

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)

*This issue of the Lamplighter
is sponsored by Marina
Kotsifis in loving memory of
Mary Kotsifis.*

*Always on my mind;
forever in my heart.*

January 2011

Pastoral Reflection: **Dord is the Word!**

Happy New Year!

Don't you know about the word "Dord"? It first appeared in the unabridged Merriam-Webster dictionary in 1934, where it was defined as a term from physics and chemistry that meant "density." The pronunciation rhymed with "ford" and "cord." Within a few years, "Dord" started showing up in competitors' dictionaries as well.

Doesn't ring a bell? Probably because "Dord" was taken out of the very next edition of the dictionary. It turns out that "Dord" was never really a word! What happened? An editor suggested a new entry for the abbreviations section: "D or d" (i.e. capital D or small d is short for), "density." However, the spaces between "D or d" were misinterpreted, with the result that a new "word" was born—until another editor discovered the mistake and removed the word from Merriam-Webster's line of dictionaries. It took the copiers, er, competitors a little longer to catch up.

I think of "Dord" a lot. It's a shining example of a simple truth: to err is human. People make mistakes—all of us, and in everything we do. No one is infallible.

Even the dictionary has mistakes in it. I don't know why this strikes some folks as a revelation. Think about it: in a book with 200,000 entries and literally millions of words (when you add up the definitions and etymologies, etc.), even a 99.99% rate of accuracy is still going to add up to hundreds of errors. Hundreds! Some are the fault of the editor, some the fault of the typesetter, and others the fault of the source material. (Dictionary editors don't sit around thinking up words: they cull their information from written sources. But what if a seemingly authoritative written source is wrong?)

As a former dictionary editor, I remember the letters from disappointed customers—angry, scathing letters. Many of them demanded their money back; some were insulting; a few were indecently abusive. They expected 100% accuracy in their dictionary; they couldn't accept the idea that editors are human beings and therefore fallible.

Continued inside...

Parish Council

by Elaine Christofilis

*The Parish Council would like to wish everyone
a Blessed New Year!*

- ◆ A big congratulations to Sunday School and Odyssey for their Christmas Program! It brought back memories to many. It was wonderful to see the children and teachers work together to tell us the Christmas Story. Great Job!
- ◆ Information concerning the next possible steps for the Capital Campaign will be available soon. The Parish Council is still awaiting the final report from the Planning Study conducted by the Archdiocese Department of Parish Development.
- ◆ The Parish Council is always available if parishioners have concerns or questions regarding the parish. Please feel free to approach anyone of us. The 2011 Parish Council includes: Elaine Christofilis, Stella Economy, Nick Gavrilides, Yvonne Joseph, Curt Kosal, Nick Limber, George Mansour, Mark Millis, Elan Nichols, Alexis Popoff, and Dan Skorich.

Stewardship

- ◆ To date we have 73 stewardship units who have pledged \$97,000 for 2011. Please submit your stewardship pledge form as soon as possible. Forms are available at the church office.

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:

March, April, and May 2011.

Call the Church Office for more information.

Philoptochos

by Elan Stavros Nichols

Chronia Polla (Many Years)! We hope you were especially blessed this year at Christ's birth.

Upcoming important dates:

- ◆ Jan. 3 - General Meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Jan. 9 - Vasilopita.
- ◆ Jan. 16 - Philoptochos hosts the coffee hour.

Save the date:

- ◆ Feb. 26 - Zorba Family Night Dance.
- ◆ Feb. 27 - Philoptochos will host the Meatfare Sunday meal.

Remember that 2011 dues of \$25 are payable to our treasurer Angela Vlahakis.

We were able to send \$400 from our Christmas Party collection to the Salvation Army. Philoptochos matched what was collected from those who attended.

House Blessings

House blessings will be offered through January and February—there is plenty of time this year with a later start to Lent (March 7). A house blessing may be scheduled after January 6th by filling out a "House Blessing Request Form." Mail it in or leave it at the Church Office.

