

# The LAMPLIGHTER

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH of Lansing

*“Yea, Thou dost light my lamp; the Lord my God lightens my darkness...” (Psalms 18:28)*

Volume XLI

September 2008

*As a continuation of our Clergy-Laity theme, “Gather My People to My Home,” and in anticipation of our Family Outreach Sunday on September 7, you will find in this Lamplighter two priestly meditations, offered on the premise that “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” The first one is by Fr. Jim Katinas, pastor of Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Kansas City, MO; the second is my own reflection at the end of the issue—Fr. Mark*

## The Olympics of Your Life

*by Fr. Jim Katinas*

I know that many of you spent at least some time watching or following the 2008 Summer Olympics. I don't know about you but the older I get the more amazed I am at the extent to which athletes competing at the Olympic level are able to push their minds and bodies to such incredible levels of performance. Their focus, dedication, fitness and intense effort are truly amazing!

The more I think about the Olympics the more I am reminded about what the Church teaches us regarding spiritual growth: it requires great focus, effort and training on our part! Would any of us think that Michael Phelps could have won all those gold medals if he didn't listen to the instruction of his coach, didn't practice much, didn't exercise and ate like a pig? Why then do we tend to think that we can experience true growth as Orthodox Christians without receiving spiritual guidance, without participating regularly in worship, without really dedicating ourselves and without practicing the spiritual disciplines?

And why is it that we easily understand and readily embrace the rules of competition for the various athletic events of the Olympics but we are often resistant to understanding and embracing the “rules” that lead to spiritual growth? I mean we seem to know quite well and respect the goals of the various Olympic events. For example, nobody would have a problem with the notion that to win the long jump, one must jump the longest. Right? So why do people *not* seem to know and respect that the goal of every Orthodox Christian—whether they chose to embrace it or not—is to strive to become like God? As the Apostle Paul says: “to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ” (cf. Ephesians 4:15).

My friends, the teachings of the Church, Holy Scripture and the Saints are all in agreement on this: 1) The primary purpose of *every* Orthodox Christian (and thus *every* Orthodox community by the way) is *theosis*—becoming Godly and 2) each of us must engage in *askesis*—spiritual

exercise—in order to make progress towards this end. I am also reminded, speaking of leading a spiritual life and the Olympics, of the Russian word for saint: *podvizhnik*. It is in the “continual” tense and the root word comes from *podvig*, which means a heroic act. Therefore, in the Russian language, a saint is one who engages in heroic acts continually. And just like the “heroes” of the Olympics became “heroes” not just from one “heroic” act on the day of their performance at the Olympics but much more so from many days of consecutive “heroic acts,” so we too can only become like God through continual effort and successive “heroic acts” in our daily lives.

Having considered these things, some might still say: “But those Olympic athletes were also born with gifts for athleticism that I will never have, and their training was what actualized those gifts.” This is probably true. Yet, when it comes to spiritual growth and salvation, the great news is that God gives *every* person in the world the gift of eternal life! God, as the Apostle Paul tells Timothy, “... wants all people to be saved and come to the knowledge of truth” (cf. 1 Timothy 2:4).

The great news is that each and every one of you has *already* been given the “gold medal” of salvation! It is indeed a free gift from God. However, in the Orthodox understanding of this, your gold medal is there at the podium. It has *your* name on it. It is waiting for *you*. And in order for it to be hung on your neck you must do your part. You must be willing to learn from a “coach” and “coaches.” You must compete according to the rules. You must engage in spiritual exercise daily. Your “competition” is not other people, it is the “powers of darkness,” (cf. Ephesians 6:12), the evil one. You must run the race which is before you. This is the Olympics of your life.

## Prayers for the Sick

Ljubica Suzic	Rosemary Gavrilides
Ann DeRose	Kathryn Menoutes
Nick Limber	Barry Hoag

## Parish Council

by Stella Economy

Where did the summer go? The busy fall schedule is upon us, and activities are starting up here at Holy Trinity. Look throughout this issue for starting dates for Sunday School, Odyssey, youth activities and more.

The Parish Council strives to keep you informed on what is happening in and around the community as outlined below.

