sold doves, "Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!"*

Luke 19:46 *"It is written, 'My house is a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.'"*



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

	(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 Koutsioumbis	2015/16
Jason Ledford	2015/16	Emily Rantzos	2016/17
Pete Stathopoulos	2015/16	Steve Wallingford	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.

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We read about this in all four Gospels. See also Matthew 21:12-13, Mark 11:15-19 and Luke 19:45-46

So where lies the difference between Jesus being sad or angry? When people offended Jesus He was saddened. When they were disrespectful to God and the Holy Temple, He was angered. Jesus was saddened because the spiritual state of mind of these people was leading them to spiritual death, and because He loved them He was saddened by this. He was angered by the others because not only



were they in sin, but they were leading others into sin as well by distorting the purity of God's teachings.

How then do we behave? Precisely the opposite. When we are offended we are angered. We turn our wrath and disdain toward our spiritual brothers and sisters in Christ. When we are mistreated we are angry with the offender, even though it is to our benefit and the other's demise. We ought to be saddened because our offense is not unto our spiritual death, but the offender is in danger of Judgement. St. Paul in his 1st letter to the Corinthians (4:12) says that "*Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure.*" When we are offended we do not endure, but we wish to be vindicated some how. We want the other person to apologize, to see the error of their ways and to change. And when this fails to happen, we endure them not, and enmity and division arise.

However, when God or the Church of Christ is disrespected, we are not even saddened. When the purity of God's teachings are distorted, or the House of God is mistreated, we dismiss it softly in a variety of ways. We fail to see that the distortion of the teachings of God leads others to a wrong way of living, and the end result is alienation from God, which is spiritual and eternal. Thus we should be sad when others live a sinful life, but angered when they lead others into sin by false teachings.

So what are we to do? If we have fallen into a way of life where we are angered when we should be sad, and are indifferent when we should be angered, how do we escape from this? Jesus Christ gave us the example of how to be, but it is hard for us to change and to be Christ-like. Fortunately He has also given us the way to change. He gave us His teachings in the holy Scriptures. He also gave us His Church, which is His Body, and we are members of it. Unfortunately we often find ourselves ignorant of His teachings and negligent in our practice of the traditions of the Church. If we are ignorant and negligent, we have little if any hope. If, on the other hand, we read His teachings and try to practice them, and try to be obedient to the Holy Faith of the Orthodox, God supplies His grace, and we are able, however slowly, to make progress in our spiritual lives. *But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. (Ephesians 4:7) ...for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (Ephesians 4:12-13).*

Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another. "Be angry, and sin not": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil. Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you. (Ephesians 4:25-32).

Amen!

Prosforon

July 3 – Theodora Poulos
July 10 – Maria Pappas
July 17 – Andrea Zourzoukis
July 24 – Mary Zourzoukis
July 31 – Bess Crider



Prosforon

August 7 – Linda Apostolopoulos
August 14 – Golfo Katsigianis
August 21 – Varvara Moutos
August 28 – Eleni Sakkas

Parish Council Pangari Duty

July 3 – Richard Bass & Emily Rantzos
July 10 – Bess Crider & Pete Stathopoulos
July 17 – Jimmy Koutsioumbis & Tommy Arakas
July 24 – Pete Stathopoulos & Emily Rantzos
July 31 – Steve Wallingford & Dean Nakos

August 7 – Richard Bass & Jason Ledford
August 14 – Pete Stathopoulos & Jimmy Koutsioumbis
August 21 – Tommy Arakas &
August 28 – Steve Wallingford &



Coffee Hour and Luncheons



No Coffee Hours the Month of July this Year.

August 7 –
August 14 –
August 21 –
August 28 –

July Schedule



Ἡμερολόγιον Ἰουλίου

Sunday, July 3. Orthros. Divine Liturgy.	8:45 AM 10:00 AM	Κυριακή, 3 Ἰουλίου. Ὁρθρος. Θεία Λειτουργία.
National Clergy/Laity Conference in Nashville, TN, July 3 to 9.		
Sunday, July 10. Orthros. Divine Liturgy.	8:45 AM 10:00 AM	Κυριακή, 10 Ἰουλίου. Ὁρθρος. Θεία Λειτουργία.
Sunday, July 17. Orthros. Divine Liturgy.	8:45 AM 10:00 AM	Κυριακή, 17 Ἰουλίου. Ὁρθρος. Θεία Λειτουργία.
Sunday, July 24. Orthros. Divine Liturgy.	8:45 AM 10:00 AM	Κυριακή, 24 Ἰουλίου. Ὁρθρος. Θεία Λειτουργία.
Sunday, July 31. Orthros. Divine Liturgy.	8:45 AM 10:00 AM	Κυριακή, 31 Ἰουλίου. Ὁρθρος. Θεία Λειτουργία.

In the Month of July we will have three visiting priests.

On July 10th, Fr. Onouphry Keith will preside over the Divine Liturgy.

On July 17th, Fr. Paul Theophilus will preside over the Divine Liturgy.

On July 24th, Fr. Gregory Georgiou will preside over the Divine Liturgy.

Please come for services on these days and hear the special messages that each of these Fathers has to offer!

