

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)

Philoptochos sponsors this issue of the Lamplighter and dedicates it to all of our members who so diligently work throughout the year in love and support of our parish and community. Strength and health to all!

November 2010

Pastoral Reflection: **I Must Decrease!**

Don't be put off by the title. This is not an article about weight-loss resolutions. (That would be a cruel thing to publish just before Thanksgiving!)

I am thinking instead of the words of Saint John the Baptist with regard to Jesus Christ (John 3:30): *"He must increase, but I must decrease."* John's point was simple: he himself was the warm-up act. Now the main attraction was on stage, and that was his cue to step aside.

Jesus Christ must increase: it was time for His ministry to grow and gather followers and garner strength. John must decrease: the mission of the Forerunner had been fulfilled. He had played his part in God's plan and prepared the way. His joy was *full* (John 3:29) at hearing the voice of the One who was to replace him. But now it was time for his ministry to diminish, for his disciples to join Jesus, and for his audiences to shift from the banks of the Jordan to the Teacher giving sermons on the mount.

I must decrease. These are words of tremendous faith. It takes a believer's heart to "let go and let God" be in charge of His Church, to trust that the future is in His hands, and to relinquish the control that we humans find so addictive.

I must decrease. These are words of tremendous humility. It takes a selfless soul to admit to one's limitations and to accept the loss of the limelight that the ego so eagerly craves.

I must decrease. These are words of tremendous strength and wisdom. It takes a truly mighty man to step aside gracefully and to master his inevitable feelings of rejection. It takes a truly wise man to realize that for everything—and *everyone*—there is a season, and that one's own seasons come and go; but also to realize that, with every decrease in one arena of life, there is an increase in another, one with the potential to be equally rewarding, equally glorifying to God.

I RECENTLY REVIEWED some new materials from the Archdiocese on parish administration and organization. There was a new emphasis in these materials on the topics of volunteer *mentoring* and *succession*. The key concept was this: one of the duties of any parish volunteer is to help prepare the next generation of leadership—and then to step aside when willing workers come forward to offer their service.

Continued inside...

Parish Council

by Elaine Christofilis

- ◆ The first phase of the Capital Campaign is underway. The interviews have taken place. We thank Jerry Minetos and Laura Paulus from the Office of Parish Development, for coming out and conducting the interviews. More details on the results from the interviews and the next steps of this process will be coming soon.
- ◆ The Council elected Nick Gavrilides to complete the remaining two years of George Lafkas' term. Please offer your congratulations and thanks to Nick for his service. We pray also for George's continued recovery to full health.



Stewardship

- ◆ To date we have 251 stewardship units who have pledged \$251,972.00 for 2010. We are in the last quarter of the year; if you have not submitted your pledge form yet, forms are still available. Pick yours up today!
- ◆ We encourage those who are interested in direct payment to sign up today! This is a convenient way to submit your stewardship. Forms are available in the church office.

Philoptochos

by Francis Katsiris

The Annual Philoptochos Bake Sale & Luncheon is fast approaching! First of all we want to thank everyone who helped with the pastry baking as we prepare for our annual bake sale. All the pastries are ready and we will be working the weekend of October 30th & 31st to bake the spinach & cheese pies. Please see Glykeria Christofilis if you would like to help. Stella Economy is in charge of manpower the day of the bake sale, so please let her know if you are available on **November 4th** to help. Please see Olga Pascalenos or Glykeria Christofilis for helping out on Monday and Tuesday when will set up and preparing for the sale. Rhea Arvanitis is chair of preorders. Our Annual Bake Sale and Gift Shop is anticipated yearly by the Lansing community.

There will be no general Philoptochos meeting in November, but our November 29th board meeting will be open to all members as the main topic of discussion will be the bake sale.

Look for a monthly sewing get-together announcement coming in the coming year. A schedule will be posted with hopes that this will be as popular as our knitting group. Our knitters have made many articles for our Gift Shop this year and even more have been donated to those in need.

Please see our flyer inviting our community to the Annual Philoptochos Christmas Party. This is a long standing tradition to break bread together for the holidays. Philoptochos will supply the main dish, and guests are asked to bring a dish to pass. Please join us on December 6th. Have a Great Thanksgiving and Καλα Χριστουγεννα!