### Stewardship and Budget

- ✿ We have 222 pledge units for a total of \$235,199.00 pledged for the year 2008. Our projected stewardship budget for 2008 is \$258,075.00
- ✿ Stewardship Sunday has been set for Sunday, September 21. Stewardship and pledge information will be sent out soon to 2008 stewards. Elaine Christofilis and Alexis Popoff are once again chairing our stewardship campaign

### Parish Council Update

- ✿ Family Outreach Sunday is September 7. Reach out to family and friends who you have not seen lately at Holy Trinity and invite them to join us for a day of Christian fellowship. Look for details outlined elsewhere in this issue.
- ✿ Mark your calendars! We will celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> year in our church at a dinner dance here at Holy Trinity on Saturday, October 11. If you are interested in helping with this event or have historical information or photos to share please call either Maria Alexander or Tula Frangos. This will be a catered event with a live band. Tickets will be available after Sunday services.
- ✿ We are in the finishing stages of our major roof and iconography projects with ongoing updating and general repairs taking place in our facility. We have seen improvements in the past few years in the sanctuary, the large and small social rooms, the kitchen and the roof and steeple. We are looking ahead as to what needs to be done, and prioritizing these repairs. Our next update will be the men’s and women’s bathrooms in the social wing. New tiles and paint will

add a much needed facelift to the spaces, especially the men's bathroom.

- ✿ For several years we have talked about setting up an Endowment or Trust fund here at Holy Trinity. Many churches have established Endowments to provide for the future. A few more volunteers are needed to serve on this committee, please call Stella Economy, 349-9671 if interested.
- ✿ Interested in advertising in the Lamplighter? Please contact our editor, Diana Voutsaras for details.

### Mark Your Calendars

Sept 7 - Family Outreach Sunday  
 September 21 - Stewardship Sunday  
 October 5 - General Assembly  
 October 11 - 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner Dance Celebration

## Philoptochos

by Mary Volakakis

The Board met August 25<sup>th</sup> to gear up for the upcoming year.

Because of the Labor Day holiday, the next **General Meeting** will be held **Tuesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** Both members and newcomers are welcome, where the agenda will include the upcoming calendar, the National Conference, and the fall bake sale.

Philoptochos will sponsor the coffee hour on September 7<sup>th</sup> and a get -acquainted -with-our-chapter event on September 21<sup>st</sup>. More information on this event will be forthcoming.

**OPA** group has moved to Tuesdays this year. Please don't miss the get-together on **September 16<sup>th</sup> — Father Mark will be our featured speaker.**

And for those who like to peek ahead, **the October general meeting** will be held on **Monday, the 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** Philoptochos will sponsor the coffee hour on Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>.

In the meantime, let's all start thinking "bake sale".

## "The Future is Something We Create, Not Enter."

by Olga Pascalenos and Eleanor Spalding  
 Chapter Delegates

This was the theme of the 39th Biennial National Philoptochos Convention held July 12 -17 in Washington DC. The focus of our discussion groups was membership development: attracting, activating, and keeping members.

It was pointed out by one of the guest speakers that it seemed to him that Philoptochos is not, as is often said, the right hand of the church, but rather it is the *heart* of the church. It is a nice feeling to be part of a group that "has a heart".

The National Board informed the 349 registered delegates that the total monies to be distributed at this convention by Philoptochos amounted to \$715,258. A complete list of how these monies were distributed is available upon request. One noteworthy disbursement was \$25,000 to the Pajama Program. Each Philoptochos delegate was asked to bring with them two pairs of childrens pajamas. These pajamas, along with books, are given to underprivileged children . It is a heartwarming and worthwhile program. The centerpieces at the Philoptochos banquet were piles of books and various school supplies. These books and supplies will be given to schools in Washington DC.

As delegates we heard many reports on the various programs and institutions that Philoptochos supports. We also voted on and passed various resolutions such as:

- 1) discontinuing the Cardiac Fund
- 2) establishing an Autism Assistance Fund
- 3) establishing as a national commitment an OCF Fund.

The new Philoptochos website was unveiled.

Visit [www.philoptochos.org](http://www.philoptochos.org)

to get more information about the convention and Philoptochos in general.