A time should be chosen at which all the members of the family can be present, insofar as this is possible. Also, if you are able to have the blessing during the daytime hours, please try to arrange one then, since the evening and weekend times will be in highest demand. The service takes about half an hour, although I am always glad to visit longer if there are things to talk about. Your hospitality is always appreciated, but please do not feed the priest—a glass of water is enough! You will need to provide a crystal bowl with spring water, two taper candles, an icon of Christ, and a white hand towel.

House Blessing forms may be picked up in the Lobby.

AHEPA

by Phillip Frangos

The New Year is rapidly approaching and with it AHEPA's Village Feast. This year the dinner will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 23, at the Baryames Social Hall of Holy Trinity Church. As has been the case in previous years attendees will enjoy wonderful Greek cuisine, delightful fellowship, and outstanding dancing by the Hellenic Club of Michigan State University. This year there will also be live bouzouki playing for the entertainment of all. Once again the price of the event is \$25.00 per person or \$200.00 for a table of eight. Every indication is that this year's dinner will sell out as has been the case in previous years. Don't miss out. You can make your reservations by contacting Vackis Nicolaou, Mike Alexander, Tony Fragale or Phillip Frangos. January has a lot of low temperatures. Come in out of the cold by attending the Village Feast.

Choir

by Ruthie Munk

The choir will continue to make a joyful (and, we hope, pleasant!) noise to the Lord in 2011! We continue to be on the lookout for new singers, particularly sopranos (ladies who sing the melody). Singing in the choir is such a needed service to support the worship of the church. Please prayerfully consider if you might be able to serve in this way! The choir meets before the Liturgy at 9:15 each Sunday to warm up and rehearse, and we also have rehearsals after the Liturgy a few times a month. Please contact Ruthie Munk at (517)402-2409 if you have any questions or if you're interested in singing with us!

Coffee Hour Hosts Needed

If you have a charity that is close to your heart, hosting one of the open coffee hours (January 30 and February 20) is a great way to raise some money for your favorite cause. Call the church office (482-7341) to book a date.

Treasurer's Report

by George Mansour

The financial statement for parish Operations for November 2010 is published on another page in The Lamplighter.

After 11 months – 91.7% of the year, both revenues and disbursements are very close to the budgeted amounts for 2010.

Revenues.

1. Stewardship through November of \$250,794.34 corresponds to 91.9% of the amount budgeted for 2010.
2. Total Revenues through November of \$312,961.30 equal 94.9% of the amount budgeted.
3. Budgeted Stewardship for each month equals \$22,740. In November 2010, Stewardship totaled \$22,103, a few dollars less than the monthly target.
4. Budgeted Total Revenues for each month equal \$27,469. In November 2010, Total Revenues were \$23,627, also less than the monthly target.

Disbursements.

1. Disbursements in 2010 were projected to be \$27,469 a month. In November, Total Disbursements were \$26,024.
2. The combined budget lines called Operational Costs were projected to be \$9,211 a month for 2010. In November, these costs equaled \$5,428.

Net Revenue.

1. November's bottom line shows a negative balance of -\$2,398, which results principally from Revenues not making the target figure for the month.
2. The Year-To-Date bottom line, however, is somewhat different. It shows an excess through November of \$7,186.

Pastoral reflection, continued

What do you say to this attitude? It is utterly irrational—a form of insanity, almost. And yet how quickly we all pounce on slips of tongue and lapses of judgment in other people. The “news” media are horrid about this. A couple of former presidents were regularly skewered for their verbal slip-ups. What people forget is that someone who is called on to produce as much off-the-cuff verbiage as a president inevitably is going to mix his metaphors or lose his train of thought. With a tape recording running all the time, you can make anyone seem like an idiot, if you choose to highlight his errors.

No one speaks with 100% accuracy. As a clergyman, I feel this burden keenly. I remember a priest back in Massachusetts who was dragged into announcing the raffle drawing at a coffee hour. One of the prizes was from a local salon: the priest was supposed to say that the winner received a “wash, blow-dry, and styling job.” Whether through fatigue or distraction, he promised something different when he switched “blow” and “styling” around. Some parishioners criticized him cruelly, but that wasn’t fair. *They* didn’t just get finished with three hours of Orthros, Liturgy, and communion for a parish of 600 families. Somewhere in all that, a guy’s going to slip up, and his misfortune was to flip things around in the most noticeable way, and at the most public moment. Alas, we don’t get to choose the timing of our mistakes. (For the sake of full disclosure, I must confess that a few years back I inadvertently ended the Liturgy by praying for “a perfect, holy, peaceless, and sinful day.” Yet even this has not been the greatest of my gaffes ...)

