

THE **LAMPLIGHTER**

JUNE 2011

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

This issue is sponsored by a parishioner with prayers for a blessed Pentecost for all and a Happy Nameday for the parish!

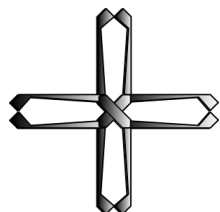
SAVE THE DATE

Thursday June 9th
Taste of Greece
4 – 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 11,
Saturday of Souls 10 am

**Holy Trinity Greek
Orthodox Church**

1701 E. Saginaw St.
Lansing, MI 48912
(517) 482-7341



Pastoral Reflection | **Totally Not Cool!!** by Fr. Mark Sietsema

It's the rule of Michigan summer: everything cool warms up eventually. The fresh morning air heats up into a muggy afternoon. The tantalizing glass of ice-cold lemonade left by the grill soon becomes a lukewarm swill of sugar-water. Ice cream melts; popsicles make puddles. Nothing cool stays that way very long.

What's true of Michigan summers is true of popular culture: everything cool becomes uncool soon enough. Remember the TV show *Miami Vice*? Back in 1984 it was the coolest thing on the tube. Now we laugh at the clothes and the hair. One of my guilty pleasures a couple years back was the VH1 series *I Love the Eighties*. It was a year-by-year homage to fads that faded: mullets and big hair, leg warmers and Members Only jackets. All those things that were once sooooo cool seem now so "lame," so "bogus," so "dorky." (This includes the slang from that era, too.)

Some things are never cool. Some things are never *in style* ... and thus those things never go *out of style*, either. The most serious things, the most important things, don't have much social cachet—good grades in school, enjoying the company of your parents, brushing and flossing. Only very rarely does the spotlight of coolness fall on those with the greatest responsibility: firefighters after 9-11, journalists after Watergate, Captain Sullenberger after the Hudson River landing. We depend on such people (more than movie stars and pop singers), but they never stay cool very long. After a while, they join the ranks of the ordinary and uncool again. Everything—and everyone—eventually goes back to being lukewarm in the affections of the hoi polloi. (continued on page 2)

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE by Elaine Christofilis

The Spring General Assembly took place on Sunday, May 15th. The Parish Council announced the following:

- At its March 2011 meeting, the Parish Council decided to continue the Capital Campaign without the assistance and services of the Office of Parish Development. This decision was made after in-depth discussion of the benefits and drawbacks of continuing to use the service of this office. The Parish Council reaffirmed its commitment to a Capital Campaign, in hopes that our own parishioners with fund-raising experience can help guide the process; additional input from parishioners will be sought as we look ahead.
- At the Parish Council's direction, Fr. Mark and Elaine Christofilis sent a letter to the Archdiocese requesting that they consider refunding our \$10,000 donation, in light of

our decision not to work further with the Office of Parish Development. The letter has been received, but we have no word as to when a response will arrive. We will notify the parish when we receive a response.

- The TASTE OF GREECE will take place on **Thursday, June 9th 4:00pm - 6:30pm**. Demetra Christofilis is chairing the event this year. Come and support this popular fundraiser! Volunteers are needed, forms are available at the church lobby.

Stewardship 2011

-To date we have 167 stewardship units who have pledged \$211,709.00 for 2011. Thank you to all those who have submitted their 2011 Stewardship Pledge Form. Forms are always available at the church office.

(continued from page 1)

At the top of the "Never Been and Never Gonna Be Cool" list, of course, is Church. Church not only is *not* cool: it is the very essence of *uncoolness*. Skipping church—now that's cool. Criticizing church, mocking church—you can get your fifteen minutes of fame for that. But going to church, giving to church, loving church ... that's not going to get you a reality show on MTV.

And that's OK. The church doesn't have to be cool. Because the church does what most of the really cool people could never do. *The church saves lives*. Every year, in every place, the church takes care of people in a way that no other human institution can do. The church catches people who fall between the cracks of society's other helping institutions and rescues them.