August Schedule



Ἡμερολόγιον Αὐγούστου

Monday, August 1. Small Paraklisis.	5:00 PM	Δευτέρα, 1 Αὐγούστου. Μικρὸς Παρακλητικὸς Κανὼν.
Tuesday, August 2. Great Paraklisis.	5:00 PM	Τρίτη, 2 Αὐγούστου. Μέγας Παρακλητικὸς Κανὼν.
Wednesday, August 3. Small Paraklisis.	5:00 PM	Τετάρτη, 3 Αὐγούστου. Μικρὸς Παρακλητικὸς Κανὼν.
Thursday, August 4. Great Paraklisis.	5:00 PM	Πέμπτη, 4 Αὐγούστου. Μέγας Παρακλητικὸς Κανὼν.
Friday, August 5. Great Vespers for the Transfiguration.	5:00 PM	Παρασκευή, 5 Αὐγούστου. Μέγας Ἑσπερινὸς τῆς Μεταμορφώσεως..
Saturday, August 6. Transfiguration of the Lord. Orthros. Divine Liturgy.	9:00 AM 10:00 AM	Σάββατον, 6 Αὐγούστου. Μεταμόρφωσις τοῦ Σωτήρος. Ὁρθρος. Θεία Λειτουργία.
Sunday, August 7. Orthros. Divine Liturgy.	8:45 AM 10:00 AM	Κυριακή, 7 Αὐγούστου. Ὁρθρος. Θεία Λειτουργία.
Monday, August 8. Small Paraklisis.	5:00 PM	Δευτέρα, 8 Αὐγούστου. Μικρὸς Παρακλητικὸς Κανὼν.
Tuesday, August 9. Great Paraklisis.	5:00 PM	Τρίτη, 9 Αὐγούστου. Μέγας Παρακλητικὸς Κανὼν.
Wednesday, August 10. Small Paraklisis.	5:00 PM	Τετάρτη, 10 Αὐγούστου. Μικρὸς Παρακλητικὸς Κανὼν.
Thursday, August 11. Great Paraklisis.	5:00 PM	Πέμπτη, 11 Αὐγούστου. Μέγας Παρακλητικὸς Κανὼν.
Friday, August 12. Small Paraklisis.	5:00 PM	Παρασκευή, 12 Αὐγούστου. Μικρὸς Παρακλητικὸς Κανὼν.
Sunday, August 14. Orthros. Divine Liturgy. Vespers for the Dormition of the Theotokos.	8:45 AM 10:00 AM 5:00 PM	Κυριακή, 14 Αὐγούστου. Ὁρθρος. Θεία Λειτουργία. Ἑσπερινὸς τῆς Κοιμήσεως τῆς Θεοτόκου.
Monday, August 15. The Falling Asleep of the Theotokos. Orthros. Divine Liturgy.	9:00 AM 10:00 AM	Δευτέρα, 15 Αὐγούστου. Ἡ Κοίμησις τῆς Θεοτόκου. Ὁρθρος. Θεία Λειτουργία

August Schedule



Ἡμερολόγιον Αὐγούστου

Sunday, August 21. Orthros. Divine Liturgy.	8:45 AM 10:00 AM	Κυριακή, 21 Αὐγούστου. Ὅρθρος. Θεία Λειτουργία.
Sunday, August 28. Orthros. Divine Liturgy.	8:45 AM 10:00 AM	Κυριακή, 28 Αὐγούστου. Ὅρθρος. Θεία Λειτουργία.
Monday, August 29. Beheading of the Honorable Forerunner. Orthros. Divine Liturgy.	9:00 AM 10:00 AM	Δευτέρα, 29 Αὐγούστου. Ἀποτομή Κεφαλῆς τοῦ Τιμίου Προδρόμου. Ὅρθρος. Θεία Λειτουργία.

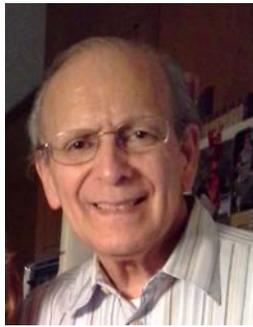




Your support of the Classroom Upgrades is critical to the success of the Education Program at Holy Trinity. Their spiritual lives will be greatly enhanced by a bright and attractive environment in which to learn .

More details about the project are in this newsletter.

Completion deadline for this project is mid-August.



From the PC President

Re: Youth and Adult Spiritual Awareness

Blessings to everyone and I am trusting this summer will bring you happiness and wonderful excitement. **Excitement.** What a word! And how far we can amplify that word.

Excitement is presently taking place concerning our youth, who after so many years of status quo, The Youth Ministry Team is working endlessly on changing over the Sunday School Programs and Practices, curriculum and classrooms to be something everyone in the Holy Trinity Community [with children or not] will be proud of. As a result of their innovative & creative approach to our education program, we are experiencing an influx of students filled with anticipation and excitement to learn their religion. That news fills each of us with *excitement!*

The Parish Council enthusiastically endorses this project: painting, some new furnishings, rooms re-designed with the children in mind - not just chairs and tables, but very well thought out plans. The lighting— yes we will be able to see again, with 25 new LED ceiling light fixtures replacing the old and adding a few additional ones. These improvements are the first time in around 40 years that we have seriously addressed our student and class room needs. Youth Ministry has developed a plan of action for spiritual learning in a new bright clean environment.

Our children are growing in numbers in our Parish and are filling up the vacancy of space, vacant for far too long, and now we all owe them our attention. This is their future, this is our Church's future. A fundraising drive is being started and the Parish Council and I pray you will be generous in helping our children when you are contacted. I have heard many times over the past, and said by me as well, how long we can stay as a Parish without our youth following behind us when we have but a few. Now is the chance, the opportunity to show them we are here for them as now more and more children are coming forth.