The Bible offers some reassurance in this matter: “*For we all make many mistakes, and if any one makes no mistakes in what he says he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body also*” (James 3:2). In this connection, I often also am reminded of a saying in the book of Ecclesiastes (7:21-22):

“Do not give heed to all the things that men say, lest you bear your servant cursing you; your heart knows that many times you have yourself cursed others.” Haven’t you ever criticized the boss? Haven’t you ever gossiped? Haven’t you ever made an unfortunate choice of words? Haven’t you ever spoken in haste or in ignorance?

The moral of the story (and a good New Year’s resolution) is: Cut the other guy some slack. Forgive, forget, move on! Don’t hang on to grudges about what was wrongly said or wrongly left unsaid. We all have a hundred ready excuses for our own imperfections: “I had a headache,” “I was in a hurry,” “I got distracted,” “I was having a lousy day.” Let the other gal borrow one of your excuses, at least in your own mind.

Honestly, who expects anyone to say the right thing 100% of the time?? Only someone suffering from a severe case of Dord!

Greetings from the Phanar

Very recently Callie Pappas, the daughter of George and Anne Pappas, took a business trip to Istanbul from her current hometown of Portland, Oregon. Before she left, she arranged for an audience with Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, the first hierarch of the Orthodox Church in all the world. Callie was received graciously and had almost a half-hour meeting with His All-Holiness.

I quote to you now from Callie’s email report of the conversation:

“I specifically said I brought greeting from two Holy Trinities—one in Portland and one in Lansing. ... He told me specifically to pass along his greetings and blessing to the Lansing community, and I hope you will do so.”

In return, we say, *Ta Eti Sas, Polla, Panagiotate Despota!!* “Many Years, Your All-Holiness!!”

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

		YTD	2010
	Nov. 30, 2010	Jan -Nov. 2010	Budget
REVENUES			
Stewardship Donations	22,103.30	250,794.34	272,875.00
Hall Rental	200.00	2,925.00	2,000.00
Lampighter Income	0.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
Loose Offering			
Candles	753.26	11,302.61	11,000.00
Cash from Collection Tray	298.00	5,376.37	6,000.00
Total Loose Offering	1,051.26	16,678.98	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	0.00	647.00	0.00
Other	0.00	219.00	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	172.00	13,388.00	0.00
Work Free	100.00	100.00	5,000.00
Total Fundraising Events	272.00	28,527.40	25,000.00
Agape Dinner	0.00	1,493.00	1,500.00
Other Donations (Prosfora, Rewards, etc.)	0.00	1,228.08	3,000.00
Baptism & Wedding Custodial Fee	0.00	440.00	0.00
Interest Income - Endowment Fund	0.00	13.27	350.00
Odyssey	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Miscellaneous Income	0.00	6,195.00	0.00
TOTAL REVENUES	23,626.56	312,961.30	329,625.00
DISBURSEMENTS			
PAYROLL: (Guest Clergy, Choir Director, Custodian, Odyssey, Secretary, Bookkeeper, Priest)	11093.52	136597.83	114,483.00
PAYROLL TAX EXPENSE	1,204.88	14,605.35	17,185.00
LOCAP PRIEST BENEFIT	0.00	624.00	525.00
EDUCATION & LITURGICAL PROGRAMS	0.00	3,454.42	8,200.00
NATIONAL MINISTRIES	3,017.17	33,188.87	38,500.00
ARCHDIOCESAN BENEFITS PROGRAM	475.00	5,225.00	5,700.00
PARISH COUNCIL DONATIONS:			
G.O. Archdioces	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00
Metropolis of Detroit	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Rose City Camp Donations	0.00	250.00	250.00
TOTAL PC DONATIONS	5,000.00	7,250.00	2,250.00
ORATORICAL FESTIVAL	0.00	412.00	50.00
LOCAL CHARITY	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
SECOND TRAY	0.00	2,448.50	1,200.00
OPERATIONAL COSTS	5,427.90	104,468.65	110,532.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	26,024.29	305,774.95	329,625.00
NET REVENUE	-\$2,397.73	\$7,186.35	\$0.00

