

THE **LAMPLIGHTER**

OCTOBER 2011

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

This issue is sponsored by Effie Spiridakos in loving memory of her mother Athena Skoutelas.

Pastoral Reflection | THE POWER OF A LITTLE PRAYER by Fr. Mark Sietsema

The sermon below was delivered by Patriarch Bartholomew at Saint Demetrios Church in Merrick, NY last year. It is reprinted here because it is appropriate both to this time of year and to the needs of our world generally.

Beloved Children in the Lord,

Grace and peace be with you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we invoke every paternal and patriarchal blessing upon this holy community that bears the name of Saint Demetrios the Great Martyr and Myrrh-Streamer. We wish you all *Chronia Polla* on this eve of the feast, especially to those who share the name of our great intercessor and wonderworking patron.

Beloved, the power of a prayer is not to be measured by its lengthiness. The most powerful prayer may also be the most brief. Few but fervent were the words of Saint Nestor: Ο Θεος του Δημητρίου, βοηθει μοι. "God of Demetrios, help me." Yet through the power of these simple words, evil was vanquished, tyranny was frustrated, faith was vindicated, and not one, but two saints for the Kingdom of God were revealed.

The Lord promised that those who speak in faith might command even a mountain to be taken up and cast aside (Matthew 17:20, Mark 11:23). Such was the faith that Saint Demetrios instilled in young Nestor. From his prison cell the Great Martyr spoke words of blessing and encouragement, words of strength and confidence. And in the stadium it was proved that "the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether" (cf. Psalm 18:10 [19:9]), when a mountain—that is to say, *a mountain of a man*—the murderous Lyaivos, was taken up and cast aside to destruction. (continued on pg. 2)

SAVE THE DATE

Monday Oct. 3
Philoptochos General Meeting

Sunday, Oct. 9
General Assembly after
Divine Liturgy

Wednesday Oct. 26
St. Demetrios, Divine
Liturgy 10 am

Sunday School Halloween
Party

Friday, Oct. 28
OXI Day

**Holy Trinity Greek
Orthodox Church**

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

Email: holytrinitygreek@sbcglobal.net

<http://holytrinity-lansing.org>

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE by Elaine Christofilis

- **A BIG THANK YOU** to everyone who made our 2nd annual *My Big Fat Greek Gyro Drive Thru* a success! A report will be available soon.
- The Fall GENERAL ASSEMBLY will take place on **Sunday, October 9th** after the Divine Liturgy. The parish council feels it is important to have an open communication with the parish. At this meeting the parish council will be presenting Holy Trinity's financial situation to the parish. Nominations for the Parish Council will also take place. **Please mark your calendars and attend this important meeting.**

Stewardship 2011

- Taking a look at the 2011 budget, 272,875.00 was budgeted for stewardship. To date we have 184 stewardship units who have pledged 225,259.00. A total of 189,948.79 has been received.
- We have not met our pledge goal yet. If you have not submitted your stewardship pledge form please do so today. It's not too late. All forms are available at the church office. Thank you!

Lyaivos was a barbarian in every sense of the word. By birth he was of tribe of the Vandals, and fittingly so, for as a wrestler he made it his sport to *vandalize* the image of God in his fellow man in the arena. A second Goliath was he: a bloodthirsty titan with fierce eyes and a thunderous voice with which he uttered vile insults upon the Christians and their God. Many were the men that Lyaivos cast down to their deaths upon the points of upraised spears planted round about the wrestling platform in a terrifying display of brutality and strength.

But young Nestor was not terrified. He did not waver at the sight of the giant. He did not tremble at the sound of his blasphemies. He remained steadfast, remembering the boldness of his intercessor in the prison. In that same holy boldness Nestor prayed: "God of Demetrios, help me." He wrestled with Lyaivos and prevailed, casting the monster himself on the spear-points that had been fixed for his opponents.

The power of a prayer is not to be measured by its lengthiness in words, but by the mountains that it moves. In his own strength, small Nestor could never have triumphed; but with the God of Demetrios, all things are possible (cf. Matthew 19:26). For all the promises of God are "Yes" in Jesus Christ, and in Him "Amen" to the glory of God (cf. 2 Corinthians 1:20).

This was the *phronema*, the mindset, of Saint Nestor who sought the blessing to fight. This was the mindset of Saint Demetrios who sought grace from on high for the soldier of Christ. This must be our mindset as well.

For in our time we too face a mountain to be moved. We wrestle with our own Lyaivos, which is likewise a murderer and a blasphemer and a

vandal of God's good creation.

We encounter this vicious monster in the pollutants that contaminate our drinking water; in the hazardous wastes that filter into our soil; in foul exhaust that clouds our atmosphere; in harmful chemicals introduced into the food chain by modern methods of agriculture.

