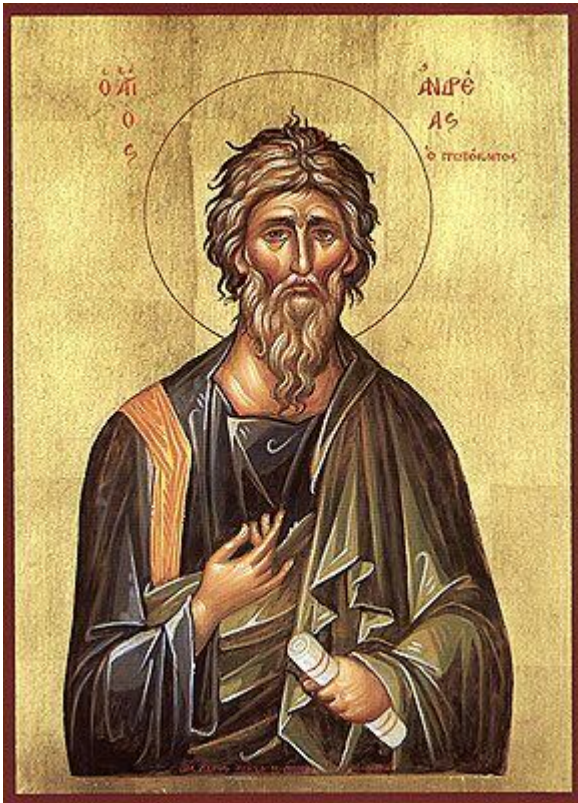


Holy Trinity Newsletter

November 2009



St. Andrew The Apostle, November 30th

Greetings in the Lord!

This fall season has been filled with much activity in the life of our parish. As was stated in the October 14th Parish Assembly meeting, we had a record breaking Greek Food Festival this year, and I want to personally thank all of you who came out to help make this year's festival the best ever. We look forward to future successes in the years to come.

As GOYA, JOY, Church School and other ministries of parish life begin to work again in their respective areas, along with the Philoptochos Society, AHEPA and many others, we are drawing close to our annual Parish Council elections; another event in the life of our community. We have four slots open this year on the parish council. I would personally love to see eight persons or so running for these spots. I have copied the following article below by Fr. James Kordaris because it reminds us of the one element that most specifically unites the parish in a very real manner, and that is the Holy Eucharist. We are one Church, says St. Paul, and individually members thereof. It is the one Chalice and the One Bread that brings us all together. In an ancient Christian document known as the "Didache", it states that as all the grains of the hills are harvested together and brought together into one loaf, so are all the Christians brought it from various places to celebrate the one Eucharist together. This picture is a good and vivid one for our parishes and especially for our parish of Holy Trinity in Nashville as people come to celebrate the Divine Liturgy together from all over Middle Tennessee, Southern Kentucky and even South-Eastern Indiana.

For those that are contemplating running for the parish council it is my prayer that you will keep in mind the one reality that brings us all together, the Body and Blood of Christ. How the Lord in the Divine Liturgy is to be received, how He is to be thanked, how He speaks to us in the Epistle and Gospel readings and in the Homily and how we petition Him for the sick, the suffering, the captives, those in distress, in prisons, in jails, on the streets. In St. Paul's First Epistle to the Church in Corinth he mentions that the Apostles were homeless. They were received into the homes of pious Christians who put them up so that they might continue the work of proclaiming the life saving truths of Christ. Well, our parish is the "House of the Lord"; the Parish Council members are often those whom people first meet when they come through our doors, for the priest is already at the Altar table. In this respect the Parish Council must be first and foremost a ministry of stewards; those who are entrusted with not only parish finances but also with Philoxenia (hospitality), not only with maintenance but ministry. Their chief concern as a whole must be the **life**

of the Church. As you will read below, everything in the life of the Church must start and end with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy together. This is our chief work as Orthodox Christians, from which flows everything else. May God grant us a spirit of joyful celebration together. May the desire to engage in the work of the Lord burn in our hearts. May we make rooms in our hearts to become vessels of Grace through repentance and confession. May our hearts be the dwelling place of the Lord.



