

# Holy Trinity News

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

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## THE ICON by: Fr. Gregory Hohnholt

Recently I heard it said, "What is an Icon? It is the gospel." -Fr. Thomas Hopko

This statement I have found to be illuminating in regards to our Holy Icons. In order to understand Icons we must know the Gospel. Looking briefly at the life of our Lord as celebrated in the Major Feast Days of the Liturgical Calendar we can come to a better understanding and appreciation of our Holy Icons.

On Annunciation (March 25,) we celebrate the Archangel Gabriel announcing to the Theotokos, that she will indeed be Theotokos - that she is full of grace and will conceive by the Holy Spirit and bear a Son, who will be the savior of the world. Here is the summation of the Gospel - God becomes man to save the world! Icons are an announcement - they proclaim the salvific work of God in Christ - both in scenes that are depicted on the Second Level of the Church walls - and also by their very existence

On Nativity (December 25), we celebrate the birth of the Savior into the world. The act of

God to become man in Jesus Christ makes Icons possible. According to St. John of Da-



mascus, because God become man, a real living breathing, bleeding human being - He sanctified created matter and makes it possible for us to depict Him in holy images. The reality of Holy Icons proclaim the Nativity of Jesus Christ.

On the Feast of the Circumcision of Christ (January 1), we celebrate the One who is, "born of a woman and born under the Law in order to redeem those who are under the law" (Galatians 4:4). He is the lawgiver, and He fulfills the Law. Some misunderstand Icons as

violating the second commandment - that which forbids Idols and Idolatry. Yet - the law commands images of Cherubim to be fashioned (Exodus 25:18ff) upon which to rest the Ark of the Covenant. The Ancient Israelites were not confused as to what was an Idol and what was an Icon. It is ridiculous for people to confuse these two realities today.

On the Feast of the Transfiguration, we celebrate the manifestation of the Kingdom of God, when Christ is Transfigured before the apostles Peter, James and John - and

His glory is revealed to them, "in as much as they could bear it." (Troparion & Kontakion of the Feast) This informs us as to why Icons are done the way they are - they do not seek to depict the Saints as a mere realistic painting - they are not live portraits of how the Saints looked in this life - but rather depictions of how they look in the next - of how they appear in the Kingdom of God - as transfigured in Christ.

On Great and Holy Pascha, we celebrate the triumph of our God and

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### IMPORTANT DATES

- Presentation of the Lord to the Temple, Feb 2
- Publican and the Pharisee (Triodion begins) Feb 5
- St. Photios the Great, Feb 6
- St. Haralambos, Feb 10
- Prodigal Son, Feb 12
- First Saturday of Souls, Feb 18
- Judgment Sunday, Feb 19
- 1st & 2nd Finding of the Head of John the Baptist, Feb 24
- Second Saturday of Souls, Feb 25
- Forgiveness Sunday, Feb 26, also Forgiveness Vespers @ 5 PM
- Great Compline with Canon of St. Andrew (Lent begins), Feb 27 @ 6 PM
- Pre-Sanctified Liturgy, Feb 29 @ 5:30 PM, Lenten meal following
- Weekday Services are 8:30 AM Matins, 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

## 2012 Stewardship Campaign Approaching 100 Pledges

By: Phil & Mary Ann Bolger

Through January, The 2012 stewardship campaign is off to a solid start. We are now up to 96 pledges of \$198,274. What is most exciting is that 76 of these pledges also committed their "time and talent" aligned to multiple ministries, organizations, and committees that are so important in support of the overall mission of Holy Trinity! "We bear fruit when we serve and support God and His Church" by a combination of our time, talent and treasure. "

In addition to the "pacesetter" stewards highlighted in last month's newsletter who completed their pledges at or immediately following the kickoff of this year's campaign, we also want to thank the following steward individuals and families who pledged in January...