Let me suggest, for a week or two try this – for each negative that you say, each complaint you mention to friends or family, each time you gossip, (hey let's be honest: we all do this to some degree) why not put on a smile instead? We are being frank and open, as we are a church family. Each time you do something along those things I mentioned above, put so many dollars in a jar or put money aside, or even write on a piece of paper, "I owe the funding of this project", the list may get long, but it will accomplish two things: 1) It will start with helping the fundraising campaign that will be forthcoming and 2) It will show how often we do or say things without thinking, me included. This will increase our Spiritual awareness.

I pray you will join our journey into the second half of 2016 and going forward in support of our children. ***If any support is needed for our Greek Sunday School Education, it is now.....the children are reaching out to you.***

—Richard Bass, Interim President



July 2016 Stewardship Status

We are God's stewards.
What we do grows out of
our relationship with God.

**Stewards of Holy Trinity
Greek Orthodox Church for
2016
Last updated 6/27/16**

Darryl & Mary Addington
Assef & Hiyam Alnasraween
Phillip & Elizabeth
Anagnostopoulos
Andrew Apostolopoulos
Linda Apostolopoulos
Pete & Paula Apostolopoulos
Catherine Arakas
Sideris & Sue Arakas
Eula Balomenos
Gus & Ismini Barlas
Dean & Toni Barlas
John & Vasso Barlas
Peter & Georgia Barlas
Alexander & Ashleigh Baxevanis
Nick & Laura Baxevanis
Richard & Mickie Bass
Bernard & Milagro Blanco
Stelios & Stavroula Boussios
Maria Kalis Buchanan
Mary Chakales
Pete & Patty Chakales
Isabelle Cledaras
Nick & Maria Collias
Steve, Eleni & Bill Constantinou
Steven & Bess Crider
John & Gerri Critikos
John & Julie Delich
Kathryn Demos
Gus Dermas
Yotty Dermas
Harry Diavatis

Fr. Michael & Pres. Nikol
Diavatis
Angelo & Irene Dotsikas
Andrea Dray
Catherine Dreessen
Angie & Randy Edwards
Irene Evangelatos
John & Catherine Faherty
Irene Gailey
Peter Gilman
Mackey Griffis
Bob & Anastasia Haines
John & Katina Hansen
Antonios & Stavroula Iliou
Crisler & Ginny Johnson
Mary Johnson
Starry & Alan Jones
Andrew & June Kallianos
Marika Kalogerakis
Stelios Kalogerakis
George & Eleni Kaltsunis
Jimmy & Irene Katsadouros
Steve & Dora Katsadouros
Andrew & Golfo Katsigianis
Jimmy & Maria Katsigianis
Scott & Katina Kenyon
Maria Keranis
Kiki Koufaliotis
Margaret Koutris
Jimmy & Jenny Koutsioumbis
Gust & Vassiliki Kyres
George Lamprinakos
Mike & Emily Lawrence
Jason & Despina Ledford
Patrick & Rita Lewis
Christos & Vivian Loukas
Dennis & Elenie Loux

Michelle Malsbury
Lamar & Kathleen Marshall
James & Karen McGovern
Chris & Varvara Moutos
Jim & Angeliki Moutos
Dean Nakos
Bessie Nickolopoulos
Vasil & Etlena Nune
Maria Panagiotopoulos
Chris & Vicky Papakonstantinou
Arthur & Laurie Pappas
Evan Pappas
Mary Pappas
Sara Pappas
Chris & Mari Peterson
Johnny Peterson
Nick & Sue Peterson
Gus Poulos
John & Susan Poulos Theodora
Poulos
Mary Poulos
Val & Andrew Prytyskach
George Rallis
Kostas & Emily Rantzos
Paul & Steffie Rantzos
Constantinos & Evelyn Siatis
Stamatia Sigman
Jim & Virginia Soufleris
Gus & Melissa Stamatiades
John & Effie Stamatiades
Perry & Fay Stamatiades
Peter Stathopoulos
Demitri & Maria Stephenson
Maria Treskas
Athanasios & Vassiliki Tsakalos
Jimmy & Sophia Tziavelis
George & Tammy Tsiros

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Stewardship, continued



During the Divine Liturgy, we give thanks to the Lord Our God for "It is right to give Him thanks and praise." Responsible Stewardship is our way of saying "thank you" to the Lord, who is the source of all our earthly blessings. We give back to the Lord a portion of all our gifts and material blessings. Sometimes we receive a sudden bonus or raise or an unexpected gift. In the spirit of gratitude, we remember the Lord when we experience these blessings. Our monetary "thank yous" should be sincere offerings given in joy.

continued.....

