

THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
ROANOKE, VIRGINIA

VOL. 16 ISSUE 05

MAY 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

XPISTOS ANESTI,

It has been a few weeks since the time we celebrated Christ's Resurrection. As the triumphant announcement Christ has risen still echoes in our ears something seems at odd: I remember that, confronted with the Resurrection, a Jewish rabbi, retorted that everything appeared unchanged. Thus the messiah never arrived. According to human senses and perception, and in contrast to Christian affirmation, nothing has changed.

Besides senses and perception to verify changes, what else is there to rely on? Science offers experiments for verification of phenomena. But for humans, there is always the possibility of internal transformation. However, if internal transformation is not sufficiently documented, and if people accept it as only a personal matter, no major impact upon the world can be attributed to it. Relying on observation, despite faith and internal transformation, the world seems to follow the comments of the rabbi; nothing appears to have changed.

Yet, there is change in the world. Human beings use their internal transformation in unpredictable ways. Despite serious drawbacks, we now have a far more inclusive collective view of ourselves and of our environment. Civilizations, religious groups and minorities shape decisions on environmental goals and the determination of their fate. It seems that we are on a path for widespread acceptance of justice among most humans. It also seems that the notion of the greatness of our species is something influencing both positively and negatively our world view. We have definitely expanded our perception beyond the personal transformative effects of faith. Despite our limitations, we consider our impact upon our friends, our environment, our nation(s), the earth and ultimately our world. This approach might still feel selfish and species-exalting but, strangely, it challenges the notion that nothing has changed.

"Christ is risen" declares that the Church and the world is recreated and regenerated. This is a declaration about the relation between God and the human race. God's depiction among humans has always underscored the greatness of God and the smallness of human beings. Among humans, this resulted from either assigning insignificance to humans or, assuming humans were significant, God mistreated them by perpetuating harsh and unjust laws. The first tradition appeals to religious people attracted to God's omnipotence. Quite often, in their view, a universal God eradicates the worth of human beings. Their opponents, though, reject a

tyrannical and omnipotent God and exhibit a solidarity among themselves. Unfortunately, their solidarity is pointless: the elimination of God from their collective awareness leaves no reason for their existence. Both approaches miss the point and both seem currently insufficient. With the announcement of Christ's resurrection, we find ourselves akin to a humbled God who suffered the worst possible fate any human can imagine and befriended us all, ridiculed and judged the established power structure, relied upon women for the first declaration of His power over death, relied on simple men to spread the news of human possibility to attain divinity, used weakness as His power and gave meaning to the all-inclusiveness of the simple law: one's relation to God depends on one's dealings with the neighbor. Internal transformation has been given its parameters: God is great but human beings are not insignificant creatures. They are God's friends they can rely on Him and He, like the Father in the story of the prodigal son, will never allow the relegation of His sons and daughters to the role of the least of His servants.

Thus, as we move in this life, we need to remember that we usually err, but our error is not deterring Him. Transformation is taking place. It consists of recognizing that the distance between the Father and us is minimal and it exists because we choose to reject internal transformation. Whether we err on the side of a cult or that of atheism is only a matter of perspective, a perspective that has been altered with the change of the world accomplished through the Resurrection. The important thing is to allow ourselves to become sons and daughters of the total Christ.

In XP,

Fr. N. Galanopoulos

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Graduations

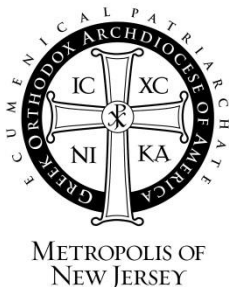
In our next Bulletin we will be honoring our High School and College Graduates. If you have a member of your family graduating this year, please send an email to the church office with the information.