- Craig and Tommie Allen
- John & Kassiani Billo
- Chris Botsaris
- Michael Brown & Laurie Kerhoulas-Brown
- Philip, Erica and Michael Collins
- Mike & Becky Delivizis
- Nick & Barbara Demas
- Rebecca Duncan
- Georgia Fortenberry
- Taso & Vickie Georgas
- Jim & Stacy Gore
- Jill Grosvenor
- Todd & Dawn Harman
- Kareem & Daad Jabbour



**Coffee hour on February 12 will be a free Stewardship Appreciation Luncheon**

- Lawrence Kamm & Helen Rogers
- Peter & Georgette Kennedy
- Nicky Lambidonis
- Elaine Luartes
- Steven Madanat
- Jim & Bethany Malakelis
- Jacquelyn Marushka
- Florence Maskovyak
- Dr. Chris Matsos
- Kathryn & Justin Meeks
- Doran & Imily Yoanidis
- Eric & Scarlett Miles
- Sfirakis Nickolaos
- Connie Nicholson
- Tom Nicholson
- Mr. & Mrs Paul Nicklas
- Alexandra & Christopher Pappas
- Barbary Pardue
- David & Julie Petcu
- Bill & Jackie Phillips
- George Platsakis
- Jack & Candace Pyborn
- Ronnie & Leslie Richard

- Elena & Robert Rollins
- Pete Smack
- Jim & Becky Sousoulas
- Nick & Donna Taras
- Christo & Danka Venkou
- John & Stavroula Xoinis

Our goal is to continuously grow our church family. For 2012, this means exceeding 165 parish members and/or families pledging a total of \$250,000 to support our annual budget representing an 8% growth over prior year. Our goals will be realized if we simply have **ALL** families who give graciously of their time, talent and treasure to Holy Trinity to simply complete the pledge form. For those that have yet to pledge, as you prayerfully consider you're personal or family giving to Holy Trinity. We look forward to having all stewardship pledge forms completed prior to or at the upcoming Stewardship Appreciation luncheon on February 12<sup>th</sup>.

We are really excited about this year's luncheon. Our theme is "Taste the Rich Diversity that Shares our Orthodox Faith!" While at church activities or at coffee hour following liturgy, have you ever paused to recognize, appreciate, welcome and embrace our growth and diversity of our church family lately? It is truly a blessing to experience this growth at Holy Trinity with diverse steward family histories from across the globe...Of course Greece, and also Egypt, other northern African countries, Lebanon, Russia, the Balkans just to name a few along with many multi-generations of

*(Continued on page 4)*



## Email Sign-Up

Would you like to get the newsletter, calendar, Sunday bulletins, and church announcements in your email?

Would you like to save the church A LOT of money in printing and postage costs?

Go to the church web site and click on the mailing list tab at top of homepage and sign up for electronic mail and announcements. Do it TODAY!

If you do not sign up, you will continue to receive everything through the US Mail (snail mail).

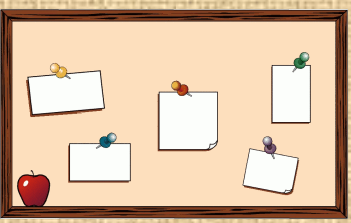
## Preparing for Lent

The "days of meat" draw to a close this month. The church eases us into the Lenten Fast by making Judgment Sunday, Feb 19, the last day we can eat meat until Pascha.

Cheesefare Week begins on Forgiveness Sunday, Feb 26, and it's our last week to consume dairy and oil. The strict fast begins on the first day of Lent, Monday, Feb 27, and the Great Compline is at 6 PM.

The first Pre-Sanctified Liturgy is at 5:30 on Wednesday, Feb 29. Try to attend these services. A Lenten meal follows and it's a great blessing!

## BULLETIN BOARD



**New Parish Council officers elected on January 23 (L-R)**  
 Mark Davis, President, Janice Tantarís, VP, Jim Malakelis, Treasurer, Kareem Jabbour, Asst. Treasurer, Gregory Herron, Recording Secretary

Fall Creek Falls  
Lenten Retreat

March 30th - April 1st  
 Stay in Cabins on the Lake  
 See Old Friends & Make New Ones  
 Climb Down the Falls  
 Spiritual Group Sessions  
 Fun Field Activities  
 Smores & More!



**GOYA in Birmingham Jan 27-29**  
 @ Holy Trinity-Holy Cross Cathedral



**YAL Social January 29 (L-R)**  
 Andrew Miller, Demetrios Miller, Kara Miller, Andy & Anna Sweeney

## Stewardship...

(Continued from page 2)

Americans. This luncheon plans to CELEBRATE our growth and international diversity! We welcome anyone who wants to bring a cover dish made popular in their native country to please call Mary Ann (@ 776-8811). It should be a lot of fun, so Fast before liturgy...and bon appetite!