Nick & Anastasia Tsiros
Tommy & Michelle Tsiros
Benton Urquhart
Pavlos Wallingford
Chris & Andrea Wilhelm
Anna Xenakis
Dr. Hope Xenakis & Ray Dean
Georgia Xenakis
Bill Zaferis
Steve & Frosene Zeis
Charles & Dena Zogzas
Christos & Katina Zoumbos
Christos & Adamantia Zourzoukis
Constantine G. Zourzoukis
Dimitrios G. Zourzoukis
George Zourzoukis
Gus & Popie Zourzoukis
Julia Zourzoukis
Mary Zourzoukis
Anonymous

Total pledges: 124
Total amount pledged: \$110,119
Amount Received: \$65,530
Average pledge: \$888

Friends of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church for 2016

Kevin & Donna Ayesh
Mike & Rita Georgoulis
Dr. & Mrs. S.G. Koutroulias
Irene McCartin
Tom & Virginia Moutos
Archie & Roula Rousos
Fr. George & Pres. Betsy Vlahos

Total Friends: 7
Total Donations: \$850





Greek Camp Success

JUNE 13 - 17, 2016

“Travel in Greek” with Mrs. Vicky Themistocleous

Twenty-two students enjoyed their time with Mrs. Vicky and it was a great week of fellowship and fun for the kids and parents! The week ended with a 3rd birthday celebration for Nia Rantzios...complete with a piñata. Thank you to Mrs. Vicky, all participants and parents for your contributions to a wonderful week!



Special Thanks to...

Maria Katsigianis -meal coordinator
Nick Fotos- cooking and clean up
Maggie Buchanan & Anna Katsigianis- Teacher's Aids
Stone Ridge Tavern & Cornerstone Restaurant, Papa's Pizza and Bellagio Restaurant— for donating dinners.



We spent four evenings with Fr. Michael

Vacation Church School

Awesome crafts designed by Mrs. Val Prytaskach and aided by Mrs. Bess Crider



Fun with Friends!



Slip N Slide & A Pool Party for older kids



We enjoyed dinners together!

Parish Council Request

Due to the departure of one of our Parish Council members from Asheville, we are left with one opening on the Parish Council. If anyone would like to be considered for appointment to the Council, please see either Richard Bass (828-255-8839 HM) or Father Michael for the guidelines. The appointment is thru 2017.-- *Richard Bass, Interim President*

Update: Altar Boy Vestments

Thank you to all who donated toward the new vestments we need to outfit our altar boys for the coming year. We are still collecting donations. So far \$700 has been donated by parents of servers. If you wish to contribute, please send your check into the office via mail or the collection plate, with "Altar Robes" in the memo line. Participating boys can expect a "Guidelines and Expectations" handout & training session from Fr. Michael by this new school year. Thanks everyone for your generous response to this request.
-- Bess Crider, Ecclesiastical Liaison

REMINDER: Monthly Calendar Begins in August

All organizations & groups are reminded to please submit their meeting schedules for publication into the monthly bulletin by the 15th of each month, along with your notices and announcements. Please email to the office [holytrinitywnc@bellsouth.net] and note **FOR MONTHLY BULLETIN** in the subject line.

AHEPA SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

The AHEPA Land of Sky Chapter 28 will award two competitive scholarships to outstanding students beginning their college careers this fall. They are: **Jordan Johnson**, who will attend Clemson University; and **Costa Poulos**, who will attend NC State University.

These students have compiled outstanding academic, athletic and community service records, and their families and community are justifiably very proud of them. We wish them all the best in their academic careers and beyond. -- Soc Choumbakos for AHEPA



Community Thank You

Dear Holy Trinity Family,

We thank all those in our community who have phoned, send cards, visited and remembered Dena in prayer. The outpouring of concern and kindness has been greatly appreciated and continues to uplift and support both of us. Thank you so much!

--Dena & Charlie Zogzas

July NEWS

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME ON SUNDAY AUGUST 21 TOURISTS VS. ROME BRAVES



- It's **Family Fun Day** presented by Ingles at the Asheville Tourists.
- Bring in 4 Laura Lynn cans of food and receive 1 General Admission ticket.
- Post Game Autographs and kids can run the bases.

The Panagia Fast will be over and we can enjoy hot dogs and cheer on the home team as they play the Rome Braves. Game time is 2:05 pm but plan to get there a bit earlier since this will be a very popular game.

Plan to make this an opportunity to share food with the hungry by bringing 4 cans of Laura Lynn Brand food products and you can get 1 free admission for the cost of those 4 cans of food (per person). If you don't bring the canned food, then General Admission prices are \$8 for adults and \$7 for children, military and seniors. Summer fun with friends while helping the hungry! --Pete Stathopoulos, Community Life Liaison

Red Dot Sale In The BAKALIKO

We are putting the following items on sale!

Greek Extra Virgin Olive Oil
Friganies (Greek toast)
Coffee
Hilopites (Noodles)
Kritharaki (Orzo)
A variety of Greek Cookies
Tahini

Come in to see us and load up on your Greek supplies for the Summer

NOTICE: Due to MHCC bookings on Sunday July 10th and no sign ups for other Sundays, there will be no coffee hours during the month of July.

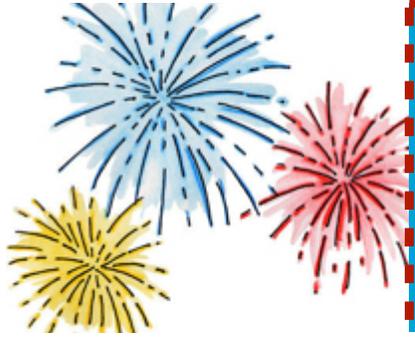
MHCC Bookings Update

We have picked up several new bookings in the past month, and because we are mostly booked for all weekends until the end of the year, we are also turning down inquiries. While disappointing for some, it is good news for us.