Graduates Name: _____

Name of School that he/she is graduating from: _____

Future Plans and/or school attending in the fall: _____

Any other information that you wish to include: _____



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Rev. Fr. Nick Galanopoulos

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2017 - 2018 PARISH COUNCIL

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Carol Royal | President |
| Dr. Paul Dallas | Vice President |
| | Secretary |
| Deno Poulos | Assistant Secretary |
| Matt Mandros | Treasurer |
| Andre DeMaurice | Assistant Treasurer |

Board Members

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|------------------|-------------------------|
| Naji Karim | Dr. Wendy Larson-Harris |
| Lampros Peroulas | Dr. Charles Tarasidis |
| Terry Tomaras | David Williams |

ORGANIZATIONS

Philoptochos President – Tina Poulos
Religious Education – Dr. Wendy Larson Harris
GOYA – Ariana Mandros & Dino Oikonomou
Chanters - Dr. Paul Dallas
Happy Hearts - Joanne Stamus, Vickie Stamus, & Amelia Tames
Dance Troupe – Maria Hatzios
Book store – Denise Stewart
Megdova President – Dr. Paul Dallas
Webmaster – Mark Bonds

COMMITTEES

Adornment - Basil Grapsas
Archives – Chris Stratton
Education - Dr. Wendy Larson Harris
Festival – Pete Simopoulos
Finance – Dr. Bobby Karageorge & Chris Stratton
Grounds – Dr. Charles Tarasidis
Planning – Bobby Ziogas
Projects – Dr. Charles Tarasidis
Stewardship – David Williams
Ushering & Welcome –

The deadline for notices to be placed in the bulletin is the 20th of each month. Please email them to htrinityroa@verizon.net attention: Georgia Liagki on or before this date. Thank you

MAY 2018 DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE

| | | |
|-----------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Wed. 5/02/2018 | Mid-Pentecost | 8:00 AM Orthros 9:00 AM Liturgy |
| Usher(s): | Beth Gianakouros | |
| Sun. 5/06/2018 | Sunday of the Samaritan woman | 9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Liturgy |
| <i>Epistle:</i> | <i>Acts of the Apostles 11:19-30</i> | Gospel: John 4:5-42 |
| Usher(s): | Nada Melki, Maria Hatzios | |
| Sun. 5/13/2018 | Sunday of the Blind Man | 9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Liturgy |
| <i>Epistle:</i> | <i>Acts of the Apostles 26:1,12-20</i> | Gospel: John 9:1-38 |
| Usher(s): | Angela Flegas, Terry Tomaras | |
| Thur. 5/17/2018 | Holy Ascension | 8:00 AM Orthros 9:00 AM Liturgy |
| Usher(s): | Beth Gianakouros | |
| Sun. 5/20/2018 | Father's of the 1st Council | 9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Liturgy |
| <i>Epistle:</i> | <i>Acts of the Apostles 20:16-18,328-36</i> | Gospel: John 17:1-13 |
| Usher(s): | Chris Flegas, Carol Royal | |
| Mon. 5/21/2018 | Sts. Constantine & Helen | 8:00 AM Orthros 9:00 AM Liturgy |
| Usher(s): | Deno Poulos | |
| Sat. 5/26/2018 | The Saturday of Souls | 8:00 AM Orthros 9:00 AM Liturgy |
| Usher(s): | Voula Dallas | |
| Sun. 5/27/2018 | Holy Pentecost | 9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Liturgy |
| <i>Epistle:</i> | <i>Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11</i> | Gospel: John 7:37-52, 8:12 |
| Usher(s): | David Williams, Naji Karim | |
| Mon. 5/28/2018 | Monday of the Holy Spirit | 8:00 AM Orthros 9:00 AM Liturgy |
| Usher(s): | Beth Gianakouros | |

USHERS ARE REQUIRED TO ARRIVE FIFTEEN MINUTES PRIOR TO BEGINNING OF LITURGY! THE USHER LEADER IS TO ARRIVE FOR THE BEGINNING OF ORTHROS. IF YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO USHER AS SCHEDULED, PLEASE CONTACT ANOTHER USHER FROM YOUR LIST TO REPLACE YOU. In case of a discrepancy between printed announcements and electronic listings, electronic listings will be considered as the official times and will be adhered to. The online Bulletin and website are updated as needed and it's where official times for the services are listed.