## The Life of the Age to Come

by Nick Gavrilides

In the month of August the Church celebrated two great feasts: the Transfiguration of Christ and the Dormition of the Theotokos. There is a profound connection between the two: both feasts are a revelation of “the life of the age to come” referred to in the Nicene Creed.

The Orthodox Church speaks of salvation in terms of *theosis*, a Greek word sometimes translated as “divinization” or “deification.” Christians strive to be united with God, in perfect communion, partaking of the Divine nature. The Church teaches that *theosis* is a process that is normally accomplished over the course of time through the cooperative work of the believer and the Holy Spirit.

How can the feasts of the Transfiguration and the Dormition reveal a deeper understanding of the Christian struggle? Transfiguration is typically defined as “a marked change in form or appearance; a metamorphosis;” or “a change that glorifies or exalts.”

In the biblical account of Christ’s transfiguration, both of these definitions apply. To most of the world Jesus appeared to be merely a man; to His disciples on Mount Tabor, however, the truth of His divinity was revealed by a change in appearance: “*There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light*” (Matthew 17:2). This metamorphosis or change in appearance glorified Christ and revealed the truth of His person. Through the transfiguration, Christ revealed the potential of each and every soul: an existence in harmony with God, where each individual will radiate with the light of perfect love from the Creator.

The first step towards *theosis* is the realization that the kingdom of God is present in all things. When the individual understands the inherent nature of the world as good — “*Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good*” (Gen 1:31) — he or she begins the process of personal transfiguration. The Orthodox Christian must strive to find this

“goodness” everywhere, even in the most undesirable circumstances.

The next step in the movement toward *theosis* is offering all aspects of life back to God in thanksgiving. When God’s creation is perceived as inherently good, the only proper response is to give thanks, praise and worship to God. From this perspective, human existence itself can be understood as “Eucharistic” (i.e. for the purpose of giving thanks to God).

Along with prayers of thanksgiving, the Christian, as instructed by Christ, is to pray that the will of God be done — “*Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done.*” Discerning and following the will of God is the cooperative work required for the believer to realize his or her true potential, *theosis*.

The Dormition of the Theotokos is the celebration of the bodily translation of the mother of God into Heaven. Orthodox Tradition teaches us that after she was buried for three days, while Christ’s apostles were eating together, the Theotokos appeared in the air. She told them to “rejoice” and from this, they learned of her physical translation into Heaven.

Thus the Dormition reveals the accomplishment of the cooperative work of *theosis*. The Theotokos is the perfect example of a person completely submitting to the will of God. By reading the Gospel accounts, learning the Orthodox traditions, and listening to the hymns concerning the holy Mother, the Orthodox Christian may gain a clear picture of what to emulate.

With these two great feasts the Church shows that Christ’s Kingdom is available here and now. By finding the inherent goodness of life and offering it back to God in thanksgiving, the Christian will make great strides towards his or her own transfiguration.



## Odyssey

by George Lafkas

The Odyssey Greek Language Program is looking forward to an active 2008-09 school year. Registration packages have been mailed out to former students and potential new students. Again this year Odyssey Program will offer Greek classes for a variety of skill levels and age groups.

We plan on providing introductory classes for young children, high school age and adults. Intermediate classes will also be offered to these age groups along with our popular adult Greek conversation class. If you are interested in learning Greek or just improving your Greek language skills, the Odyssey Program will try to provide a learning setting for you.

Remember, if more than one family member registers for Odyssey classes the additional members receive a discounted registration fee. This year the Philoptochos and Wolverine Chapter of the AHEPA will make up to eight half tuition scholarships available to Holy Trinity members who are of pre-school to high school age. (Contact, George Lafkas for more information.)

If you did not receive a registration package, contact the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church office at 517/482-7341.

### Upcoming Odyssey events:

- ✿ September 5 - First day of class and parent meeting with Odyssey Board
- ✿ September 7 - After church in social room - still time to learn more about Odyssey and register for 2008-09 school year.