Here's the upcoming calendar of booked events (subject to change) for the next couple of months:

Sat. July 2	Quinceanera Party
Fri. July 8	Asheville Yoga Fest
Sat. July 9	Asheville Yoga Fest
Sun. July 10	Asheville Yoga Fest NO COFFEE HOUR
Sat. July 16	Baptism Celebration
Sat. July 23	Wedding Reception
Sat. July 30	Quinceanera Party
Sat. Aug 6	Wedding Reception
Sat. Aug 13	Wedding Reception
Sat. Aug. 20	Wedding Reception
Sat. Aug. 27	Quinceanera Party





PRAISE & THANKS for July

Class Room Progress

Peter & Georgia Barlas, Vangelis Fallias, Jason Ledford, Dean Nakos, Maro Stephenson & Dino Zourzoukis moved items out of the lower level in anticipation of painting!

Even the kids helped move things out of the nursery!

And the list goes on: (apologies if we omitted anyone)

Toni Barlas & Julie Delich met several times to select the color palette; Georgia Barlas organized and got the project started. Bernie Blanco deconstructed shelves. Toni B. led a volunteer crew in painting: Dean & Toni Barlas, Pete & Georgia Barlas, Bess Crider, Vangelis Fallias, Jason & Debbie Ledford, Drew Katsigianis, Kiki Koufaliotis, Demo Paulk, Sophia Paulk, Vasili Paulk, Meni Rantzios, Steffie Rantzios, Dora Willoughby and Zac Papaioannou (visitor from Rhode Island). John Delich put up shelving w/ Bernie. The painting phase is not completed, but well on the way. A sincere thank you to all who helped!

2016 SAMPs
The Parish Council is grateful for all those who designed and presented such an enjoyable Greek Camp Week and Vacation Church School Week for our kids!
We have heard many fine comments from parents and children involved!

A BIG THANK YOU !

We would like to thank Chris Zoumbos for the new book shelf that he made and for all the other display accessories that he has made for us through the years.

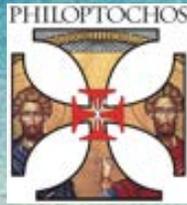
Thank you Chris and God bless you with good health so that you can continue to work for His Glory .

With love in Christ,
The Bookstore & Bakaliko

Email or phone in your Praise & Thanks news by the 15th of the month for inclusion on this page.



Many thanks to George Krois for repair on the bathroom doors in the MHCC.



Agia Triada Ladies Philoptochos

Message from Our President

On Monday June 20, 2016, Agia Triada Philoptochos Chapter of Asheville, North Carolina celebrated our Name Day by inviting the priests and members from the Greenville and Spartanburg Philoptochos Chapters. This is a tradition that was first started over 40 years ago and we enjoy sharing fellowship with our Philoptochos sisters from South Carolina.

This year we held a Brunch and as you can see from the photos, it was both delicious and beautiful. Many thanks to everyone who brought food and helped make this day special for the 40+ people who attended!

Our annual luncheon is our opportunity to recognize members who have served for 25 and 50 years. This year I'm proud to announce that we recognize and thank the following two ladies for their dedicated service: Eleni Kaltsunis (25 years) and Mary Poulos (50 years). We congratulate these women for their hard work and devotion to the Philoptochos ministry.

Philoptochos members are dedicated to helping those who are less fortunate and we are the philanthropic arm of the Greek Orthodox Church. We are the "backbone" of the Church in that we are there for support on all levels - local, national and international.

As is our tradition, we will not hold a July meeting. Please mark your calendars for our next general membership meeting on Sunday, August 21, 2016. More details will appear in the August monthly bulletin regarding this meeting.

I wish everyone a wonderful summer and look forward to seeing my fellow sisters in Christ at the August meeting. We encourage anyone who would like to learn more about Philoptochos to visit the website at www.philoptochos.org and also join us at our August meeting. --Athena Poulos, Chapter President





The Use of Candles in the Orthodox Church

by John Sanidopoulos
www.johnsanidopoulos.com

Question: Why do we light candles in the Orthodox Church?

Ecclesiastical Committee News

For the past two years, our beeswax candles on the Pangari Table have been donated by the Christos and Irene Fotinos Family, who own the Harbor Inn Seafood Restaurant on Brevard Road. They are hand dipped at Panagia Prousiotissa Greek Orthodox Monastery in Troy, NC. We are indeed grateful for this generous donation, as it helps each of us make the transition into church in a prayerful manner, provides us with the beautiful, sweet smell of natural beeswax, and gives us a visual reminder of the Light of Christ.

The following is taken from an article on candles in the church, reprinted by permission from an Orthodox web site called Mystagogy. (www.johnsanidopoulos.com). If you have not yet discovered this web site, it is a rich resource of articles on many subjects pertaining to our Orthodox faith, with numerous articles translated from the Greek and unavailable elsewhere in English. --Bess Crider, Ecclesiastical Liaison

Answer: There are typically two types of candles that Orthodox are familiar with. First there are the genuine pure beeswax candles made from the combs of hives. Secondly, there are the paraffin wax candles made from petroleum. When the Fathers of the Church speak of the Orthodox use of candles, they are referring to the pure beeswax candles and not the latter. Paraffin wax produces carcinogens and soot when burned. In fact, one air quality researcher stated that the soot from a paraffin candle contains many of the same toxins produced by burning diesel fuel. With this information in mind, we can better understand the six symbolic representations of lit candles handed down to us by Saint Symeon of Thessaloniki:

1. As the candle is pure (pure beeswax), so also should our hearts be pure.
2. As the pure candle is supple (as opposed to the paraffin), so also should our souls be supple until we make it straight and firm in the gospel.
3. As the pure candle is derived from the pollen of a flower and has a sweet scent, so also should our souls have the sweet aroma of Divine Grace.
4. As the candle, when it burns, mixes with and feeds the flame, so also we can struggle to achieve theosis.
5. As the burning candle illuminates the darkness, so must the light of Christ within us shine before men that God's name be glorified.
6. As the candle gives its own light to illuminate a person in the darkness, so also must the light of the virtues, the light of love and peace, characterize a Christian. The wax that melts symbolizes the flame of our love for our fellow men.

continued on next page

Besides the six symbolic representations above, Saint Nikodemos the Hagiorite gives us six different reasons why Orthodox light candles:

1. To glorify God, who is Light, as we chant in the Doxology: "Glory to God who has shown forth the light..."
2. To dissolve the darkness of the night and to banish away the fear which is brought on by the darkness.
3. To manifest the inner joy of our soul.
4. To bestow honor to the saints of our Faith, imitating the early Christians of the first centuries who lit candles at the tombs of the martyrs.
5. To symbolize our good works, as the Lord said: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in the heavens." The priest also gave us this charge following our baptism.
6. To have our own sins forgiven and burned away, as well as the sins of those for whom we pray.

For all these reasons cited by our Holy Fathers, let us often light our candles and make sure as much as possible that they be pure candles. We should abstain from all corruption and uncleanness, so that all of the above symbolism is made real in our Christian lives.

Question: Is there any other reason why we light our candle in church?

Answer: Besides the higher spiritual reasons mentioned above for why we light candles, there is another simpler and practical reason: to make a financial offering to the church. When we go to light our candle, we should also give an offering for the various services and expenses of the church. The church gives us the candle as a blessing for our offering and allows us to ignite the flame of the symbolisms mentioned above.

Advertising in The Garden of God Bulletin



We would love to have you run an ad for your business or service. One simple ad could pay for itself! Or run a coupon or promotion for your business to thank your Church Family.

At the May Parish Council meeting it was decided that our Bulletin will begin accepting parishioner's business advertising with the following **price**

rates for black & white: business card size is \$25 and 1/4 page is \$50.

Full color will cost an additional \$15. (\$40 & \$65)

Sponsorship of a bulletin is \$150 and several months are still available.

Please submit your camera ready artwork to the Church Office by email:

holytrinitywnc@bellsouth.net. Mark your email :Advertisement for Bulletin, list the month(s) you'd like it to be included in the bulletin, additionally please remit your payment to the Church Office by regular mail when you make your submission.

MESSAGE FROM FATHER MICHAEL

Dear Parishioners,

The past two weeks have been a great source of joy to me! What a sense of community we are experiencing here at Holy Trinity with our families. The level of participation and fellowship and the enthusiasm and excitement on the faces of the kids, was wonderful to see. I believe everyone enjoyed the experience. Thank you all! Your efforts were mighty and magnificent!

Thank you parents for enrolling your children; for bringing food; for offering fellowship to one another and generally coming together in the spirit of a true Church Family.

Additionally, it is my pleasure to inform you of the new Educational Program & Policies we will implement for the coming school year. The column on this page outlines most of the new features from our Task Force Study. We have a new curriculum to broaden the knowledge of our young people; I will continue to do my Sermon Series ; and most importantly, there are numerous programs put in place to enrich the whole experience. This is so exciting!

Parents are enthused and the children look forward to returning to class!

Many thank to the Education Task Force for their dedicated attention to this great need. They spent many hours researching and comparing, and will now put into effect the fruits of their labors. As a result of our increased enrollment for the fall we also have a new challenge to our community. We are finding it necessary to update the Sunday School Rooms and expand to add another class room. At the same time, the antiquated florescent lighting needs replacing. This is the single most expensive part of the process, but is much needed as those lights have outlived their lifespan. Other changes are cosmetic in nature, and some additional furniture is needed. Once completed our rooms will provide a pleasant atmosphere for students and teachers alike.

I encourage everyone to contribute to the worthy cause of updating our classrooms, no matter how large or small. This is a wonderful opportunity, and the finished product will reflect our dedication to our youth and education.

Please take a little time to read these next few pages to inform yourselves about the new youth programs and also please support the classroom renovation!

I hope and pray that each of you will have a beautiful and energizing summer in order to return in the fall with a spirit of refreshment ready to learn!