"We are called to bear fruit with our time, talent, and treasure as branches of the True Vine which is Jesus Christ. Just as a vine bears fruit only through its branches, so Jesus has chosen to work in the world through us."

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### St. Sampson Opens



The St. Sampson Clinic opened at Holy Trinity on January 14 and it was a day of nerves for Dr. Jim Gore and the volunteer staff.

But Dr. Gore treated his first rheumatology patient at 10 AM and now we can officially say that we have the very first Greek Orthodox Medical Clinic in the nation...something to be proud of indeed! Axios!

## Member Profile: Phil & Mary Ann Bolger

Phil & Mary Ann Bolger are chairing the stewardship committee for a second year now. So who are these incredibly positive and friendly people who are taking us to new levels of commitment?

The couple moved to Nashville in 2008. Phil is VP of Strategic Initiatives for McKesson, a diversified healthcare service company. "We've moved 8 times in 30 years because of my career," said Phil. "Both of us grew up in Texas and Louisiana, so we're really happy to be back in the South."

"Between the city and the church, we feel like we're home," said Mary Ann.

They also love the church for the tradition. "Our traditional faith brings abundant joy in our lives," said Phil.

Phil and Mary Ann were college sweethearts at LSU and they were married in 1982. Phil was raised Methodist and Mary Ann is a first generation Greek American; her immigrant parents started LaFonda, a restaurant in Baton Rouge, and it's still a family business 50 years later with Mary Ann deeply involved.

"We were married for 12 years before I was chrismated though," recalled Phil. "I was in a deep study with the priest at St. Nicholas in St. Louis at the time and even though Mary Ann never pushed it, my becoming Orthodox was a family decision to support our children's religious educa-

tion." The children, Toni (25) and Kevin (22) are now adults on their own.

The Bolgers fit in quite well at Holy Trinity. When asked about their success as stewardship chairs, Mary Ann said, "Honestly you can't say no to Father and we were new to the community and eager to get involved; we had the time and Phil has business and people skills that fit the needs at the church, so we've enjoyed serving."

Their time and talents don't end there however. Mary Ann is active with Philoptochos and she volunteers at Loaves & Fishes and St. Sampson. Phil is enjoying

reading the epistle when called on.

"Our attitude is that you should give more than you take in life," said Phil. "The more you give, the more joy you have."

And why should *everyone* pledge? "Our church is growing; look around and see how diverse we are, so we need a budget that keeps up with the growth to have an impact on the spiritual development of everyone in the parish."

### Important Dates

#### Phillip

Birthday: August 1  
Nameday: June 30

#### Mary Ann (Panagia)

Birthday: May 4  
Nameday: multiple dates



Santorini, 2011

# Orthodox Christian Network - Reaching Millions on the Web

By: Tim Weeks

There is no shortage of web sites where one can learn about the Orthodox faith. Virtually every church and jurisdiction, plus the monasteries, have some form of web presence. Our Archdiocese has an award-winning web site, for example, that is rich in spiritual content.

“Cutting edge” and Orthodox are terms rarely associated, however, but Fr. Chris Metropulos, Executive Director of the Orthodox Christian Network ([myocn.net](http://myocn.net)) has a vision of bringing the church to the forefront of today’s social media. Priest at St. Demetrios in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, since 1990, Fr. Chris can attest to OCN’s growth. “The network started at one parish, but today we have over 2 million listeners in the U.S. and a global reach exceeding 200 countries,” he said.

OCN is rich in media content including podcasts and streaming audio and video. The anchor program, “Come Receive The Light,” features Fr. Chris interviewing church leaders, public figures, and respected authorities on a wide range of contemporary issues. “A recent study revealed that 65% of the church laity wants the church to be more relevant to today’s issues, so that’s where we are in terms of content,” said Fr. Chris.

“Last month we focused on end time prophecies since so many

people are hyped up about December, 2012 being the end of the Mayan calendar and maybe the Apocalypse,” he said. “This month with the Presidential primaries in full swing, we’re brave enough to have a conversation about faith and politics with former Presidential candidate, Gov. Michael Dukakis and others.”