I'm not talking about salvation in eternity. I'm not talking about forgiving sins and making people right with God. I'm not talking about miraculous healings through the Sacrament of Holy Unction. We believe that church offers that, of course. But just in a this-worldly sense, just in the here and now, *the church saves lives*.

You don't believe me? It's true. The teachings of Christ bring love into hearts that might know only hate, peace to those in turmoil, clarity to those in confusion, hope to those in despair. The church saves people from suicide, from self-destruction due to substance abuse, from death due to abusive relationships and poor moral choices. The church doesn't do this with handcuffs or court orders or straitjackets. The church saves lives with love and patience and the greatest medicine of all: self-respect. The teaching that God loves you—fleshed out by the story of the Gospel and by the life of the Christian community—is the beginning of all self-respect. And in that self-respect, humans find the strength to seek life and health for themselves. This isn't my bright idea: it comes straight from the writings of St. Gregory the Theologian (*Oration 2*).

In fact, it's happening around you in this community all the time. Here's a list of people whom this church has rescued from destruction in recent months:

*
*
*
... except I can't tell you, of course. These things are

subject to confidentiality, and rightly so. But it is true, and sometimes dramatically so. The church—this church—saves lives. I see it, and I'm telling you so.

Sometimes it happens less dramatically. Sometimes it is simply the slow accumulation of the church's teachings that make a lifesaving difference in the life of a parishioner. This can be measured in the illegal drugs not tried, the bad love affairs not pursued, the money not gambled, the high schools not dropped out of, the cults not joined, the hateful words not spoken. How many times does a conscience get pricked by the memory of "Thou shalt not" from Sunday School, and a potentially fatal choice is avoided? Such things are hard to put a number on, but no less real for that.

The author Nassim Nicholas Taleb makes a nice point in his book, *The Black Swan*. He asserts that if there had been a Congressman in 2000 who pushed through a bill to make cockpit doors more secure, he would have prevented 9-11. He would have saved literally thousands of lives and trillions of dollars. This same Congressman, in the absence of a 9-11, would also have been vilified as a bureaucratic wastrel, as another Beltway

hack who found a way to make life more expensive for everyone else with unnecessary regulations. By making something not happen—for a relatively small cost—he would have accomplished something that was both totally awesome and totally not cool.

My friends, that's the church. That's *your* church. It may be tweeby, spazzy, and geeky, but it saves lives, year in and year out. And it is worthy of your support. We aren't all in on that confession that turns around a soul and saves a life. But we all help to make it happen when we support the church, her ministries, her staff, and her activities through our stewardship, our presence and participation, and our moral and verbal support.

Save a life. Support your parish, especially now in the summer months when stewardship gets pretty thin and we wonder if the doors will stay open. Please, don't put off your stewardship commitment. The life you save may be closer than you know: a child, a godchild, a friend, even a spouse. Who knows? Maybe next year the life you save will be your own.

Now wouldn't *that* be cool?!?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Condolences - .

- To Chris and Vicki Kateyiannis on the passing of Vicki's brother George Cavis in Port Huron.
- To the Nicolaou family on the passing of Enola Nicolaou, wife of Andy Nicolaou of blessed memory.
- To Chuck and Nadean Hillary on the passing of Chuck's mother Mary Hillary in Denver, CO.

May their memory be eternal!

Congratulations to Mary Ann Kniseley who joined the Church through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism this past week. Many years to her!

Lamplighter sponsorships are needed for October

Sponsoring the monthly newsletter is a great way to commemorate a loved one, offer a prayer for the health of family and friends, or celebrate a special occasion or anniversary. The donation is \$200 for an issue. Please call the church office.

Bulletin announcements should be communicated to the Church office by e-mail or phone by Thursday morning. The parish e-mail is : holytrinitygreek@sbcglobal.net

AHEPA

AHEPA thanks the over 180 guests who attended the Fish Plaki Dinner and Graduate Reception on Palm Sunday. The featured speaker was former Michigan Attorney General Frank J. Kelley. Brother Kelley was presented with a pin recognizing his 40 years as a member of Wolverine Chapter.