Call For Sponsors

Sponsoring an issue of the *Lamplighter* is a wonderful gift to your loved ones and to the parish. Your issue can be dedicated as a commemoration of the departed or as a prayer for the health of the living.

Sponsors are needed for the following issues:

February, March, April 2011.

Call the Church Office for more information.

Odyssey

by Zana Litos

There is still time to get enrolled! Odyssey encourages young and adult members of our parish to come and learn Greek language/culture with pleasant textbooks, in an enjoyable environment from teachers who are fluent in Greek.

Students are placed according to their level of proficiency. Classes are made of small groups and lessons are tailored to individual needs.

During class students are trained to read, write, comprehend and speak the daily language. A variety of instructional methodologies are used in class, as well as extra material provided for those interested applying their Greek at home.

The teachers, Elitsa Nicolaou and Maria Frangos have an extensive experience on teaching Greek as second/foreign languages to young children. They work very closely with the parents in order to make the learning process fun and enjoyable.

Young children have the opportunity to spend two hours on Friday afternoon in a safe and educational program while they are exposed to religious and cultural activities as well.

Upcoming event: Loukoumathes Coffee Hour, Sunday November 21st.

Sunday School

by Nonie Vsetula

The school year is in full swing and while we are still enjoying warm fall days filled with sunshine, my thoughts have turned to Advent and our Christmas program. Soon we will begin working on the Christmas program. I would encourage anyone, parent or not, who would have an interest in helping out to contact me.

Advent is sometimes overshadowed by all of the commercial hype that is so prevalent in our society today. I encourage each of you to take time to really prepare with your family for the Holy Day of the Blessed Nativity of our Lord God and Savior.

Just something I wanted to share... when our children were younger, we worked to teach them the importance of Advent and how we must prepare to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ. We made an Orthodox style Advent Wreath and to use the services that can be found in the book "Making God Real in the Orthodox Christian Home" By Fr. Anthony Coniaris. This was and still is something we all look forward to doing as a family. This book is available online and contains many other ideas that can be used to help families grow strong in Christ.

Reminder: There will be no classes the week of Thanksgiving. I pray that everyone will enjoy this holiday and take time to reflect on the wondrous blessings that the Lord has bestowed on us.

I am pleased to support the work of Metropolitan Nicholas and the Metropolis through the Annual Metropolis Stewardship "Friends" Program

\$25
 \$50
 \$100
 \$250
 \$500
 \$1000
 Other

Name _____ Parish Affiliation: _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Check Enclosed (payable to Friends of the Metropolis of Detroit)

Please Charge My Credit Card
 Visa
 MasterCard

Account # _____ Exp. _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Send this card in an envelope to:
The Metropolis of Detroit
 2560 Crooks Road, Troy, MI 48064

Pastoral reflection, continued

No one is indispensable. On the contrary, *we have a duty to make ourselves dispensable*—by sharing our personal know-how freely, and by giving others their chance to lead once we have had our turn. A widely shared “organizational memory” ensures smooth transition of leadership in all of the parish functions. Who knows? You or I could step in front of a bus any day. As your priest, I certainly anticipate that possibility, and I try to keep the altar and the office prepared to function well in case of my unexpected absence. One of the nicest compliments I ever received was a couple years back, when my Parish Council President recognized my propensity for planning ahead and said, “Father Mark, you always take such good care of us!” Well, that’s what fathers do, isn’t it?

And that’s what all good servants of the Church do—they *decrease* when the time comes for others to increase. Responsible decreasing is like responsible weight-loss: it is done purposefully and methodically.

Responsible deacers don’t handpick their successors and then play puppet-master from the sidelines. They offer encouragement but not interference. Responsible deacers don’t sit back idly and throw stones of criticism. They help when asked, they accept the demotion from queen bee to worker, and they graciously support the newbies with praise and advice.

Responsible deacers, above all, don’t just “take their ball and go home.” *Decreasing* does not mean *disappearing!* When things don’t go their way, when choices are made they can’t support, responsible people don’t boycott, don’t leave the organization in the lurch.

