

Please keep all of our OCMC Missionaries in your prayers, and remember our

Albania: Nathan & Gabriella Hoppe (Tristan & Katherine), George & Pauline Russell (Christopher & Madeline), Melanie Linderman (Fr. Nikitas' sister), Georgia & Todi Gilman; in Romania: Floyd & Ancuta Frantz; and in Tanzania, Edwin Pier.

The Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC): Helping Orthodox Christians respond to Christ's call to preach, teach, baptize, minister to the poor and make disciples of all nations as the official international mission agency of the Standing Conference of the Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas (SCOBA).

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

Office hours are Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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Parish Council Members

Michael Apostolos	Mikae Gaetanos	Karla Ayer
Pam Gross	Mark Lasoff	William Lulias
Cookie Tranchini	Nick Lekas	James Manos
Michael Zotos	Andrew Lekos	Andrew Bersu

Committees and Organizations

Acolyte Coordinator-Michael Fotianos	ter
Bookstore manager-Michael Fotianos	Nisiotes Dance Group—Angeliki Lekos
Brick Campaign Coordinator- Joe Lemieux	Outreach Committee—Barbara Clark
Choir Director-Nick Lekas	Parish Council President—Mark Lasoff
Coffee Hostess Coordinator-Carman Gaetanos	Philoptochos President—Presb. Mary Theodosion
Festival Chairman-Mikae Gaetanos & Andrew Lekos	Stewardship Chairman -Carmela Tardo Lojacono
Greek Language School—Dr. Dinos Santas	Sunday School Coordinator-Carmen
Hellenic Society—Dr. Steve Poulos	
Monthly Newsletter—Diane Forrester	

Archdiocese, Metropolis, Ministries

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America	212-570-3500
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta	404-634-9345
Saint Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine	904-829-8205
Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC)	904-829-5132
International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC)	877-803-4622

From the Desk of Fr. Nikitas..

Someone once asked me to preach on, "Why I believe in God". I realized I believed in God...long before theology became important to me. I knew that it is necessary for me to breathe and that without air I would die. I was nurtured in a home where simple prayers were recited daily....in the morning, at dinner time and before going to bed. Icons were displayed throughout the home, and the smell of incense filled the air. I was taken to church and that seemed right to me. I felt at home in my church and seldom questioned my faith.

I love Christ and am grateful for the gift of Grace enabling me to work out my salvation. So it is with my own belief in God. Instead of saying I will not believe in God until his existence is proved, I will continue to believe, until it is proven that there is no God.

The Bible does not attempt to prove God's existence. The first words are: "IN THE BEGINNING GOD"...and it goes on to give us a progressive revelation of God.

For most of us God is just there. We seldom give it a second thought. Some go away to school and we become confused...we see the church and the faithful leading double standards. We take note of inconsistencies that have nothing to do with the belief in God. Pain and suffering cause us to ask painful questions about God's love and we simply do not understand.

Most of us cannot explain the composition of water, but we drink it. None of us know what electricity is, but we use it. Who can understand the process of love? Yet many have given their lives in sacrifice because they loved. Though we cannot explain God, most of us agree with Christopher Morley..."I had a thousand questions to ask God; but when I met him, they all fled and they didn't seem to matter." To say I believe in God means more than just an intellectual assent to the existence of God. It means to trust in Him and to commit our lives to His will. We trust in God because we know our own weaknesses and inadequacies. As long as we feel sufficient to ourselves we do not need God; we call upon our own god. No person ever really discovers God until there is a felt need in his life that only God can fill.

Until you need him, you won't have him.....

When one sings in the liturgy, one senses the voice that rings out of devotion and need and not a duty to sing. You have expressed your belief in God in the Creed but there is much more to it than that. When Peter confessed .."Lord Save Me", Jesus reached out His hand and caught him. When you say I need you God, that is belief. The act of simply going through the motions of lighting candles and making token gifts to the church is not belief.

The nominal Christians are in danger of losing their salvation. Belief begins by knowing God. I hear people say, I believe in so and so...why because of an acquaintance. God has revealed himself to us...there is a matter of struggling in our selves. And yet we will never know all of Him.

The man who came to Jesus and said "Lord, I know I have no faith, help me to believe." He was answered that with worship, prayer, confession. and bible reading ...this will enable us to meet and know the God of whom we have said this since childhood...I BELIEVE.

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As we approach this holiday season, I hope we can all look back at what we have gone thru at Holy Trinity this past year. I would like us all to thank Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for watching over us and guiding us to be the example of love and forgiveness and to live our lives in the true meaning of Christianity. We need to be thankful for our health and our families and for all that God has given us while we are on this earth in anticipation of the everlasting life.