The high school graduates honored this year included:

- Mark Brown
- Kaleroi Kastros
- Kathryn King
- Andrea Krantz
- Alexia Neros
- Nicole Stevenson
- Antigoni Panayota Tzumakas.



Kaleroi Kastros was the recipient of the chapter's \$1,000.00 scholarship and Alexia Neros received the \$500.00 award. A check for \$1,500.00 was presented to Zana Litos, Director of the Holy Trinity Greek School.

For the first time, the chapter recognized students graduating from college or graduate school. This year's graduates included:

- Maria Frangos, M.S. Hospitality Business Management, MSU
- Kellie Kafantaris, B.A. Communications, MSU
- Aleco Nicolaou, B.B.A. Business Administration, UM
- John Pogoncheff, D.D.S. Dental Science, UM
- Benjamin Setas, B.B.A. Business Administration, MSU
- Laura Skorich, B.S. Packaging, MSU
- Eric Willard, J.D. Law, Thomas Cooley School of Law.

An apology is due to two graduates for failing to recognize them at the dinner. They were

- Elizabeth Brown, B.S. Chemical Engineering, MSU,
- Melina Litos, J.D. Law, Wayne State University School of Law.

A warm welcome is extended to new AHEPAN James B. Stajos and James Kavalaris who transferred from Cincinnati Liberty Chapter 127. The chapter invites other individuals to join Wolverine Chapter by contacting any chapter officer.

Congratulations to Andrea Krantz on being awarded an AHEPA scholarship from the district.

TASTE OF GREECE—JUNE 9TH

The 6th annual "A Taste of Greece" fundraiser will be held on **Thursday, June 9th 4-6:30pm**

- Drive-thru and dine-in
- Tickets \$12



GRECIAN OLIVE OIL (FIRST PRESS)

This fine olive oil from the village of Metamorphosis is back in and available once again in the church office Monday-Friday from 9-1 p.m. The oil is available in 3 liter cans and half-liter bottles.

Kali Orexi!

FRIENDS OF THE METROPOLIS CAMPAIGN 2011

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

I am writing to you today about the vital role of Metropolis Stewardship and its importance to all of us. Our hierarchical church structure, established by Christ our Lord through the Apostles, functions best as a family working together in love and mutual support. We at Holy Trinity are blessed to be near to the Metropolis and have close contact with our Metropolitan. This month we are asking all families and parish organizations to consider supporting our Metropolis through a pledge to the "Friends of the Metropolis" program.

With the financial offerings and support of the Orthodox Church's organizations and parishioners, His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas provides us with:

- A Priest to serve the Parish
- Youth Camps
- A Youth Director
- Educational Committees to assist with Sunday School
- Outreach Programs
- Home Missions including the establishment and development of new parishes
- The Metropolitan attends Metropolis Philoptochos Meetings
- Development of innovative Religious Education Programs
- Support services to the Clergy and Parishes
- Publication of our diocesan newsletter "The Shepherd Staff"
- Metropolis Office Staff

... Just to name a few!

Clearly, the Metropolis affects us all in a dynamic and meaningful way. Your gift to the "Friends" Campaign will – as well as providing much needed budget relief and assistance to

Metropolis essentials – allow all of these important ministries to continue and may provide the means

for new endeavors in the service of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Again, we are asking for full participation of all Parish organizations and Families with some sort of pledge. Even a small commitment from everyone will help us all to take large strides forward as a church family in the Metropolis of Detroit.

Our Metropolitan prays for us daily. We are his beloved spiritual family for which our shepherd is accountable. With his permission and blessing we are provided with a priest and are able to celebrate the Divine Services and receive the Holy Sacraments. Our Metropolitan is always willing to come and help resolve difficult issues that may arise in our Parish. The Metropolis impacts us all and we are under its authority. When you contribute to the Metropolis, you invest in your future and the future of your children and grandchildren!

Please—if you are able, exercise your stewardship with a gift to the Friends of the Metropolis Campaign. Our goal is to have every parishioner and every parish organization become a participant in the common effort to keep the diocesan ministries going. If everyone made even a small contribution, we could each say that we have done our part in supporting the ministries that bless us and our families.