## Condolences

to Georgana Popoff and family on the passing of her mother, Mrs. Frances Kontos. May her memory be eternal!

to Jeanette Koukios and family on the passing of her brother Michael Johnson in Sydney, OH. May his memory be eternal!

## Congratulations to Hiram Fitzgerald

*submitted by George Mansour*

Hiram Fitzgerald, a member of Holy Trinity for more than a quarter of a century, was recently awarded the highest honor available from a major international, professional organization.

The World Association for Infant Mental Health bestowed on Dr. Fitzgerald the prestigious distinction of "Honorary President" at its 11<sup>th</sup> biennial World Congress which was held at the beginning of August in Yokohama, Japan.

The World Association for Infant Mental Health (WAIMH) is a non-profit organization for scientific and educational professionals. Its central aim is to promote the mental wellbeing and healthy development of infants throughout the world, taking into account cultural, regional, and environmental variations, and to generate and disseminate scientific knowledge.

WAIMH, with a membership of over 2000 professionals, has affiliate associations in more than 20 nations on 5 continents: Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, and South America.

*Dr. Fitzgerald has held the position of Executive Director of WAIMH for a number of years. He is currently University Distinguished Professor of Psychology and Associate Provost, University Outreach and Engagement at Michigan State University.*

***Congratulations, Hi; we're proud of you!***

# Pastoral Reflection: No Greater Joy

Fr. Mark Sietsema

“Who is the happiest of all men?”

This is the question that rich King Croesus put to the wise man Solon. Croesus expected to hear his own name in reply. But Solon didn't oblige ... and Croesus was furious! Then sagacious Solon declared that you cannot judge the happiness of a person's life until you see it through to the end. To back up his opinion, Solon told a story.

Cleobis and Bito were two brothers of the land of Argus. Their mother Cydippe was a religious woman. On a special holiday she wished to go to the temple for services. The oxen to draw her vehicle, though, were nowhere to be found. In order that their mother not be delayed, the two sons put themselves under the yoke and pulled her cart as fast as they could for the five miles to the temple. Delighted to have two such good boys, Cydippe went in and prayed that the divinity bestow on them whatever might be the best blessing that mortal men can attain. With this petition, she offered her sacrifice and joined the festal banquet. Afterwards, she found that the two youths had fallen asleep in the temple ... never to wake again.

And so her prayer was answered. Her sons had died in the state of supreme blessedness. Having shown honor to the gods and love for their mother with the last ounce of their being, they had fulfilled the deepest desire of their noble hearts. These, Solon declared, were to be reckoned among the happiest of all men. (And the fact that Croesus lost his composure over this answer only proves how fragile a money-based happiness is!)

Whose biography tells the tale of a happy life? One cannot say until the ink is dry on the final page. For my father, John H. Sietsema, the last line was written on December 4, 2007. Since that time I have thought a great deal about my Dad and his life—the ups and downs, his strengths and struggles, his triumphs and weaknesses. What follows here cannot be the whole story, of course—

just enough to make some points that might be helpful to our church in the present time.

In the eyes of the world, my father is likely to be counted as one of the “little people.” Certainly he was no Croesus! If you added up all the paychecks he earned in his eighty-four years, I don't think they would come to a million dollars. Neither was Dad a war hero: much as he would have liked to serve in World War II, the armed forces passed him over. Dad never made a splash in the academic world; he passed on a doctoral program opportunity to take care of his young family. He never pitched a no-hitter or bowled a perfect game. He was never interviewed on TV. And yet my father achieved something which I could not appreciate until recently. It is a feat that may have been commonplace in earlier times, but in the most recent generations is vanishingly rare.

My father and mother had four children. Together they raised all four to be consistent, faithful, regular church members who attend weekly and participate actively.

That's it. Maybe it doesn't sound like much, but I can name only a few of his generation or since who have achieved that ... and I know a lot of families in a lot of churches! Truthfully, I can hardly think of even a clergyman who managed this feat. Can you? All the children? Regular in attendance, week after week? Not just present but involved? Through the college years, too? Married to churchgoers and raising their kids in the church?

I'm not saying that he was a perfect father or that ours is a perfect family. But amidst the problems and frictions, something went right. *Something worked.* And that something, I submit, was my father and the example he set.