PARISH LEADERSHIP: Connecting the Dots

“...there are many parts, but one body.”

1 Corinthians 12:20

Fr. James Kordaris

Our churches are busier than ever with youth activities, seniors group, athletics, choir, junior choir, Bible studies, support groups, community outreach, Sunday school, educational programs and much more. As these activities grow and develop leadership from within, they often take on a life of

their own, disconnected from one another and from the Eucharistic community out of which they were formed.

“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.” (1 Cor. 12:27)

For a parish to be effective in its mission, all of its organizations and activities must be seen – and more importantly – must see themselves as members of one body, pursuing the same goals, and always leading toward the Eucharist. Sometimes we find that people will participate in one organization or ministry of the parish, yet they are rarely seen participating in Divine Liturgy. This happens in everything from Bible study to basketball.

A priest from a large parish refers to this as the need to “connect the dots.” All the activities, organizations and ministries need to connect in the Eucharist. And while all the various activities of the church may be worthwhile endeavors, they may not be moving people toward transfigured life in the within the body of Christ.

We all know the argument: “What if this activity is the only activity in which a member of the parish is involved? Isn’t it better to have some contact than none at all?” But if a parish organization is not led by a Christ-centered individual who sets an example by being present in Liturgy, how do we expect this activity to bring people to the Eucharist? An activity is effective when lives are transformed in such a way that people are inspired to become more Christ-like. One way to change perceptions is to refer to every activity and organization of the parish as a ministry, reminding us that everything the Church community does should lead people to Christ.

“Different kinds of service, but the same Lord.” (1 Corinthians 12:5)

Often the various parish ministries and organization develop into one person’s or one group’s turf. The activity becomes an autonomous group within the church, not coordinated or integrated with others. Sometimes there may even be competition among the groups. This is not compatible with the vision of the Church as the body of Christ with many limbs and organs all working together.

Building a Leadership Team

An effective strategy for getting the limbs and organs of the body of Christ working together is to gather the leaders of all the various ministries on a regular basis to pray for the church, coordinate the parish calendar of events

and discuss common activities and goals of the parish. The priest directs the parish leadership by presenting the vision or mission of the Church, and opens the lines of communication between organizations and ministries. A positive result of this can be that all begin to coordinate their efforts and cooperate in working toward a common goal

This happened recently at the parish of Saint Nicholas in Youngstown, Ohio where a monthly Saturday morning breakfast meeting of all the leaders of the various parish ministries and community organizations was initiated. As the ministries planned the parish's first annual Family Outreach Sunday, they were drawn together to work toward making this a successful event for their individual organizations and for the parish.

Their coordinated effort resulted in attendance not seen at St. Nicholas since Pascha with attendance up by nearly 50 percent. Each organization hosted a booth in the church hall. Many provided food or refreshments to be served at the brunch, and the day was a positive experience for those who hosted and those who attended.

Their first Family Outreach Sunday was a success in that it brought many inactive Orthodox Christians to church while bringing the ministries of the parish together to work toward a common goal.

Parish Activities/Ministries Coordinator

In 1999 the clergy and lay leadership of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church of Portland, Oregon began to assess the growing needs of the parish, and to consider ways to coordinate and grow the ministries of the parish. Initially they considered hiring a youth director, but upon further consideration realized that there were parish needs beyond the scope of the youth program. The leadership at Holy Trinity concluded that what was needed was a parish staff member whose responsibility it would be to coordinate the growing number of existing parish ministries and to develop additional ministries. With the assistance of a grant from Leadership 100, the parish established the position of Parish Activities Coordinator, to address the challenge of organizing a large and active parish life, promoting volunteerism, fostering involvement in existing ministries, and working collaboratively with clergy to develop new ministries. Under the guidance of the parish priest, the coordinator works with the leaders of all parish ministries with a particular emphasis on youth related activities, and connects parishioners with suitable church ministries and

programs. The position of Parish Activities Coordinator is outlined in the Ministry Profiles section of the www.Outreach.goarch.org web site.