“The programming is now based on monthly themes which are promoted with viral videos produced by a volunteer team that play on YouTube and Facebook,” he continued. “Millions are hearing about the Orthodox Church for the first time and others who are of the faith are finding strength and courage in their belief though our humble offering”

The need to harness the power of social media like Facebook and Twitter are essential for the church to reach the next generation. “Yes we’ve been here 2,000 years, but here are some cold facts: 60% of our young people are leaving the church and not coming back and 50% of the world’s population are people under the age of 30,” stated Father. “In that age group, there are over 800 million people interacting on Facebook and we have to meet them there if we hope to be around a few more years.”

OCN is beginning to make a difference. To date, over 6 million people have learned something about the network and our faith

through OCN’s Facebook and Twitter pages.

OCN is more than interviews. The web site hosts three radio programs: The Rudder (traditional music and chant), The Ark (contemporary Orthodox music), and The Anchor (talk radio). A new blog, The Sounding, shares the faith through a variety of contributors. A library of podcasts share content about the Church Fathers and Orthodox spirituality. And there is streaming video, including live broadcasts of the Divine Liturgy from St. Demetrios.

“Ultimately we’d like to do TV; there are many channels of religious programming without any Orthodox perspective,” said Fr. Chris. “We need to step up.”

But the task is a steep climb. OCN’s annual budget is tiny compared to the hundred of millions that underwrite evangelical Christian broadcasters.

How can you be a part of OCN? Visit [myocn.net](http://myocn.net) and join the network on Facebook and Twitter to help share the truth of our faith. At the web site you can sign up for a monthly programming email and newsletter and you can subscribe to their RSS feed. “You can help spread and strengthen our faith, the faith of Christ passed down to the Apostles, so visit our site today and join this incredibly important movement,” said Father.

“As we say at the end of every spot, ‘Come Learn The Truth At The Orthodox Christian Network.’”



**Fr. Chris interviews Archbishop Demetrios**



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20TH OF EACH MONTH:

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**FEBRUARY CALENDAR**

**FEB 5: Souper Bowl Chili Cook-Off for IOCC**

**FEB 5: Book Club, 7 PM**

**FEB 11: Regional Youth Workers' Workshop, 9 AM  
until noon in Parish Hall**

**FEB 11: St. Sampson Clinic, 9 AM-4 PM**

**FEB 12: FREE Stewardship Appreciation Luncheon**

**FEB 12: GOYA Meeting @ Church, 5 PM**

**FEB 14: St. Stephen's Society Luncheon, noon**

**FEB 17: Kollyva Class, 6:30 PM, RSVP [sofiagh365@gmail.com](mailto:sofiagh365@gmail.com)**

**FEB 19: JOY @ 5 PM**

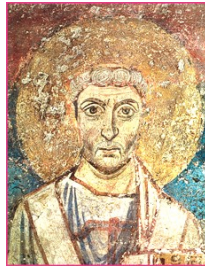
**FEB 20: President's Day, Parish Council Meeting, 6 PM**

**AND PLAN AHEAD FOR...**

**MARCH 31: Loaves & Fishes @ Holy Name Catholic Church, 9 AM-1PM**



**DO YOU KNOW THIS SAINT?**



***Leo the Great***

Are Roman Popes Orthodox saints? Many are during the time of one, undivided church. On Feb 18, we celebrate the feast day of St. Leo the Great, who was consecrated Pope in 440 AD. His defense of the dual nature of Christ, fully human, fully divine, was a turning point in the history of the church.

To read more about the life of Leo Pope of Rome, visit [GOARCH.org](http://GOARCH.org) and spend some time at the Orthodox Calendar in the Online Chapel. You can also read his story in the Daily Readings App for iPhones and other devices, free of charge from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. Download it today!

**THE ICON...**

*(Continued from page 1)*

Savior Jesus Christ over death, sin and the devil. We celebrate new life. We celebrate the Kingdom of God. Therefore Icons are called, "windows to heaven." The saints are in heaven because of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ; icons are in our Churches to remind us constantly of this reality, that we have come to the, "heavenly Jerusalem" (Hebrews 12:22), and are surrounded by such

a, "great cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1).

We draw closer to continuing again our Iconography in the Church - of adding Saints and Scenes to our Sacred Space - the Church. Please keep this project in your prayers. As St. Paul says, we rejoice in the proclamation of Jesus Christ! (Philippians 1:18)

+Fr. Gregory