Am I selling my Mom short? Not at all. She was equally a part of our spiritual upbringing: without her deep commitment to Christ my siblings and I would not have benefited from our spiritual heritage as we did. But as I analyze the present-day issue of slipping church attendance, I do not see the problem as a lack of faithful mothers. We have a lot of them, and they keep our church programs up and running, especially

Sunday School and Philoptochos. For raising faithful churchgoing children, a faithful mother is a *necessary* factor—necessary, but not by herself *sufficient*.

What I witness is that it falls to the father of the family to drive home the importance of church. This is not to say that there are no exceptions to this observation, because there are: there is no foolproof formula for raising children. But in the main, I see that the religious habits of the father have an extraordinary influence on the children, both for good and for ill. (An article in the August 9, 2008 *Lansing State Journal* confirmed this hunch with statistical evidence.)\*

And so I have searched my memory banks to determine exactly what it was about my Dad that made his children serious about church. I came up with four thoughts.

**1. Dad liked church and he let it show.** We went every Sunday. Period. There was never a question about whether or not we would be going ... we went! Church was a non-negotiable part of family life ... even in the summer! Not only so, Dad took us *with pleasure*. He liked singing the hymns (a little too loudly, we kids thought), he paid close attention to the sermons, he read church publications avidly. And we were *always* on time for the start of the service. (Oh, how he hated to be late for church, even by one minute!) He could have gone fishing or been earning extra bucks at a second job. But for Dad, Sunday was for something better.

There's no other way to say it: Dad was *enthusiastic* about church. Nothing else in life came close. (Well, maybe Michigan football ...) And that enthusiasm rubbed off. Not immediately, and not without some adolescent resistance on our part occasionally (i.e., every Sunday), but that didn't dim his passion for church. He was never one to talk about a "personal relationship with Jesus Christ," but he loved God and he let it show through his actions. For my father, church was about *salvation*. Church was not first of all for socializing, but for seeking God in worship.

**2. Dad prayed and we heard it.** Nothing elaborate. Prayers before and after meals. Thank

you for the food and bless our family and those in need. That's about it.

In a lot of Western Michigan families, there is a habit of after-meal reading: a chapter of Scripture or a page from a devotional book. We didn't do that, and whenever we visited other families who did, I always wondered if maybe we were a bit ... well, *lax*. But a little family prayer goes a long way. I have come to appreciate that the difference between a little family prayer and none at all is a very great difference indeed. How sad for a child never to have the assurance of hearing his father pray for him!

**3. Dad knew his faith and applied it to daily life.** Growing up in the 60s and 70s, there were always a lot of social issues to discuss at family gatherings. Is it right to dodge the draft? Is Jimmy Hoffa good or bad? Is Nixon a statesman or a crook?

Dad most definitely had opinions on these things. He was a unique blend of Calvinist conservative and Roosevelt Democrat. Very often he was the lone voice for his point of view, both in Sietsema family political "discussions" and faculty-lounge conversations. Dad was never afraid to stand alone. What he dreaded, though, was having an opinion that wasn't based on God's Word. He knew the Bible and he often had in mind a verse in support of his position. So in the course of hearing about a wrong-headed editorial in the *Grand Rapids Press*, we kids learned something about the Gospel too. I cannot claim that Dad always had the right take on, say, Saint Paul's understanding of civil disobedience. But the point is that he made an effort to know what the Christian teaching was and to apply it to life, and he explained his way of thinking to his children. Being a spiritual ignoramus was not an option for him ... or for *us*.

**4. Dad gave his children the greatest gift a father can.** He loved our mother. Our family wasn't always the Cleavers, but we were never the Clintons! In our home there was no hitting, no drunkenness, no belittling, no cheating—none of those things that in the eyes a child might disqualify a man's religion as an exercise in hypocrisy. Why should any child accept a faith of a father who doesn't love his or her mother?