We encounter this murderous giant in the form of demographic clusters of birth defects and childhood cancers, especially among the

How shall we prevail? In the face of indifference and greed, in the face of established practices and entrenched habits, in the face of vested interests and corporate war chests, how shall the few and the weak prevail over the great and mighty? By the prayer of faith.

poorest members of the human family. We encounter this malignant vandal wherever we find beaches blackened by oil spills, rotting stumps in a clear-cut forest, or choking dust clouds from abandoned strip-mines.

Above all, we encounter vile Lyaivos for ourselves in the enormity of human indifference: indifference to the environment, indifference to the effects of our actions upon our fellow man, and indifference to the consequences of our choices upon future generations. It is this indifference first and foremost that must be grappled with and cast out. This thoughtlessness that so mightily holds sway over human minds and hearts is what spawns the sins of

overconsumption and waste, mismanagement of resources and ecological abuse. This carelessness is a murderer, first of others, and finally of ourselves.

How shall we prevail? In the face of indifference and greed, in the face of established practices and entrenched habits, in the face of vested interests and corporate war chests, how shall the few and the weak prevail over the great and mighty? By the prayer of faith. Saint Nestor prayed in faith and prevailed. Saint Demetrios prayed in faith and prevailed, and still prevails in his wonderworking power to this day. Truly did the Apostle John write: "Whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith" (1 John 5:4).

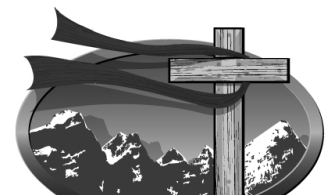
And so on this eve of the Feast of Saint Demetrios the Great Martyr and Myrrh-Streamer, I ask you, beloved, to join together your fervent hearts, free of all doubt and indifference, and to pray: Ο Θεος το υ Δημητριου, βοηθει ημιν. "God of Demetrios, help us."

God of Demetrios, help us to contend for the wellbeing of the world!

God of Demetrios, help us to cast out the darkness of indifference!

God of Demetrios, help us through the gift of Your Spirit to bring renewal to all creation!

Beloved, may the God of Demetrios grant you all to be powerful in prayer in everything which bears fruit in His unending Kingdom. Amen.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- To Katie (Harkness) and Michael Economy on their wedding at the church on July 30.
- To Krista (Worthington) and Luke Thompson on their wedding at the church on September 10.

God bless you with a lifetime of love together!

PROSPHORA AND KOLLYVA

If you are looking for a way to increase your service to God, please consider learning how to make communion bread (prospora) and memorial service wheat (kollyva). The number of parishioners who are skilled in preparing these important liturgical offerings is at an all-time low. Contact Fr. Mark if you would be willing to get a lesson in making this items from an experienced parishioner. Thank you.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



The parish needs volunteers to fill several important ministry positions. We are looking for someone to take on the parish library and advisors for the JOY (middle school) youth group. Contact Fr. Mark if you are interested.

NURSERY NEEDS

In recent months the nursery has been getting some pretty hard use on Sundays, and the mess left for the custodian has been unusually bad. Please, if your family uses the nursery, exercise some sense of stewardship for the church property and clean up after your child. Please do not leave messes for someone else to handle.

Also, we ask that diapers not simply be thrown in wastebaskets, as this presents problems of hygiene, safety, and odor. Please bring plastic bags to seal a dirty diaper in before throwing it away.

Thank you!

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



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 .75 and a limited supply of 1.0 liter bottles.

Kali Orexi!

Parish Email List

Please forward your email address to the church office if they wish to receive email news from time to time. Send your request to HolyTrinityGreek@sbcglobal.net if you have not been receiving occasional general emails and wish to do so.



Visit us on line at <http://holytrinity-lansing.org/>

PHILOPTOCHOS by Secretary Frances Katsiris

Our first meeting of the year was held at the Delhi Café on Tuesday, September 6th. Being a day after the Labor Day weekend, did not detour 29 members from attending. We had a short meeting and enjoyed a leisurely meal afterward.

Please see our flyer inviting our community to join us in welcoming students and new young adults to our community on October 9th as Philoptochos hosts its Annual Student Welcome Dinner. Please contact Yvonne Joseph or Eleanor Spalding to help or contribute to the meal.