Fellowship Hour Hosts For April



| | |
|----------|---|
| April 1 | Philoptochos Palm Sunday Luncheon |
| April 8 | Agape Service Easter Lamb Luncheon |
| April 15 | Vickie Stamus, Betty Rock & Amelia Tames |
| April 22 | Sunday School Education |
| April 29 | 1 year memorial for Halim Karim & 40 days for Camille Karim |

The 2018 calendar is posted in the church hall; please show your hospitality by signing up to be a host.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

May 2018

- We have started the option to have your stewardship pledge auto debited. Please see a council member for information. You can sign up any time throughout the year.
- We have a website committee. If anyone wants to add or post information on our church website please reach out to one of the committee members (Charlie Tarasidis, David Williams, or Wendy Larson-Harris).
- The Spring General Assembly will be May 20th after Liturgy. Agenda will be sent out to all members. Please plan on attending.
- Working on inventorying the choir loft, refurbishing old items and putting in new shelves. We will also be updating the altar boy and side areas. More information to come.
- Special thanks to Bobby for preparing the Pascha meal and those that helped serve. It was greatly appreciated.
- Also want to express an apology for the miscommunication regarding the Easter Egg hunt. It was put in the bulletin that there would be one held however no one had volunteered to host it. Thanks to those individuals that handled it.

MAY 2018 NEWSLETTER



*Greek Orthodox Ladies'
Philoptochos Society
of Holy Trinity Church*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

CHRISTOS ANESTI; TRULY HE IS RISEN!

Following a busy Easter season, we look forward to new life in Spring. Like a pleasant breeze, the Breath of our God and Creator, breathes life into all to awaken all things anew. Like trees swaying in the breeze and flowers sprouting up, absorbing that precious oxygen, blooming so beautifully into life, under the Master's Hand. So, we too, having celebrated our most holy of Feasts, the Resurrection of our Lord, the forgiveness of our sins, our Hope of new life with His Spirit alive in us, can be thankful for being chosen by Him and loved by Him. And what He expects from us is to love each other, and follow His lead. What an honor it is to be members of the Body of Christ. And what a family we are!

Thank you to all who donated and assisted with the preparations of meals, decorating and celebrating Easter in our beautiful church. We certainly come together beautifully to celebrate this most holy of feasts, Easter and all of our celebrations. Without you all, it just would not work. I would like to give a special thank you to a few members of our family that go over and beyond what's expected.

Thank you Vicky Tsiakos for the wonderful Palm Sunday Luncheon and all you do; thank you Della Ann Bryant for always coming through with beautiful red eggs and the decorating of the tomb of Christ. And this year, still recuperating following 3 surgeries; thank you Irene Dallas for faithfully coming home to your church to design the decorating of Christ's tomb; thank you Katerina Apostolou for bringing youth and skill learned well into the decorating of Christ's tomb; and Mrs. Tames, our energizer; Beth Gianakouros and Nada Melki, thank you for your constant hard work and involvement.

And thank you Father Nicholas for the heart felt Services, leading us to even a glimpse of our Lord's journey, from the darkness of His death and the tomb to the opening of the Gates of Heaven and the bursting in of His Resurrection and Light.

Philoptochos of Holy Trinity participated with Philoptochos Chapters within the Metropolis of New Jersey, in a very moving and heart felt project recently. It is the Hope for Human Trafficked Women Project of All Saints Monastery in New York. We all joined together with the Monastery in preparing care totes/duffle bags, filled with fresh clean clothes, hygiene items, a journal or comfort item and a meal, for children and young adults that have been through a traumatic experience that officers and social workers can give them. Our chapter, here at Holy Trinity, donated 50 hoodie jackets. Thanks to God for blessing us that we may be a blessing to others.

Local Colors is at Elmwood Park on May 19 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The parade will be at the beginning of the festivities. Please come and walk in the parade, supporting our church and cultures. Please consider helping out. Volunteer for 2 hour sessions to work our booth. We will be selling spanakopita, dolmathes and tiropita. Please volunteer for 2 hours to relieve others. Contact me and let me know what hours you would like to do and I can schedule you. Email tinapoulos99@cox.net or telephone 206-3923.

Membership dues for Philoptochos are being collected. Dues are \$25.00. If you're not a member of Philoptochos, consider joining us. We are a wonderful family of sisters (and some brothers) who would welcome you and love to serve with you.

If anyone in our church family is unable to get to church, is ill, or just needs to have some love, please let Philoptochos (any member), or Fr. Nicholas know so we can keep our bond with each other. Also, please welcome any newcomers, college students and visitors that you see or know of.

Please remember to host coffee hour and fill in the dates on the Coffee Hour Calendar at the back of the Fellowship Hall.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 6, 2018 Business Meeting

May 19, 2018 Local Colors

Micah 6:8 'He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.'