I'm very proud of the way this parish came together in difficult times and supported me as president of the parish. I'm proud of the way Holy Trinity showed our community who we are and why we live as Orthodox Christians. I feel we have accomplished much of what my agenda was this past year and will miss serving you as your president, but I wish the future council and officers the very best and know that their decisions regarding the parish will be made so we can continue to grow and spread the word of Jesus to all. I know that with your spiritual fulfillment, we will overcome any financial hardships in our path. I pray that we can continue to support the mission and the Shrine as they are both important arms of the Orthodox faith.

Thank you all again for your suggestions and comments to me this past year, and I hope I was able to satisfy your wants and needs.

In His Name,

Mark

Stewardship Continued

Page Brian and Paula
Pappas Sylvia Billias
Peterson Gary and Faye
Philoptochos Society
Richard and Sophia Poland
Poulos Steve and Vasso
Pterudis Anastasia
Purdy Warren and Penny
Rincon-Xynides Irene
Ritsi Fr. Martin and Presb. Renee
Roberts Lanya Roberts and Zimryn
Robinson Bob and Jackie
Santas Constantine and Mary
Sarris Minas and Ivel
Sarris Pike and Lillian
Sarris Steve and Gerry
Sarris Victor and Melanie
Saunders Robert and Kathy
Savoupoulos Michael and Nell
Siavelis Van
Spanos Mary G.
Stone Susan
Stubblefield Mary
Subotich Robert and Vicky
Symeonides John and Stacy
Theodosion Mike and Estelle
Theodosion Fr. Nikitas and Presb. Mary
Timmerman Michael and Tina
Tranchini Joseph and Melva
Tutten Constandina
Welfare Dan and Jane
Welling Elizabeth K.
West Tim and Angie
Wuchner Eleni
Xynides Nicholas and Sylvia
Yiannakos Andrew and Thalía
Zotos Michael and Toula
Zuliani John and Keti

2009 Pledging Members to Date...

Afonso Tony and Kay
 Alexander Richard and Stella
 Allen Frank A. and Patricia
 Allen Fred and Ellen
 Xenula Brown
 Alatis Gregory
 Antonatos Dr. and Mrs. George
 Apostolos Michael and Barbara Clark
 Ayer Karla Ann
 Barnes Catherine and Bailey
 Bersu Andrew, Lillian, Georgos
 Bersu Theo
 Bersu Theodora
 Billeter Dick and Christie
 Billeter Dick and Paulexania
 Bliziotis Bessie
 Boley Brandon and Leah
 Cakmis Peter
 Caldes George
 Cambras George
 Casey Michelle E.
 Christakos Dianna
 Connors John-Paul and Marion
 Corrigan Roy D.
 Couchell Bishop Dimitrios
 Darios Peter and Catherine
 Day Fred and Betty
 Dilullo Blake and Pam
 Duddy Athena
 Economou Leon and Wanda
 Ellerbee Family
 Fotianos Michael and Ingrid
 Fotianos Rosalie and Theo
 Fotiou Olga
 George Gaetanos
 Gaetanos Mikae and Carmen
 Gaetanos Jacob
 Gaetanos Joshua
 Gaetanos Jessamy
 Gaitanis Louis and Connie
 Georgakopoulos Ilias
 Goodwin Alex and Jenny
 Goodwin Warren and Madeline
 Gross Tom and Pam
 Hadgis Mary

Hastalis Irene
 Hillier Polly and Allen
 Johns Anna Lucille
 Johns Rose Marie
 Jones Adam and Rebecca
 Jones Mark and Gail
 Karalis Lynn
 Karayanis Leonard and Thelma
 Larayanis Lazarus and Jessica
 Karayanis Audrey
 Kauttu Eleni
 Kauttu Jeff
 Kauttu Melissa
 Kauttu Zoe
 Kelbert David and Ellen
 Kelley Margo N.
 Kidd Kenneth D.
 Kleiner Susan
 Kokolias Chuck
 Kolovani Roland C.
 Koratsis Nicoletta
 Kotos Peter and Catherine
 Koutouzakis Ernest and Bonnie
 Lagoutaris John and Stacy
 Lasoff Brian and Meagan
 Lasoff Mark and Effie
 Latgis Nick and Rita
 Lekas Constando
 Lekas Nick and Toni
 Lekos Andy and Angela
 Lekos Michael and Anna
 Lemieux Joseph Jr. and Lynn
 Lemieux Joseph and Chresanthe
 Leussis Fr. Dimitri and Presb. Kiki
 Lojacono Carmela Tardo
 Lulias Bill and Terry
 Mallory William and Maria
 Manos James and Ruby
 Meole Alex and Georgiann
 Mendez Bill and Kathleen
 Mercado Gina
 Milonas George and Ann
 Munn Janet & Family
 Muse William
 Nichols George and Cynthia

It was a busy year for us at Holy Trinity, with many accomplishments and some disappointments. As you can see, the sign is up and painted thanks to the donated work by parishioner Blake Dilillo.