\* \* \*

As I conclude these thoughts, my mind turns to the words of John the Elder in 3 John 4: “*No greater joy can I have than this, to hear that my children walk in the truth.*” I can safely say that this was also the deepest desire of my father John. Nothing was more important to him than that his children and grandchildren be knowledgeable, faithful, church-going Christians. And to the extent that he could do something to make that happen, he did it. Like Cleobis and Biton, he didn’t set out to accomplish something rare or remarkable or heroic: he just did what needed doing. Who is the happiest of all men? Now that the end of the story has been written, I have a new candidate for Croesus to consider.

Our Archdiocese has spilled a lot of ink recently on the subject of keeping people in the church. There is a plethora of proposals for programs and initiatives and new tricks to try. But maybe, just maybe, the place to look for a change is not in what can be done differently by the fathers with the collars, but by the fathers in the pews.

What would be your greatest joy? Surely, dear Christian man, it would be to have your children walk in the truth of God! Wealth, status, athletic prowess—all are so fleeting and so often curses more than blessings. But a heart on fire for God: *that* is an imperishable inheritance. Is this not what you want to lay up for your children? Here’s how to pursue it:

- ✿ Attend church gladly;
- ✿ Say your prayers daily;
- ✿ Know and live the Gospel mindfully;
- ✿ Love your wife faithfully.

This was my father’s formula for achieving his greatest joy. *And I have yet to find the father who followed a different formula and achieved the same results.* While it is simple, it is certainly not easy. It is a formula that requires a lifetime of small, unheralded heroic acts of self-denial. My father didn’t look to anyone else to do his work for him of raising his children to be Christians.

Indeed, there is nothing that the Church can do—*nothing!*—in three or four hours a week that

will cancel out the effects of parental example for the other six days and a half. Not even if the priest starts doing cartwheels down the center aisle with his vestments on fire, leading a troupe of trained monkeys dancing the macarena, will the next generation be inspired over the long haul both to come to church and make it an inextricable part of their lives. The flashiest, glitziest church-renewal program cannot compete in the long run with the power of a humble family man who comes to church for what church is about: repentance, forgiveness, love, worship, ... *salvation.*

Sure, my Dad’s formula was a tad old-fashioned. But I cannot say that the current generation of our Archdiocese has yet to give it a fair try. And it’s never too late to start. My brother, would you like a shot at getting on Solon’s Happiest Man list? Then I’ll see you in church this Sunday!

\*See also the statistics in “The Truth About Men and Church” by Robbie Low by searching in <http://www.touchstonemag.com/archives/>.

## Sunday School News

by Nonie Vsetula

### Welcome back students and Teachers!

Sunday School registration and classes will begin on September 7<sup>th</sup>. Pre-K, Kindergarteners and 1<sup>st</sup> graders should go to their classes directly following the Gospel reading. The older students should remain in the sanctuary with your parents until after communion, and then proceed to class as has been the custom on years past.

Parents, I implore you to make sure your students attend Sunday school regularly as with learning anything new, consistency is important. Our teachers have planned lessons that build on one another and the greatest benefit will be derived by continued weekly participation in classes.

I look forward to a fantastic year filled with fun, learning and spiritual growth.

## Announcements

### ***Calling All Altar Boys!***

Calling All Altar Boys! Please contact Fr. Mark if your young man would like to serve in the altar this year. Altar teams will be formed soon. In addition, there will be an altar server seminar on September 14 after the Divine Liturgy. This 45-minute session will be orientation for the young men about altar duty. Please RSVP for your young men for this session so that we might know how much food to plan for the lunch to be provided.

### ***Got Basil?***

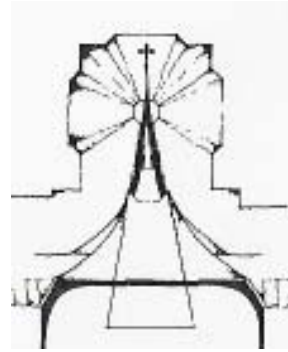
Please contact Fr. Mark if you have some basil in your garden that you would be willing to donate for the Cross-Exaltation service on September 14. Because the service falls on a Sunday this year, extra vasiliko is needed. Your contribution will be much appreciated!

### ***Please Note***

The Narthex Attendant program is being discontinued for the time being. Young women should please sit with their families for the liturgy and attend their Sunday School classes at the appropriate time.