The Annual Philoptochos Bake Sale & Luncheon is fast approaching! November 3rd is just around the corner. First of all we would like to remind everyone that you may be receiving a phone call to ask for your help with the pastry baking as we prepare for our annual bake sale. While the remainder of the committees are still being formed, baklava will be made and baked on Saturday, October 22nd. The chairs of this

committee are Nancy Malvetis and Koula Tsoumakas. Sunday October 30th your help is needed in the assembly and baking of the spinach & cheese pies. Please see Glykeria Christofilis if you can help. Please see Olga Pascalenos or Glykeria Christofilis for helping in preparing for the sale on Monday, October 31st and Tuesday, November 1st for set up, cupping and preorders. Rhea Arvanitis is chair of preorders. Stella Economy is in charge of manpower the day of the bake sale, so please let her know if you are available on November 3rd to help. Our Annual Bake Sale and Gift Shop is anticipated yearly by the Lansing community and we are still in need of items made for this event. We have material and patterns, all we need is your help.

Please remember there will be no general Philoptochos meeting in November, but on November 21st the Bake Sale Follow up meeting will be open to all members as the main topic of discussion will be the bake sale.

AHEPA NEWS by Phil Frangos

About 100 parishioners braved the unseasonably cool weather on Labor Day to attend Wolverine Chapter's annual picnic at East Lansing's Patriarche Park. Notwithstanding the thermometer dropping almost 40 degrees from the previous day, those in attendance once again enjoyed the excellent company and delicious comfort food that continue to mark this event. Even though the picnic is free to all Holy Trinity parishioners, once again those who attended were extremely generous in making contributions totaling over \$500.00. These funds are earmarked for the chapter's educational fund.

Many thanks to our friends who donated the delicious food served at the picnic. These generous donors included Lou & Harry's Deli, Coral Gables Restaurant, Theio's Restaurant, Georgio's Pizzeria, and Stanley Setas Produce. Their

generosity assures the success of the event.

At the picnic, chapter treasurer Tony Fragale announced that in September, 2012, the chapter will initiate a \$1,000.00 scholarship for students in college or graduate school. Further details will be forthcoming in the months ahead. This scholarship is made possible because of contributions made by friends such as those who attended the picnic.

The Supreme Lodge is undertaking a drive to increase membership. A contest will be held in conjunction with this drive. Wolverine Chapter is looking for new members. Please contact a chapter officer for an application or respond positively when you are contacted to join.

ODYSSEY GREEK LANGUAGE & CULTURAL PROGRAM by George Laftkas

Under the leadership of Zana Litos, Ph.D., our Greek language classes are underway for young children, high school students and adults. It is not too late to join this year's classes. Call the Holy Trinity office to receive information on the Odyssey Program. Partial scholarships sponsored by the Philoptochos, AHEPA and Angelo and Betty Vlahakis for school age Holy Trinity children are still available.

Special thank you to Georgios Pizza for their donation that made our September 25th Loukoumathes coffee hour a success.

Upcoming Odyssey event:s:

OXI day program, Sunday October 22, 2011, during the Odyssey Program sponsored coffee hour after church service.

December 4, 2011, Loukoumathes Coffee Hour after church

January 15, 2012, Pizza and Movie VI

Olive Oil sales continue at the church office:

0.75 liter - \$12

1.0 liter -15

3.0 liter cans - \$29



Student Welcome Dinner

MSU, Cooley Law, LCC, Greek Orthodox Students

Sunday, October 9, 2011

5:30 PM in our Church Hall

Great Food and a chance to meet fellow
Greek Orthodox Students

All students, professors and young adults working in the area are invited. Join us for great food and fellowship provided by the ladies of Philoptochos to welcome you to our community.

Call the Church Office for more information: 517-482-7341

Sponsored by: Ladies Philoptochos Society

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

1701 East Saginaw Street

Lansing, Michigan 48912

Phone: 517-482-7341





*62nd Annual Philoptochos
Athenian Luncheon and Bake Sale*

Great food, delicious Greek pastries, and friendly Greek hospitality!

Thursday, November 3, 2011
(Lunch Served 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM)

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
1701 E. Saginaw Street (Corner of Marshall)
Lansing, Michigan 48912

Place **PRE-ORDERS** by filling out the order form at the bottom of this page choosing the quantity of each pastry. **ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED ALONG WITH PAYMENT BY Friday, OCTOBER 21, 2011.** Mail your completed order form along with a check (payable to PHILOPTOCHOS Society) for the total amount of your order. **THERE ARE NO C.O.D'S FOR PRE-ORDERS.** All sales are cash or check ONLY.

LUNCH will be served from 10 AM to 2 PM and include your choice of Spanakopita (Spinach Pie) or Tiropita (Cheese Pie), Greek Salad, Coffee, Roll and Dessert. This year you receive a raffle ticket with your lunch, all for **ONLY \$10.00!**

PASTRIES- All pastries sold on Thursday, November 3rd are pre-packaged. To insure the variety and quantity you want, we suggest that you pre-order using this form. Bread will be available for purchase the day of the Sale!