I'm hoping to have the dome painted with possible help from the manufacturer and DiMare construction.

The cell tower has passed the zoning board, and a building permit will be submitted by Nov. 15th by Verizon, and hope to be approved in January. Once construction BEGINS, we will then start receiving \$1,500 a month.

The lettering for the hall naming should be done shortly and we are planning on a dedication luncheon for January and have invited Mrs. Thalia Carlos and family.

We received funds from fundraisers and other support:

- 1) New years bash \$1,200.00 net
- 2) Philoptochos fashion show apx. \$2,000 ??? net
- 3) Hellenic Society Greek Night \$7,000 ?? net
- 4) Golf Tournament \$4,200 net
- 5) Wine tasting \$1,100 net
- 6) Day in Greece \$4,800. net
- 7) Festival apx. \$50,000 net
- 8) Build a Brick apx. \$5,000 ?? gross
- 9) Share to earn no figures yet
- 10) Holy Week this year brought in only \$4,500
- 11) Book store has donated \$1,200 so far this year

We did manage to raise apox. 12-15,000 as a result of my controversial special donation request.

We've managed to cut operating expenses this year with the following:

- 1) we decreased mortgage payments from 12,000 to 10,000 a month
- 2) our bulk postage is now non-profit and bulk mailing is now reduced to 35.00 down from 88.00 per mailing
- 3) we've discontinued our weekly ad in the record.
- 4) We changed internet servers from Aug link at 32.00 per month to Netzero at 16.00 per month
- 5) Re-negotiating our termite contract from 800.00 a year to 400.00 a year beginning next year.
- 6) The church is zoned for a cemetery, with no further movement on this for a long time.

I sincerely want to thank the wonderful people of Holy Trinity who have worked with me this past year with all I've asked of you.

This country, this state, this church, your families and friends are in tough economic times unlike anything some of us have ever seen before, and tough decisions had and have to be made, and I'm sorry if I've stepped on too many toes this year.

*Please support those
that help support the
Newsletter! Space
Available for Your Ad
or Personal Greeting,
Birthday, Anniver-
sary, etc. The monthly
cost for this space is
\$10.00. Contact the
church office for
more info*

STEWARDSHIP

IF I DON'T GET ANYTHING OUT OF LITURGY

How many times have you heard people say, "I don't get anything out of liturgy"? The truth is that we don't come to church to get, but rather to give –our whole being to God. We have to give ourselves as an offering to God and what we get in return is the presence of Jesus Christ within us. We become Christ-bearers – "Christophoroi" – bringing Him to others.

STEWARDSHIP – THE NEXT LEVEL

A young man had taken his girlfriend to a high-priced restaurant. As the young couple looked over the menu the young woman scanned the prices of the entrees, and then turning to the young man she asked, "How much do you love me?" Continuing to scan the menu, the young man replied, "Probably more than the corned beef, but not as much as the broiled lobster."

Stewardship is not about calculations or portions or percentages. It can't be reduced to a number of hours of service or dollars offered. Stewardship is a way of life.

As Orthodox Christians, we are called to a new way of seeing things – a new way of life. Your stewardship will be obedient the greatest commandment to "love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind and strength." You are called to bring others to commit their lives to Jesus Christ in such a way that leads to the joy of knowing Him personally and profoundly.

As we come to know Jesus in this way, we are drawn into the communion of the Body of Christ – the Church. When we receive the Holy Eucharist – Holy Communion – as Stewards, we are recipients of a great gift – actually the greatest gift we could ever receive – the body and blood of Christ.

Proper Stewardship of our gifts has the ability to revitalize our Church. Unless our stewardship is grounded in the Eucharist, it is only about supporting the needs of the Church, with everyone recruited to do their fair share. But when we understand the true meaning of the Holy Eucharist, we bridge the gap between liturgy an life, between the love of Jesus on cross and our daily lives, between our beautiful theology and spirituality and the practical stewardship to which we are called.

As Orthodox Christians, we see the world as God's gift, as a sacrament of God's presence and a means of communion with Him. And so we are able to offer the world back to God as thanksgiving as we say in every Divine Liturgy "Thine own of Thine own we offer to thee..."