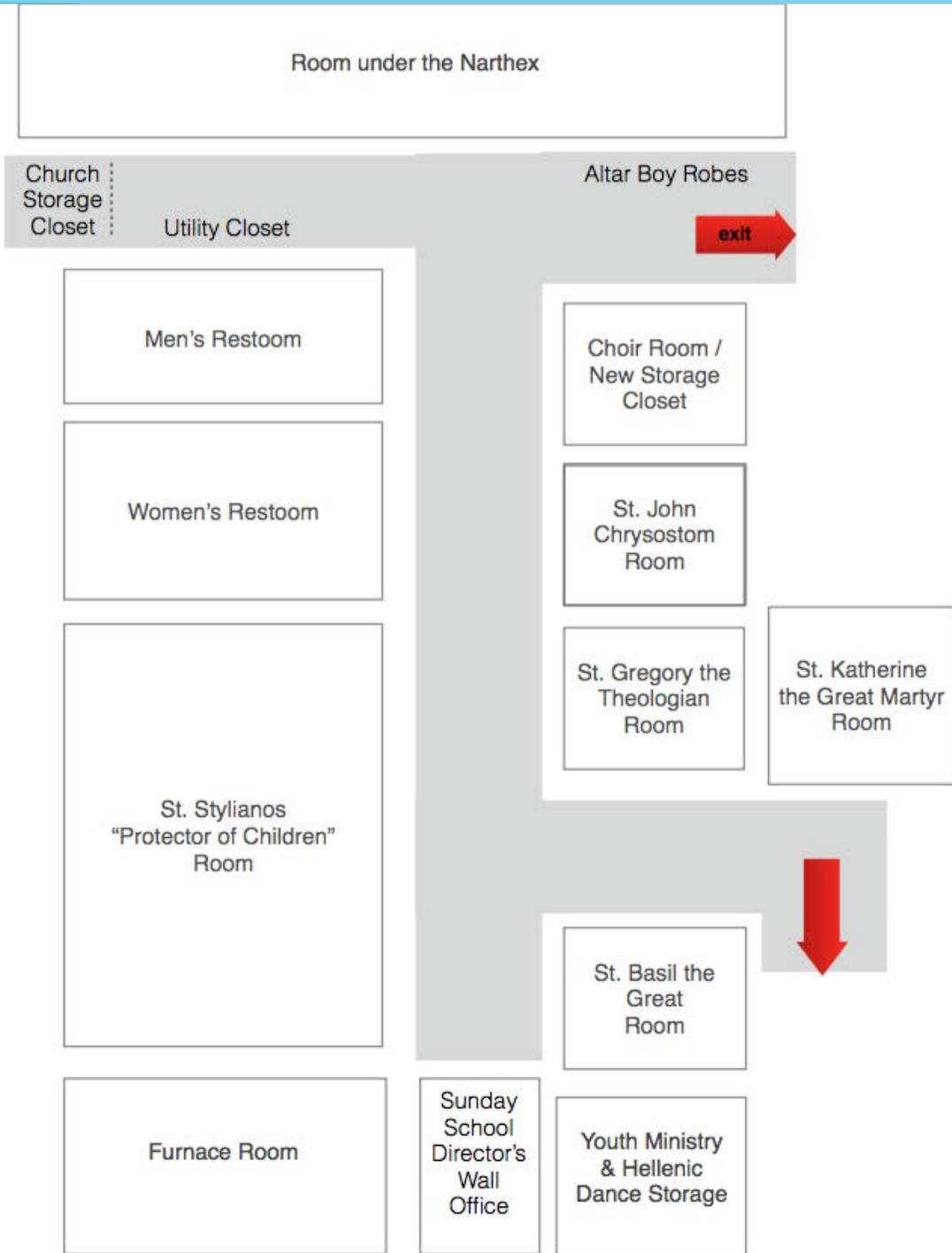
-Fr. Michael

Announcing the Three Hierarchs Sunday School & Enrichment Program

- The Youth Task Force has Evaluated & Restructured all Youth Education Curriculum & Policies to be current, relevant and exciting.
- 30 Volunteers have accepted positions for coming school year.
- New Curriculum & Presentations
 - Sermon Series from Fr. Michael
 - Christmas Program & Luncheon
 - Three Hierarchs Presentation - Jan.
 - Annunciation Program - March
 - Presentation of Bibles for grades 3-12
- Adopted Enrollment & Policy Adjustments
 - Attendance standard of 55%
 - Code of Conduct requirements
 - Bible Study
 - Rewards & Incentives
- Added Enrichment Programs— Promotes an Inquiry Based Approach to Learning & Service
 - Recognizes Accomplishments
 - Academic & Social skills equally emphasized
 - Orthodox Hall of Honor
 - (For Student Achievement)
 - Wonder Wall (Student Q & A)
- Implement Student Stewardship— A Way of Life
 - Christian stewardship awareness
 - Emphasis on giving of time, talent & treasure
- Oratorical Festival (throughout the year)
- Spring Lenten Retreat
 - Clean Monday-Holy Confession & Kite Day
- Vacation Church School (Summer)

Announcing: New Names for Class Rooms

Better Utilization of our Existing Spaces will Create Multi-Purpose Rooms and Allow for Additional Students



What are our Class Room Needs?



Planning for the Future

Exciting things are happening. **Already we have almost doubled our enrollment (40+) for the coming school year and we expect to surpass it.** We do not have the capacity for the growth that we expect. In an effort to reorganize our Youth Ministry Education, The Task Force members evaluated available space and the functionality of the class rooms in the lower level of the Church. **This process highlighted several concerns that need to be addressed prior to the coming school year (2016-17) in order to create safe, adequate and inviting environments for our students.**

Here are the biggest areas of concern:

- 1) The classrooms and hallways have very poor, non-functioning lighting which has not been improved since they were installed 30 to 40 years ago. **Better lighting** is important because we also do not have very many windows for natural lighting.
- 2) **We need five (5) classrooms** but currently only have four (4).
- 3) Two (2) classrooms require **furnishings and several others require additions.**

What Has Been Approved

- ◆ The Parish Council approved turning the room under the Choir Loft into a 5th classroom. Recently it was cleared out, materials have been sorted & gone through in preparation for moving them to a different area for storage. The Choir Robe Room will be rearranged to accommodate storage needs.