******Don't forget to stop by our Gift Shop to see our new exciting items for holiday giving!***

Order Form

_____	Baklava	Flaky pastry nut dessert	at 1.25 each	_____
_____	Kataife	Shredded filo & nut roll	at 1.25 each	_____
_____	Poura Saragli	Chocolate topped Walnut filled rolls	at 1.25 each	_____
_____	Melomacarona	Honey nut cookies	at 1.00 each	_____
_____	Kourambiethes	Powder sugar cookies	at 1.00 each	_____
_____	Koulouria	Butter twist cookies	at .50 each	_____
_____	Lunch Ticket	Prepaid Lunch Ticket*	at 10.00 each	_____

*Please enclose **stamped self addressed envelope** for ticket to be returned to you by mail.

Total Amount Enclosed _____

Please print, thank you.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Check **MUST** accompany order.

Make check payable to: **Philoptochos Society**
(Orders must be received by OCTOBER 21, 2011)

Mail to: Philoptochos Society
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
1701 E. Saginaw St.
Lansing, Michigan 48912

Orders can be picked up on **Thursday, November 3, 2011** FROM 10 AM to 4 PM

Visit our website at: www.greekbakesale.com

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"*

Why Should I Sign a Pledge Form?

There are lots of possible answers ...

The Best Answer: I believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and my Savior: He gave all for me, and I live to give something to Him, in proportion to the earthly gifts I receive.

The Second Best Answer: My church has been there for me through thick and thin, and I always give something back to keep the doors open for others in their times of need.

The Third Best Answer: I expect the Parish Council to run the church responsibly, and I know that they need some idea of expected revenues in order to make a sensible budget; my submitting a pledge helps with that, so I do it.

Why Should I NOT Sign a Pledge Form?

There are lots of possible answers ...

An Honest Answer: I keep forgetting. Thanks for the reminder; I'll take care of it right now.

A Bad Answer: I'm afraid that if I put down a number and then can't give that much, the Parish Council will hunt me down or embarrass me publicly. [Note: This has never happened and never will. Folks come up short on their pledges every year. No one says "Boo." By the way, Happy Halloween.]

A Worse Answer: I don't need the church this year for a wedding or baptism or letter of good standing. I'll wait until a year when I do, then I'll pledge \$50 and pay it (maybe).

The Worst Answer: I don't have any money to contribute this year. Leave me alone and let me get back to (choose one): drinking my daily Starbucks frappuccino, playing with my smartphone, surfing channels on cable TV, planning my trip to the casino, downloading music for my iPod, watching this pay-per-view movie, playing this round of golf, ... [feel free to include whatever other activities you count more important than your God].



One of these answers is your own. Which is it?

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

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

October 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Choir Sponsors Coffee Hour	3 7 pm Philoptochos General Meeting	4	5	6 6:00 pm John Karagoulis wedding rehearsal	7 Odyssey Classes 4:30-6:30 p.m. 3:00 p.m. John Karagoulis wedding	8 Metropolis Clergy-Laity in Westland, MI
9 General Assembly Philoptochos Coffee For Rescue Mission Student Welcome Dinner 5:30 pm	10 Columbus Day Parish Council Meeting 7 pm	11	12	13 Zack Abood Wedding rehearsal 5:30 pm	14 Zack Abood Wedding 5:00 pm Odyssey Classes 4:30-6:30 p.m.	15
16 Parish Council Sponsors Coffee Hour One Year Memorial Ethna Haggerty	17 1:30 Interfaith Day Meeting Lampighter deadline	18	19	20 MARSP Luncheon	21- Odyssey Classes 4:30-6:30 p.m. Philoptocos Baklava baking committee	22 Philoptochos Baklava baking committee 8:00 pm
23 Odyssey Host OXI Day Coffee Hour Memorial Malvetis and Sinadinos	24	25	26 St. Demetrios, Liturgy 10 am Sunday School Halloween Party	27	28 OXI Day Odyssey Classes 4:30-6:30 p.m.	29
30 Memorial Garden Hosts Coffee Hour	31					

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November 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 BAKE SALE	4 Odyssey Classes 4:30-6:30 p.m.	5
6 AHEPA Hosts Coffee Hour	7	8	9 St. Nektarios Liturgy 10 am	10	11 Odyssey Classes 4:30-6:30 p.m. Veteran's Day	12 Church Clean-up Day
13 OCF Hosts Coffee Hour Parish Council Elections	14 Parish Council Meeting 7 pm	15 Christmas Lent begins	16	17	18 Odyssey Classes 4:30-6:30 p.m.	19
20 Choir Hosts Coffee Hour	21— Entrance of the Theotokos Liturgy 10 am 1:30 Interfaith Day Meeting 7 pm Philoptochos Meeting bake sale follow-up	22	23	24 Thanksgiving Day	25	26
27 Open Coffee	28	29	30			