There is also a need for responsible *increasers*. These are people who step forward gladly when their turn comes up to take the lead. They don’t wait to be courted or cajoled; they answer the call because they love their God and their Church. They don’t get discouraged at a little sniping or pessimism from the old guard. They have the humility to listen to advice and the dedication to follow through on their commitments.

As one who has been active in meetings at the diocesan and archdiocesan levels, I have noticed something over the past thirteen years: ours is a “gray” Church. I keep seeing the same faces in lay leadership positions, looking older year by year. In five years, though, almost all of these septuagenarians and octogenarians will be unable to remain in power. The result will be a leadership crisis, as their seats must be filled with people who have no on-the-ground experience. Why? Did they lack faith in the next generation that they couldn’t step aside and let younger hands hold the reins? A no-confidence vote in the youth is a no-confidence vote in the elders, who should have been fostering new talent all along.

BY CONTRAST, recently our parish held a new fundraiser, the Gyro Drive-Thru Dinner. This event was organized primarily by our younger generation here at Holy Trinity. It was a smashing success by every measure, spiritual and fiscal. The success was a coup for our younger parishioners ... and a credit to our older generation, who were their mentors and examples. It was a beautiful example of responsible decreasing and increasing, for the benefit of the Church and the glory of God.

The demographics of our parish demand that the various parish torches be passed sooner rather than later. But ... someone has to show up to receive the torch! It is my most fervent hope that our younger generation of parishioners will step up more and more and accept the reins of leadership. Their parents and grandparents were wonderful role models in terms of balancing the demands of family life and the needs of the community; we are deeply grateful to them for their service and their example.

“I must decrease!” For his faith, humility, strength, and wisdom, John the Baptist received from Christ the highest compliment imaginable (Luke 7:28a): “*I tell you, among those born of women, none is greater than John.*” They share in this greatness who decrease and increase as he did, at the right time, out of love for the Lord.

By the intercessions of the Holy Forerunner and Prophet John the Baptist, may we all, as church volunteers and co-workers in the Kingdom, be enlightened to know when to serve and when to step aside, so that Christ may always increase among us!

Triple Thanksgiving

- ◆ On November 7, in honor of Veteran's Day coming up, a special prayer will be offered for the men and women of our parish who have served in the Armed Forces. All veterans are asked to attend on this day and receive the **Blessing of the Veterans**. We are thankful for you and the freedom God provided us through your service.
- ◆ Of all in life that we are thankful for, it is the people around us, and especially the children in our lives, that inspire the greatest gratitude. Express your thanksgiving this year by making a point of bringing your godchild to communion on **Godparent Sunday**, November 14. On this day we honor the special relationship of godparents and godchildren.
- ◆ Fr. Mark and Presvytera Kathy and family want to express our gratitude to God for this beautiful community, and we wish all of our parishioners a Blessed Thanksgiving and a Happy Holiday season opening. *Kai Tou Chronou!*

Platsis Symposium

On Sunday, November 7, 2010, at 2pm, the Arthur and Mary (Seridakis) Endowment for the Greek legacy and Department Classical Studies of the University of Michigan will present the 9th annual symposium titled, **"Why Teach Thucydides?"**

The symposium will address ways in which Thucydides matters in liberal arts education today. It will feature two distinguished scholars of Thucydides who have also played significant public roles: W. Robert Connor, who besides his scholarly work on Thucydides and other Greek historians has been director of the National Humanities Center and president of the Teagle Foundation, and Clifford Orwin, Professor of Political Philosophy at the University of Toronto, who has written *The Humanity of Thucydides* and is a regular contributor to Canada's national newspaper, *The Globe and Mail*.

Notices

Congratulations

To Nick and Dana Gavrillides and sister Ava and brother Gus on the baptism of John Gregory at the church on October 24. *Na sas zisei!*

Condolences

To Nick and Anna Georgiou and family on the passing of Nick's brother Evan in Flint. *Aionia aftou e mneme!*

To Carol Jones and family on the passing of her father Bill Allen. *May his memory be eternal!*

Announcements

Last Chance! A number of icons have been left in the altar for blessing: the Annunciation, Christ the Bridegroom, St. Nicholas with metal covering, St. John the Baptist with life cycle, and St. Barnabas. The owners did not write their name on the back. If one of these is your icon, please claim it immediately ... *or a new, loving home will be found for it!*

At the October 3 General Assembly, we discussed the Capital Campaign. A parishioner asked what the cost of the consultants would be. The answer is that Holy Trinity is asked to cover travel costs up to \$1000 and then also to make a donation of \$5000/month of service rendered. In our case, this is a two-month commitment for a total donation of \$10,000. The consultants' fees include: interviews with parishioners, analysis of data, identifying and educating campaign leaders and major donors, and making specific recommendations to the community on how to mount an effective campaign.