Simply mail your check made out to "Friends of the Metropolis" to:

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit
 "Friends of the Metropolis"
 2560 Crooks Road
 Troy MI 48084

In Christ,
 Curt M. Kosal
 Parish Council member

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

Lansing, Michigan

2011 Stewardship Commitment

Your Name: _____

Your Spouse: _____

Address: _____

City _____ Zip: _____

Family Email: _____

Phone: _____

My/Our Stewardship Pledge

to the parish for 2011 is::

● \$10,000 ● \$7,500 ● \$5,000 ● \$3,000 ● \$2,500

● 1,500 ● \$1,000

● \$500 (suggested minimum)

● Other: _____

Signature: _____

Signature: _____

"We offer these gifts from

Your own gifts"

Priest's Discretionary Fund

Those of you who were present for the Resurrection Service at Pascha saw the bright new altar boy robes that added to the radiance of the Feast. These robes were made possible by significant gifts from two families to the Fr. Mark Discretionary Fund. Other contributions to this fund will soon make possible the acquisition of needed items for the altar and the office.

If you would like to make a contribution, simply specify this with your donation to Holy Trinity. This can be done in conjunction with memorial donations or other gifts

I FEEL FAINT

From time to time someone faints in our services. It has happened before; it's going to happen again. We all need to be agreed on how this is handled.

First and foremost, I ask you—I beg you—please do not try to move people who have fainted. There is no good reason to make them sit up or to pull them off to the side. In fact, you risk injuring them further by doing so. They are better off being horizontal for a while. Let them lie where they are: in the altar, on the solea, in the aisle—it doesn't matter. The rest of us can work around them while they recover, or we can pause the service, if need be. **DON'T MOVE THEM.** It's really not a problem.

Second, the Parish Council members present will be responsible for calling 911, if necessary. It does not help to have twenty people dialing for EMTs. At each service a Council member is present, and that person is the one to make the call.

Third, we appreciate very much the good service of our medically trained parishioners in helping out with emergency situations. May God bless you, and we thank you for the stewardship of your talents and knowledge in helping your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Thanks for reading this. I feel fine now.

Consistency in Stewardship Giving

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.

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

Stewardship List 2011

David & Alicia Abood
Reva Abood
Helen Alexander
Voula Alimonos
Arthur & Rhea Arvanites
Betty Baryames
Charles & Rosalie Baryames
Charles & Zoe Bassos
Savvas & Bonnie Binioris
Dennis & Alexis Branoff
Alex & Mary Brown
Gus & Bess Carantza
Chris Chamis
Edmund Chammas
Demetra Christofilis
Elaine Christofilis
John & Glykeria Christofilis
James & Irene Christophill
Martha Cloumas
Nick & Karen Colovos
Dimitri Constant
Errikos & Maria Constant
Nadina Constant
Mrs. Koula Curtis
Diane Dellis
Heather deMorrow
Theodore & Donna Demos
Diana Economy
Kathryn Economy
Michael Economy
Stella Economy
Andrea & Gene Esch
Richard & Pamela Farran
Delores and Ken Fesenmyer
Hiram & Dolores Fitzgerald
Cassandra Foster
John & Eleni Fournodavlos
Tony & Georgia Fragale
Maria Frangos
Phillip & Tula Frangos
Themistocles Frangos
Harry Funtukis II & Denise Funtukis
Nickolas & Susan Garyet
Gregory & Rosemary Gavrilides
Nicholas & Dana Gavrilides
Dimitris & Jane Gavrilis
Nicolas & Anna Georgiou
Garry & Ann Grimm
Peter Grivas
Goldie Heos
Jeffrey Brancheau & Pamela Heos
Charles & Nadean Hillary
Cynthia & Barry Hoag
Dan & Kathy Hogg
Elaine & Adam Howell
Efstratia Janis
Kay Jennings
Katy Jildeh
Yvonne Joseph
David & Maria Juras
George & Maria Kafantaris
Andreas Kaliyanakis
Helen Kaliyanakis
Bob & Georgia Kaplan
John Karagoulis
Michael & Lynne Karagoulis
John & Coleen Karakitsos
George & Mary Kastros
Christos & Vicki Kateyiannis
Frances & Peter Katsiris
Jim & Athina Katsiris
Gus & Connie Kavalaris
Marina Kotsifis
Gus & Mary Kouklis
Georgia & Gregory Krantz
Elaine & William Kritselis
Nicholas Kritselis
George & Ann Lafkas
George & Shelley Lahanas
Nicholas Limber
Alexander & Zana Litos
Beverly & Rodney Malkin
Anastasios Malvetis
Nancy Malvetis
Mary Beth Mangopoulos
Stavros & Maria Mangopoulos
Kostas & Sophia Manolakoudis
George & Mary Ann Mansour
Pericles & Georgia Markakis
Mark & Ann Millis
Kirk & Nikki Moundros
Anna Munk
Gerald & Jan Munk
James Munk
Michel & Alice Nasif
Nicholas & Stacie Neros
Elan & David Nichols
Vackis & Koula Nicolaou