2 Corinthians 13:11 'Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.'

Your Sister in Christ,
Tina Poulos, President



Religious Education

May 13th Sunday School Celebration

We will have a special celebration during the fellowship time to mark the last day of Sunday School for the year, including recognizing our graduating seniors. We would like to have as many students as possible in attendance.

May 13th: Food contributions and Help needed!

Anyone who can donate food for the coffee hour or can help with set up or clean up that day, please contact Wendy Larson-Harris (540-981-1877 or wlarson@roanoke.edu).

Roanoke



Throughout the upcoming months and including the summer, all Hellenic Club outings will be sent out via the church listserver and/or included in the Sunday bulletin. I know this is a very busy time for all of us, but I will do my best to organize an outing in the very near future.

If you have any questions or suggestions for our Club, please contact me at ptsims@ntelos.net or 434.851.6830.

Frances Simopoulos



www.RoanokeGreekFestival.com

September 21, 22, and 23, 2018

Our festival committee has been overwhelmed with so much gratitude from the charities that we donated to from proceeds of last year's festival. Our donation to each one of them has helped them in so many ways and their heartfelt thank you notes touched our committee. If you are interested in reading these, please let me know. I will try and find a way to display these thank you notes in the Fellowship Hall in the coming months.

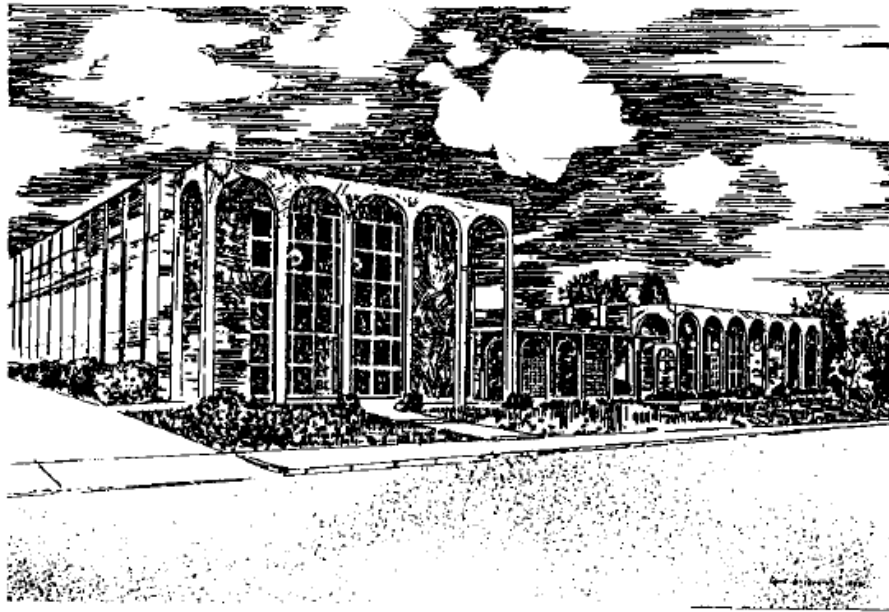
A huge part of having a success festival is making sure that we have adequate help to be able to support the number of visitors that come to our festival. As I have said in the past, it is never too early to be thinking of how you will give your time and talents to this year's festival. In the coming months, a schedule will be posted in the Fellowship Hall for the three day event and hope that you will seriously consider taking a few days off from work to help. We are asking that everyone volunteer at least one shift a day or work all day each of the three days of our festival. As I have reminded everyone over the years, there are **500 TIME SLOTS** that need to be filled in order to operate our festival at a maximum level. It is very crucial that everyone who is able to volunteer on Friday when the festival opens to please do so. In the past, we have been short staffed when the festival opens and it is very difficult to serve all the visitors in a timely manner. It is very important that we are prepared to handle the crowd which each year continues to grow on Friday.

Another area that our parishioners can help during this time is by informing us of possible contacts for sponsorships. We have many different ways that any business can become a sponsor. You may contact Dr. Paul Dallas at (540) 529-6356 to let him know of a business that we can contact to arrange a meeting. This is a great advertising opportunity for any company.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to call me at 434-851-6835 (cell) or email me at: info@RoanokeGreekFestival.com.

Peter Simopoulos
Chairman, Roanoke Greek Festival

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH ROANOKE, VA



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