- ◆ Painting is currently underway. A new soft, brighter color palette has been selected for the hallways and classrooms to allow for a more conducive learning environment for the students. We are expecting volunteers to come forward to make this a community effort and to reduce our costs!
- ◆ Fundraising efforts were approved in order to achieve the necessary updates. The newly named rooms will include family, individual and in memory listings as 'PATRONS' of the rooms.
- ◆ Bids are currently underway for LED Energy Efficient light fixtures, necessary furnishings and teaching materials.
- ◆ An Oversight Committee has been formed to aim for a Mid-August deadline for completion!

Please Become A Room Patron

Classrooms have been named for the following Saints: St. John Chrysostom, St. Gregory the Theologian, St. Basil the Great, St. Stylianos and St. Katherine.

We would like to complete the Archangel Michael and Archangel Gabriel rooms under the Church Office Building.

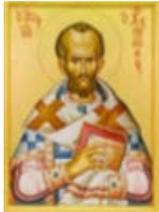
In this newsletter, each room has been described as to its usage, furnishing requirements to update the room as well as a corresponding costs. PATRON Listings may include: Individuals, Family & In Memory of....

For additional information on how to become a PATRON of these rooms, please call Georgia Barlas (828) 777-8823 or Julie Delich (828) 777-2202 or Tom Arakas (828) 712-8850 or the Church Office (828) 253-3754.

Room Patron Info

Below is a description of each room and it's individual needs.

NEED PATRONS

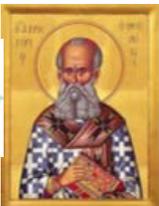


St. John Chrysostom Room

\$3,200

Room Capacity: 8-10
Middle Schoolers or High School Students
*Basic Needs List

NEED PATRONS



St. Gregory the Theologian Room

\$3,200

Room Capacity: 8-10 Students
Middle Schoolers or High Schoolers
*Basic Needs List

PATRONS
FULFILLED



St. Basil the Great Room

\$2,500

Room Capacity: 8-10
K - Grade 2
*Basic Needs List

PATRONS
FULFILLED



St. Stylianos "Protector of Children" Room **\$4,700**

Room Capacity: 8
Pre-K only (3 & 4 year olds)
Divided room for Nursery & Class area.
*Basic Needs List, plus Television & DVD player, additional seating, toy storage and area rugs

NEED PATRONS



St. Katherine the Great Martyr Room **\$5,400**

Room Capacity: 14 Conference-style; and up to 18 general seating.
*Basic Needs List PLUS furnishings, Television & DVD Player for presentations. This is our largest room designed for classes and multi-purpose uses like Group meetings, etc.

*BASIC NEEDS LIST FOR EACH CLASS ROOM

- LED Energy Efficient Ceiling Light Fixtures (Replace all existing, plus a few)
- Paint
- Window Treatment
- Storage Unit for Class Materials
- Teacher's Desk & Chair
- Misc. Furnishings
- Carpet Cleaning & Air Filtration
- All existing Furniture in rooms will be re-used!



The Three Hierarchs Sunday School & Enrichment Program

\$6850

NEED
ADDITIONAL
PATRONS

- ★ Implementing a new curriculum requires New Materials for All Grade Levels;
- ★ LED Lighting—in all the common areas, hallways & restrooms. (We will replace in same locations plus add a few to improve general illumination.)
- ★ Storage & Organizational needs;
- ★ Wall office & chair for Sunday School Director;
- ★ Entryway rugs (in 2 tiled areas);
- ★ Wall Presentations: Some Religious Posters, Recognition Boards for student achievement;
- ★ Water cooler;
- ★ Air Purifiers;
- ★ New Vacuum Cleaners;
- ★ Door Signage with Patron Listing.

Archangel Room Patrons Also Needed

Lower Level of Office Building

The two rooms have been named for the **Archangels Michael and Gabriel.**

These two class rooms are currently used for the Greek School Classes and Vacation Church School. Plans for the A. Gabriel Room include making it into a multi-purpose room for the whole congregation's use—as a dance practice space, group meeting room for up to 20+ people, and as an additional presentation room during Greek Festival weekend.

Some renovations to plumbing & electrical, and redesigned storage happened 2 years ago. However, since then the money to finish installing the tile (already donated), buying insulated doors to improve sound control between the two rooms, and basic cosmetic upgrades has not been available. Other areas of need include: air purifiers & air conditioning in both rooms, storage for materials, tables & chairs for A. Gabriel Room.



Archangel Michael Room Est. \$6,000

Greek School Room and also used during Greek Festival

No furniture needed
Needs tile installation
Air conditioner
Window treatment
Storage for materials
Area Rugs Air Purifier



Archangel Gabriel Room Est. \$7,000

Larger Room — Multi-Use Room for use by all Groups & Greek Festival

Needs tables, chairs
Needs tile installation
Air conditioner
Window treatments
Storage for materials
Air Purifier

Donor Information:

- **All previous donors will also be included as Room Patrons with the new signage.**
- **This is the time to address much needed completion of these rooms to accommodate our growing demands for multi-purpose space at our Church.**
- **Please consider being generous to this project — the need is pressing. Thank you.**

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