“Without Vision the People Perish” (Proverbs 29:18)

Every parish has a different personality – different strengths and weaknesses. Every parish is located in a particular environment in a particular neighborhood. Every parish is made up of a different group of people with different needs, ethnic heritage, skills and education. For these reasons, every parish will have a different vision for the ministry that lies before them. Vision is a picture of the future that produces passion. With their priest as their guide, parish leadership is encouraged to hammer out a vision for the future of their church. Vision causes people to imagine the future of their church and to develop concrete steps to realize that vision. The greater importance of vision is that it creates passion in ministry. And if we are passionate about ministry, that passion will be contagious. People will be inspired to accomplish great work for the realization of the vision. As Orthodox Christian leaders, give all you can to this effort. Give all the time, service and prayer that you can give. Apply whatever gifts you have to this calling, because eternal lives are at stake.

Fr. Jim Kordaris (FrJimK@goarch.org) is Director of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Department of Outreach & Evangelism (www.outreach.goarch.org) and pastor of Saint George Greek Orthodox Church on West 54th Street in New York.

October Sacraments

Βaptisms – Να Σας Ζήσουν!

Nicholas Changas, son of David and Christina Changas, with Gregory and Katherine Herron being the Godparents.

Eleni Vaporis, daughter of Michael and Athena Vaporis, with Panagiota Phillips being the Godmother.

Konstandinos Sherrill, son of Justin and Vasiliki Sherrill, with Konstandinos Krousaniotakis being the Godfather.



Chrismations

Wayne A. Shultz become Orthodox by receiving Holy Chrismation; Fred Preuss is his Godfather.

Weddings Congratulations!

Konstantine Xionis and Angela Colvin were married by Fr. Nicholas Harbatis with George N. Fallieras and Georgia Frangis being the koumbaroi.

Christopher Auld and Cameesa Pyburn were married by Fr. Gregory with Marieka Helou being the koumbara.

Chris Andrews and Julia Denson celebrated their marriage in the Church with Mr. and Mrs. Nick Coumanis being the koumbaroi.

GOYA News

Sunday, November 22, night out at the movies! Please contact Leslie Richards for more information @ 615-868-2167, or e-mail at leslier@madisonacademy.com

JOY

Look forward to the JOY craft extravaganza and Christmas Pageant Practice on Sunday, December 13th.



CHURCH DIRECTORY 2010

Holy Trinity is excited to announce our new church directory project for 2010. We are doing this in-house, but it will be fun to update our pictures and contact information... making us a closer congregation in the process.

A table will be set up in the social hall, beginning on Sunday, November 8th and ending on Sunday, December 6th, for you to sign up for a photo appointment.

Pictures will be taken on the following dates:

Sunday, December 13th, 12:00 – 6:00 PM

Monday, December 14th, 6:00 – 10:00 PM

Tuesday, December 15th, 6:00 – 10:00 PM

Sunday, December 20th, 12:00 – 6:00 PM

Monday, December 21st, 6:00 – 10:00 PM (if necessary)

At that time, we'll ask you to fill out a form to update your *preferred* contact information.

If you cannot sign up after church, please call the church office, 333-1047 to pick a time.

If you are unavailable on any of the dates listed above, you can email a picture to project coordinator Tim Weeks at timweeks@att.net. Also if you want to submit an informal picture, in addition to your sit-down photo, please email to Tim. You can also call him on his cell phone, 293-8178.

The directory will be completed in early 2010. You can elect to have your pictures printed on-line.

All organizations like the Philoptochos, Ahepa, GOYA, etc., should contact Tim with publishing information.

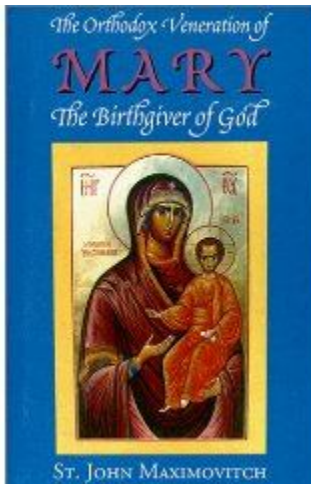
We appreciate everyone helping make this project a success!