Symposium Information

This event is free and open to the public.

Location: Rackham Auditorium, 915 East Washington (Central Campus) Ann Arbor.

For more information call 734-764-0360 or lsa.umich.edu/classics

Treasurer's Report

by George Mansour

September, the ninth month of this year, represents the completion of 75% of 2010. This fact is important as one considers this month's Treasurer's Report which is based on the financial statement for the end of September.

Revenue.

a. Stewardship: At the end of 75% of the current year, precisely 75% of the budgeted receipts for stewardship have been received. This datum is testimony to the community's continued practice of making their offerings on a regular basis.

b. Total Revenue: This line includes all the parish's receipts which come from stewardship, candle offerings, collection tray, fundraisers, hall rental and other miscellaneous sources of income. At the end of 75% of the current year, 80% of the amount budgeted for total revenue has been received. The successful fundraisers have helped the parish surpass the projection.

Disbursements.

The care exercised by the Parish Council in managing the parish's funds is apparent in the expense lines of the financial statement. The total disbursements through September 2010 equal 76% of the amount budgeted for the year. This is especially significant in a year when goods and services have increased in price.

Overall, the parish is right on track. The most recent detailed financial account can be seen in the September 30, 2010, statement which is displayed on the church's bulletin board and published on another page in this issue of The Lamplighter.

OPPORTUNITY!

**HERE'S AN OPPORTUNITY FOR
PARISHIONERS WHO WERE UNABLE
TO HELP AT THE PARISH'S FUNDRAISERS
THIS YEAR.**

**SOME COULD NOT PARTICIPATE FOR VARIOUS
LEGITIMATE REASONS.**

**THE PARISH COUNCIL HAS CREATED AN
OPPORTUNITY ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE
WHO COULD NOT HELP:**

A "NO-WORK FUNDRAISER!"

**THE RULES ARE SIMPLE:
MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION.**

ON YOUR CHECK INDICATE:

NO-WORK FUNDRAISER.

**"NO-WORK" DONATIONS WILL BE RECEIVED
DURING NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER.**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP WITH
THE PARISH'S 2010 FUNDRAISING
EFFORTS.**

Holy Trinity Operations
Revenues Disbursements
Budget vs. Actual
September 30, 2010

		YTD	2010	
	Sept. 30, 2010	Jan - Dec. 10	Budget	
Revenues				
Stewardship Donations	22,041.00	205,832.99	272,875.00	75%
Hall Rental	775.00	2,525.00	2,000.00	
Lampighter Income	400.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	
Loose Offering				
Candles	916.65	9,661.30	11,000.00	
Cash from Collection Tray	351.00	4,631.56	6,000.00	
Total Loose Offering	1,267.65	14,292.86	17,000.00	
Second Tray				
Haiti Relief Fund	0.00	1,316.50	1,200.00	
Chile	0.00	483.00	0.00	
Nashville Flood	0.00	207.00	0.00	
Holy Cross Seminary	647.00	647.00	0.00	
Other	0.00	55.00	0.00	
Parishioner Support	0.00	300.00	2,500.00	
Philoptochos	0.00	500.75	3,000.00	
Fundraising Events				
Taste of Greece	0.00	15,039.40	20,000.00	
Gyro	13,216.00	13,216.00	0.00	
Work Free	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	
Total Fundraising Events	13,216.00	28,255.40	25,000.00	
Agape Dinner	0.00	1,493.00	1,500.00	
Other Donations (Prosfora, Rewards, etc.)	215.90	1,228.06	3,000.00	
Baptism & Wedding Custodial Fee	100.00	340.00	0.00	
Interest Income - Endowment Fund	0.00	13.25	350.00	
Odyssey	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Other Miscellaneous Income	6,075.00	6,075.00	0.00	
Total Revenues	44,737.55	264,557.81	329,625.00	80%
Disbursements				
Personnel	14,297.68	122,648.93	161,668.00	
Local Priest Benefits	0.00	624.00	525.00	
Edicat. & Liturgical Programs	193.63	3,067.26	8,200.00	
Archdiocese Disbursements	3,492.17	31,429.53	44,200.00	
PC Donations	250.00	2,250.00	2,250.00	
Oratorical Festival	0.00	412.00	50.00	
Local Charity	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Second Tray, Chile, Haiti, Holy Cross	647.00	2,446.50	1,200.00	
Operations Cost	13,654.52	86,440.49	110,532.00	78%
Total Disbursements	32,285.00	250,318.71	329,625.00	76%
Net Revenue	12,452.55	14,239.10	0.00	