Stewardship List 2011

George & Ann Pappas
Olga Pascalenos
Peter Pascalenos
Tom Pascalenos
Nikolaos Pattakos
Nickolaos Pehlivanoglu
Gus & Margaret Peponis
Stephanie Perentesis
George & Barbara Platsis
Carl Pogoncheff
Metodi & Marcia Pogoncheff
Alexis Popoff
Daniel Popoff
Sergey & Marina Poroshin
David & Liana Pridnia
Peter Priggooris
Chuck & Debbie Putnam
Margo Rahib
Billie Rouches
Ellen Rzepka
Z. George Sabbagh
Harry Saites
Theodore & Ina Samra
Dorothy Schaeff
George & Georgia Scofes
Stella Semerly
Fr. Mark & Katherine Sietsema
Nick Siettas
Jacob Simmons
John and Mary Simmons
Charlotte Sinadinos & Russell Launer
James & Barbara Sinadinos
George & Sheryl Sinas
Dan & Cathy Skorich
Richard Smith
Edwin & Debra Southerland
Eleanor & Robert Spalding
Gregory & Effie Spiridakos
Eric & Sara Stajos
Jan Stajos
Louis & Bess Stamatakos
Dennis Stepanovich & Virginia Beetham
Elias Strangas and Jane Turner
Ljubica & Milan Suzic
Nenad Suzic
Evelyn Sweeney
Archie & Margaret Tarpoff
Andreas Tassopoulos
Demosthenes Tassopoulos
Eleftheria Tassopoulos

Maria Tassopoulos
Frank Tegge
George & Soussana Tesseris
Nick & Kelley Tesseris
Peggy Thodis
Spiridon and Krisoula Tzumakas
Alex & Antonia Vanis
Angela Vlahakis
Angelos & Betty Vlahakis
James & Susan Vlahakis
Louis & Mary Vlahakis
Nicholas & Karen Vlahakis
Mary Volakakis
Sava & Dolores Vosovic
Richard & Nonie Vsetula
Samuel Vsetula & Amber Cooper
Joan Webster
Patricia and Steven Willard
Joanne Wirt
Agerie Lemma Woldu
Stacy & Tony Worthington
George & Evelyn Zachos
Terri Zachos
Kidest Moges & Aklilu Zeleke

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

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

June 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 MARSP Planning Meeting 10-noon Taste of Greece, 4-6:30 pm	10	11 Liturgy, 10am Saturday of Souls
Memorial Garden hosts coffee						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Parish Council hosts Name Day luncheon Pentecost	Parish Council Meeting, 7pm					
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
All Saints Sunday Open coffee Father's Day	Lampighter Deadline					
26	27	28	29	30		
Summer coffee host begins						

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 Fellowship coffee following Liturgy

July 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 Moundros Twins Baptism 11:00 a.m.
10	11 <i>Independence Day</i>	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 Parish Council, 7pm	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 <i>Lampighter Deadline</i>	26	27	28	29	30 Michael Economy Wedding
31					Wedding Rehearsal	