Consistency in Stewardship Giving

2010 has been a good year for Holy Trinity in many ways. Looking specifically at Stewardship, one can easily see that parishioners have recognized the importance of consistent giving – making their stewardship offerings throughout the year, rather than waiting and doing it in one or two checks. Several parishioners enrolled in the automatic bank transfer of stewardship program which was begun in early 2010. They will continue in the program in 2011. Enrolling for automatic bank transfers of stewardship not only simplifies meeting one’s pledge, it benefits the parish by having stewardship offerings made regularly, even when one is away or not in attendance church services.

To become part of this program, please complete the form below and return it to the parish office.

* * * * *

**AGREEMENT FOR DIRECT STEWARDSHIP PAYMENTS TO
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church of Lansing, Michigan**

I (We) authorize HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF LANSING, MICHIGAN, (HTGOC) to initiate transfers of my stewardship from my (our) account specified below at the financial institution named below. In addition, I (We) acknowledge that the direct payment (EFT) transactions from the account must comply with the provisions of U.S. law.

I (We) further acknowledge that if a transfer fails because of Insufficient Funds, Closed Account, or Wrong Account Number, I (we) may be responsible for any fee which the financial institution may assess HTGOC.

NAME OF YOUR FINANCIAL INSTITUTION:

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____

ACCOUNT NAME: (e.g., Special Checking, Money Market Savings, etc.) _____

ACCOUNT NUMBER: _____ [] Checking [] Savings

FINANCIAL INSTITUTION ROUTING Number (This 9-digit number, which identifies your bank, appears on the bottom line of your checks:: _____

AMOUNT TO BE TRANSFERRED: _____

FREQUENCY: [] Every Month [] Each Week

IF MONTHLY, ON WHAT DAY OF THE MONTH: _____

This authorization will remain in full force and effect until HTGOC has received written notification from me (us) of its termination in such time and in such a manner as to afford HTGOC and the Originating Financial Institution a reasonable opportunity to act on it.

SIGNED: _____ **Date:** _____

SIGNED: _____ **Date:** _____

Return completed form to the Parish Office.

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

January 2011

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 NEW YEAR'S DAY Circumcision of Jesus St. Basil the Great
2	3 Philoptochos General Meeting, 7pm	4	5 Mid-Year Calendar Meeting, 10am	6 Epiphany Day-Baptism of Jesus Christ Liturgy, 10am	7 Odyssey Classes resume, Cutting of the Vasilopeta	8
9	10 Philoptochos hosts coffee & Cutting of Vasilopeta 7pm	11	12	13	14 Odyssey Classes, 4:30-6:30pm	15
16	17 Open coffee host Odyssey Pizza & Movie fundraiser, 6pm	18	19	20	21 Odyssey Classes, 4:30-6:30pm	22
23	24 OCF hosts coffee in AHEPA room AHEPA Village Feast 5 pm	25	26	27	28 Odyssey Classes, 4:30-6:30pm	29
30 Open coffee	31 Philoptochos Board Meeting, 7pm					

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

February 2011

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 Odyssey Classes, 4:30-6:30pm	5
6 Sunday School hosts coffee	7 Philoptochos General Meeting, 7pm	8	9	10	11 Odyssey Classes, 4:30-6:30pm	12
13 Choir hosts coffee Troika Begins	14 Parish Council Meeting, 7pm St. Valentine's Day	15	16	17 M.A.R.S.P. Lunch Meeting, 11-2pm St. Theodore	18 NO Odyssey Classes	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 Odyssey Classes, 4:30- 6:30pm	26 First Saturday of Souls ZORBA Family Night
27 Philoptochos hosts Comfort Food dinner Meatfare Sunday	28 Lampfighter Deadline Presidents' Day Philoptochos Board Meeting, 7pm	Interfaith Day				