Merry Christmas

Please accept this Parish invitation to:

The Ladies Philoptochos
Society

Annual Christmas Party

Monday December 6, 2010

Social Hour 6:00 PM

Dinner 6:30 PM

Philoptochos will furnish the Main Dish
Place settings will be provided

Please bring a side dish to pass

Everyone is welcome!

Donations will be collected
for:

The Salvation Army

Have you handed in your 2010 Stewardship Pledge???

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
Lansing, MI 48912

2010 STEWARDSHIP

We invite you to become a Steward and Member of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Lansing, Michigan. We ask you to please:

- Provide the information requested on this sheet about you and your family
- Write in the amount of your 2010 Stewardship Pledge at the bottom
- Sign the form
- Return it to the Parish office

Family Name: _____

Your Name: _____ Your Date of Birth: _____

Spouse's Name: _____ Spouse's Date of Birth: _____

Orthodox - You? _____

Orthodox - Spouse? _____

Children under 21 years of age:

Address: _____ Child #1: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____ Date of Birth: _____

Child #2: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Telephone #1: _____

Child #3: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Telephone #2: _____

Child #4: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Email Address: _____

2010 Stewardship Pledge: \$ _____

By signing this pledge form, you affirm your wish to be a member of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 1701 E. Saginaw Street, Lansing, MI, for the calendar year 2010.

Signature: _____

Signature: _____

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
 1701 East Saginaw Street
 Lansing MI 48912
 Office: 517-482-7341 Fax: 517-482-8524

November 2010

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Blessing for Veterans ELECTION DAY—Parish Council AHEPA hosts coffee Platis Symposium, 2-5pm Ann Arbor <small>DATE: 11/07/2010 12:00:00 PM</small>	8 Parish Council Meeting, 7pm	9	10	11 Bake Sale, & Luncheon 10-4pm	12 Odyssey Classes, 4:30-6:30pm	13
14 Godparent Sunday OCF hosts coffee Christmastion of Adam Zeidan	15	16	17	18 VETERANS DAY	19 Odyssey Classes, 6:30pm	20
21 Odyssey hosts coffee with koukoumatthes Baptism of Samuel Howell, 12:30pm	22 Christmas Lent begins Lamp/lighter Deadline	23	24	25 THANKSGIVING DAY	26 NO Odyssey Classes	27
28 Open Coffee	29 Philoptochos Board Meeting, 7pm	30				

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December 2010

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 10:00am DIVINE LITURGY
 Fellowship coffee following Liturgy

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 Odyssey Classes, 4:30-6:30pm	4
5 St. Nicholas Nameday Brunch	6 St. Nicholas Divine Liturgy, 10am Philoptochos Christmas Potluck Party, 6pm	7	8	9	10 Odyssey Classes, 4:30-6:30pm	11
12 Philoptochos hosts coffee	13 Parish Council Meeting, 7pm	14	15	16 M.A.R.S.P. Lunch Meeting, 11-2pm	17	18
19 Parish Council hosts coffee	20 Lamplyfter Deadline	21	22	23	24 Liturgy, 10am Great Vespers, 5:30pm NATIVITY EVE	25 Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Liturgy 9am
26 Open coffee	27	28	29	30	31 Vespersal Divine Liturgy, tba New Year's Eve	