STEWARDSHIP 2009-2010

During this season of joy and giving, please check to see if you have completed your 2009 Stewardship offering and made your 2010 commitment. Extra cards with envelopes are available in the narthex.

HOLY TRINITY HOSTESS CALENDAR 2009

December	6	Toula Zotos Ingrid Fotianos
	13	Pam Gross Carmela Tardo Lojacono
	20	Christmas Potluck Luncheon Faye Peterson & Constandina Tuten
	27	Faye Peterson, Marissa Clark & Constandina Tuten

** Please remember that coffee hour is a social time and not lunchtime. Please try to keep your offerings to a light snack. Everyone's participation as coffee hour hostesses is truly appreciated and not intended to be a financial burden.

Our coffee supply, both regular and decaffeinated, is getting low. If you would like to participate by purchasing coffee, please bring it to the kitchen or contact Carman for more information.

If you are interested in serving as a coffee hour hostess and presently are not on our calendar, please contact Carman Gaetanos @ 471-8278. Hostesses serve once every 2 to 3 months with at least one other hostess.

Thank you for your continued support!
Carman Gaetanos, Hostess Coordinator

The Philoptochos Society is still conducting a can good drive to restock the distribution center at Salvation Army food banks. There is a box in the hall, this will be ongoing event. Thank you for your great support this far.

Please Help. Your neighbors need you.

Philoptochos News

The Ladies Philoptochos will be having a lunch on Sunday, December 6, 2009. The Sunday School children will tell the story of St. Nicholas. The lunch will consist of Spaghetti with tomato sauce with shrimp and olives or a tomato and olive sauce for those that cannot eat shrimp. There will be salad, bread, iced tea or coffee and the dessert will be ice cream with cookies and topping. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and a voluntary donation of \$5.00 students.. Please see Wanda Economou or Anastasia Pterudis to purchase tickets. Our next scheduled event will be Vasilopita Sunday, January 3, 2010 following Liturgy. The annual Fashion Show is being carefully planned for Saturday, January 30, 2010 , 11:30 am. Tickets are \$25.00 to benefit Holy Trinity Church. We appreciate all the help that the members are giving with all the above events. Thank you very much for those members.

Presb. Mary Theodosion
Philoptochos President

Christmas Tree

The Christmas tree is up and needs everyone to help decorate it. The Angels on the tree are for St. Gerard Campus. They are requesting Gift Certificates for any amount from wherever you would like to choose. Please return you angel certificate by Sunday, December 20th. Thank you in advance for your sincere generosity.

STUDIES IN FAITH

The weekly Studies in Faith group meets every Thursday, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM, and from 6:00 – 7:00 PM at the church hall.

We are studying “*Living the Liturgy*” by Fr. Stanley Harakas. The following is from the introduction to the book: “If you have ever complained that you don't get much out of the liturgy, this book is for YOU! It is an exciting new approach to the Divine Liturgy providing an easy to understand, direct and simple guide to real liturgical participation.”

Everyone is encouraged to join us and participate in our discussions.

BOOKSTORE

The mission of the bookstore is to provide books and articles that will enrich all of us spiritually and help us grow in faith and love. Any and all income over and above what is needed to maintain the bookstore is donated to the Church on a quarterly basis.

Some of the books available in our bookstore are:

The Mountain of Silence: A Search for Orthodox Spirituality by Kyriacos C. Markides
Gifts of the Desert: The Forgotten Path of Christian Spirituality by Kyriacos C. Markides
From Baptist to Byzantium by Fr. James Early
The Garden of the Holy Spirit Elder Iakovos of Evia by Stylianos Papadopoulos
Preaching Another Christ - An Orthodox View of Evangelism by St. Theophan the Recluse
Papa-Dimitri: The Man Of God by Fr. Emmanuel Hadzithakis
The Orthodox Church - New Edition by Kallistos Ware
Beginning to Pray by Anthony Bloom
Saint John Cassian on Prayer by John Cassian
Commentary on the Divine Liturgy by St. Nicholas Cabasilas

We also have Christmas cards, 2010 Orthodox Pocket Planner, and Orthodox Daily Planner. We also have items appropriate for Christmas gifts such as prayer bracelets made of hand-carved wooden beads, from olive, black ebony, tiger ebony, mamalis and buri wood, as well as table candle stands, icon bracelets, sterling silver cross, etc. During November we expect to receive Daily Lives, Wisdom, and Miracles of the Saints and Fasting Calendar for 2010.

We also can obtain for you, wedding and baptismal items (crowns, crown cases, candles, witness etc.) on special order.