Greek School Program

Over the past few years there has been some interest shown in starting up an afternoon Greek School program again. I would like to know first of all, how many children and families would be seriously interested in committing to an afternoon Greek School program at Holy Trinity. I would also be interested to know if there would be any qualified person(s) who might be interested in being the Greek School Teacher for Children at Holy Trinity. Please contact me and let me know either at the Church office: 615-333-1047, or at fathergh@gmail.com. Thank you!



The Orthodox Book Group will hold its 2nd meeting on Sunday, Dec. 6, 2009 at 7pm at the home of David and Carol Tabor, 509 Park Center Ave, Nashville, TN 37205. The group will study "The Orthodox Veneration of MARY, The Birthgiver of God" by St. John Maximovitch. Copies are available at the Church Bookstore for \$7. Everyone is welcome to attend for a robust discussion. We also need someone to select a book for the February meeting and to host the group. Thank you.



Twelve Meanings of Candles Based on Their Properties

1. **Candles give light.** They remind us of Christ Our Savior, Who said "I am the Light of the world." (John 9:5) They also remind us that we must also shine as lights, for Christ said that we, too, are the light of the world. For He said: "You are the light of the world." And, "Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven" (Matt 5:14-16).
2. **Candles give warmth.** They remind us that we must also give warmth to those around us, especially those who are cold and needy—to warm them with our love.
3. **Candles burn with fire.** They remind us of the eternal fires of hell, which await us if we do not repent and do not follow God's commandments.
4. **Candles are beautiful but dangerous.** They shed a beautiful soft light in the Church makes the icons glow and that makes it so much easier to concentrate in prayer. However, if not monitored, they can also ignite the church furnishings and cause the church to burn down and all of the icons be destroyed. They teach us to be ever vigilant and careful, because lack of vigilance can bring terrible consequences.
5. **Candles are not permanent.** They remind us that our time of life here on earth is fleeting, and that every day our life grows shorter until it is extinguished. Candles call us, therefore, to repentance, for our time here on earth is not forever.
6. **Candles are straight.** They remind us that we must stand straight before the Eyes of the Lord., that our deeds must be straightforward and righteous. A candle that is not standing straight up will not burn properly. So we too must be straight in our ways, leaning neither to one side or the other.
7. **Candles bend but do not break.** A wax candle has the wonderful property of being able to be bent in a full circle without breaking, but can then be straightened out again. They remind us that we must be able to withstand challenges and sorrows that we face in our lives without breaking. Though these sorrows may bend our resolve, we, through contrition and repentance, can become straight once again.
8. **Candles can be both hard and soft.** They are hard when they are cold, but become soft when they are warmed. In the same way, our hearts are hard

when cold, and we must warm them with love of God and of our fellow man in order for them to be soft again.

9. **Candles shed tears.** When burning, the wax of a candle causes little drips to form and run down the candle that look like tears running down our face. They remind us that we must shed tears over our sins, and out of compassion for others.

10. **Candles are gift of the animal world.** Candles are made from wax, which is the product of the labor of thousands of honeybees working together. Candles remind us that we must also be industrious and not lazy, and that we must love all of God's creatures, big and small and be thankful to them when we use the fruit of their labors for our benefit.

11. **Candles are useful but simple.** Candles are not complex. They are simple in nature, but perform their task well. Especially in our age where we are surrounded by complex technology, candles remind us that the simple things are often the best. Throughout the ages, candles have made it possible to perform services in the hours when it is dark outside. They make it possible for the priest to read the prayers in his service book, for readers and chanters to be able to assist in the services. Without candles, there would have been no All-Night Vigils, no Midnight Offices, no Paschal Midnight Matins and liturgies. Candles remind us that we too must do our jobs well, to live our lives well in accordance with God's commandments, without complications.

12. **Candles are useless without a spark.** They remind us that we all are dead and useless unless we are lit with the spark of the Holy Spirit, which ignites the flame of life. Candles remind us of the Holy Spirit, Who appeared to the Disciples in the form of a flame. They remind us that we must ask the Holy Spirit to come and abide in us, and cleanse us of every impurity that our souls may be saved.



Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
4905 Franklin Pike
Nashville, TN 37220

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
NASHVILLE, TN
PERMIT # 873