### ***Orthodox Literacy***

What do you need to know to be a literate Orthodox Christian? Fr. Mark's adult religious education class this fall will be an exploration of some readings outside of the Bible that are important for Orthodox Christians who desire to understand their Church more fully. Please contact Fr. Mark by email if you wish to participate in order that sufficient materials can be reproduced for each session. Start date will be announced in September.



"WHO WILL YOU BRING TO CHURCH?"

**WHAT:** Family Outreach Sunday

**WHEN:** Sunday, September 7, 2008

**WHERE:** Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

**WHY:** A celebration of parish life here at Holy Trinity to welcome active parish members and those who have been inactive, for a day of Christian Fellowship and Spiritual Renewal. All parish organizations will showcase their activities.

**WHO:** All members of Holy Trinity. You are asked to bring a family member or friend who has fallen away from attending services or someone who has been thinking of attending, but may just need a contact or "invitation" to attend. Can't think of whom to ask? No problem, come and visit with old friends or make new ones.

***A light luncheon will be served.  
Sponsored by the Parish Council with  
the support of all our parish  
organizations***

Please join us for the  
**Holy Trinity**  
**40 Year Celebration of Our**  
**Church Building**



*A wonderful evening of delicious food,  
live music featuring 7 piece Greek Band & dancing*

**Saturday, October 11, 2008**  
**Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church**

*Doors open at 6:30 pm*

*Dinner served at 7:00 pm*

*With Dessert Buffet*

*Raffle on door prizes*

*Tickets \$50.00*

*\$30.00 for 18 and under*



*Contact Church Office or Board Members to purchase your tickets*



Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church  
 1701 East Saginaw Street  
 Lansing Michigan 48912  
 Office: 482-7341 Fax: 482-8524

8:45 am ORTHROS SERVICE  
 10:00 am DIVINE LITURGY  
 Fellowship Coffee following Liturgy

# September 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>
	AHEPA Picnic, 12 Noon Patriarche Park, E.Lansing <b>LABOR DAY</b> Church Office closed	Philoptochos General Meeting, 7pm	Sunday School Teachers Meeting, 7pm		Odyssey Registration Classes begin, 4:30-6pm	
<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>
Sunday School Registration & Classes begin Family Outreach Sunday- Fair and Luncheon	<b>Nativity of the Theotokos, Liturgy 10am</b> Parish Council Meeting,7pm				Odyssey Classes, 4:30- 6pm	
<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>
<b>Exaltation of the Holy Cross</b> Philoptochos hosts coffee Altar Servers Seminar		OPA Gathering, 1-3pm		MARSP Luncheon, 11- 2pm	Odyssey Classes, 4:30- 6pm Wedding Rehearsal	Simmons/Davis Wedding & Reception
<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
<b>STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY</b> OCF hosts coffee—College Student Sunday	Lampighter Deadline					
<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>			Odyssey Classes, 4:30- 6pm	Binioris Baptism, 1pm
GOYA hosts coffee						

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 Fellowship Coffee following Liturgy

# October 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<b>GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING</b> Philoptochos hosts coffee	Philoptochos General Meeting & Welcome Tea, 7pm			Sunday School Teachers Meeting, 6pm	Odyssey Classes, 4:30-6pm Wedding Rehearsal	Worthington/Montgomery Wedding & Reception
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Church Music Sunday AHEPA hosts coffee	Parish Council Meeting, 7pm			MARSP Luncheon, 11-2pm	Odyssey Classes, 4:30-6pm	<b>Dinner Dance &amp; 40th Anniversary of current building</b>
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Sunday School hosts coffee College Student Welcome Dinner, 6pm	Lampighter Deadline	OPA Gathering, 1-3pm		St. Iakovos (James)	Baklava Prep Day, 2pm Odyssey Classes, 4:30-6pm Halloween Potluck & Party, 6pm	<b>FALL CLEANUP DAY</b> 10am Odyssey Rehearsal 12noon Baklava Baking Day, 9-5
26	27	28	29	30	31	
OXI Day Presentation Odyssey hosts coffee St. Demetrios					Odyssey Classes, 4:30-6pm Halloween	