Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral
New Orleans, Louisiana
AUGUST 18, 2019 — NINTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

Sunday, August 18 ~ 8:45 am Orthros, 10:00 am ~ Divine Liturgy
Parish Council Member on Duty—Nektarios Christakis
Sunday Church School after Holy Communion—FIRST DAY
Staff and Students Remain in Cathedral for First Day Blessing before Being Dismissed

ATTENDING MOTHER-CHILD BLESSING

FRANK VLOUTIS 6-MONTH TRISAGION
12:00 pm ~ Greek School Parent-Teacher Meeting in Room 210
Saturday, August 24 ~ 11:00 am Greek School Parent-Teacher Meeting in Room 210
12:00 pm ~ BRITTNEY JENKINS AND ALEXIOS DIMITRI POULIS
40-DAY MOTHER-CHILD BLESSING
Sunday, August 25 ~ 8:45 am Orthros
10:00 am ~ Divine Liturgy—TENTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW
Parish Council Member on Duty—Nektarios Christakis
Sunday Church School after Holy Communion
Philoptochos Saint Fanourios Celebration in Cathedral

NAME DAY CELEBRATION—FELLOWSHIP COFFEE INVITATION
September 1 marks the beginning of the Ecclesiastical Year, as well as the Feast Day of the 40 Women Martyrs, who died for the faith along with their teacher and deacon Ammoun. Below is a list of the martyrs. Because her patron saint is among the 40 women and the feast day falls on a Sunday this year, Presvytera Harriet is coordinating the fellowship coffee for September 1 and invites fellow celebrants to participate in a name day celebration. Call Presvytera, if you wish to participate.

Ammoun the Teacher
Kalliroi Marianthi Sapfo
Kallisti Melpomeni Terpsychori
Kleo Moscho Thalia
Ournia Theano
Kleopatra Pandora Theofani
Koralia Penelope Theonoi
Polymnia Theonymfi
Polyniki Troada

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A CITIZENSHIP PRESENTATION?
The Cathedral office was contacted recently by Anne Hackett, a Community Relations Officer with United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). She offered to provide a free presentation on the citizenship process to HTC members. Anne usually reviews the general naturalization requirements by way of PowerPoint slides and spends considerable time on the test and interview process. In addition, she distributes free study materials to all in attendance. Thus far, three parishioners called the Cathedral office to state their interest. If enough HTC members call, a presentation can be scheduled. Please contact the Cathedral office, if you are one of these individuals.

PHILOPTOCHOS
BACK TO SCHOOL COLLECTION OF SCHOOL SUPPLIES—Annually, Philoptochos asks its members and the HTC community to help support less fortunate students, who are starting the new school year. Many students do not have the means to purchase the necessary supplies, which Philoptochos will provide to a school serving these underprivileged students. Please donate school supplies such as spiral note books or marble covered bound note books, loose leaf paper, crayons, #2 pencils, rulers, pink erasers, etc. Stores are holding special sales for these items, so do check on them. A collection bin for your donations will remain in the Coffee Room through August.

GARAGE SALE FUNDRAISER—Philoptochos will sponsor a Garage Sale Fundraiser on Saturday, September 21, and Sunday, September 22. All community members are asked to look in their closets, cabinets, and garages for items no longer used or wanted, including clothing, shoes, small appliances, houseware, furniture, and much more. Please donate these items to support the Philoptochos fundraiser and to help continue its philanthropic mission. BRING DONATED ITEMS FOR GARAGE SALE TO CENTER BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1. Please do not bring items to the Hellenic Cultural Center prior to this date. Your help is appreciated.

FANOUROPITA CELEBRATION—As part of the Metropolis Philoptochos ministries, the local Philoptochos chapter is hosting the annual Fanouropita on Sunday, August 25. A tray will be passed in church at the end of the Divine Liturgy, and all monies collected will go to the Metropolis for youth ministry. It is earmarked for youth events so all youth will be able to attend youth activities held within the Metropolis of Atlanta. Please be generous and join Philoptochos in the Coffee Room after Divine Liturgy to enjoy some Fanouropita.

SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL MESSAGE
The Sunday Church School high school teachers ask parents to purchase an Orthodox study Bible for their homes, if they do not already have one. This year daily scripture readings are being promoted in class, and the Study Bible is essential to the success of this program. Please note that the Cathedral office has a limited supply.
GREEK SCHOOL BEGINS NEW ACADEMIC YEAR
Greek School Director Fay Kalergi announced that classes will begin Thursday, August 22, 2019. In an effort to prepare for the new academic year, she scheduled Parent-Teacher Meetings on the following days:

**Sunday, August 18**
12:00 pm in Room 210
Parents with children in the second, third, or fourth year of Greek School

**Saturday, August 24**
11:00 am in Room 210
Orientation Session: Parents with children attending Greek School for the first time
Registration ends August 31.

MORE DONORS ACCEPT MAGDA’S CHALLENGE!
Recently, Magda Pelias challenged the Holy Trinity Cathedral family to have ten individuals match her donation of $500 in hopes that $5,000 will be raised for the community to designate for parishioners in need. Her goal is to complete the challenge by Thanksgiving. Thus far, SIX anonymous donors accepted Magda’s challenge, and one hails from Youngstown, Ohio! The community is extremely grateful to these individuals and waits to see if the remaining four donations will be obtained by the deadline.

PRELIMINARY ARCHITECTURAL RENDERRINGS ON DISPLAY
During August all parishioners are asked to review the preliminary architectural renderings in the foyer, which depict four different concepts for the new Hellenic Cultural Center and the surrounding Cathedral grounds. Each architectural firm will make a presentation on their rendering after church services. Below is the schedule for each firm. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend each of the sessions in order to gather additional information on this important project.

September 8 | Lachin Architects  
September 15 | Waggonner and Ball
September 22 | Jahncke and Burns  
September 29 | N-Y Associates

QUIET BAGS AVAILABLE IN NARTHEX
Parents, please note that quiet bags for your young children are available in the small room off the right side of the Narthex. Remember to return the bags with all of their contents after church service.

SUMMER ACTIVITY FOR HOPE AND JOY MEMBERS RESCHEDULED
The summer activity that was cancelled due to Tropical Storm Barry is rescheduled. All HOPE and JOY members are invited to LUV 2 PLAY indoor playground on Saturday, September 29, from 9:30 am to 11:30 am. The venue is located at 6851 Veterans Memorial Boulevard in Metairie. Participants are reminded to wear socks! If you have any questions on this event, contact Mariellen Craver at 251-459-5760 or Diana Peterson at 504-610-1383. Please note that parents must sign a release online or upon arrival.

Message from Father George
This week we again will feature an excerpt from the Orthodox Classic book by Father Anthony Coniaris: Introducing the Orthodox Church, Its Faith and Life (pp 122-123)

CALLED TO BE SAINTS
Saint Paul wrote to the Romans: "To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints…" (Romans 1:7) To the Corinthians he wrote: "To the church of God which is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints..." (1 Cor. 1:2) When Paul was writing to the Christians in Rome and Corinth, reminding them that they are "called to be saints," he was not writing to people likely to figure in stained-glass windows but to a motley collection of shopkeepers, minor civil servants, converted prostitutes, prizefighters, and slaves. These were the people he called God's holy ones, called to be like Christ their Lord, agents and instruments of His continuing work in the world. These were the saints. And so, by God's grace, are we.

Every Christian is called to perfection and is capable of revealing the image of God hidden in him. But, only a few become so transfigured through the Holy Spirit during their earthly life that they can be recognized as saints by other Christians and officially canonized as such by the Church. This should not draw our attention away from the fact that every baptized Christian is called to be a saint. In the New Testament the saints were not a spiritual elite but the whole body of Christians. That never meant that all Christians were regarded as having reached a sinless perfection. In that sense there are no saints in the New Testament for even the best of Christians are far from perfect. The only saints the New Testament knows are forgiven sinners, who are always ready to place their utter dependence on God’s mercy and grace.

Thus, there are the Saints with a capital “S,” those officially recognized and canonized by the Church, and there are the saints with a small “s,” who are the whole body of Christians, you and I included. We, too, are called to be men and women in whom others can in some way meet the living Christ. We can appreciate our call to be saints when we realize that saints become saints not so much because of the unusual things they do but rather because of the unusual degree to which they give themselves to Christ. By our daily faithfulness to Christ, each of us is a saint in the making. Made in the image of God and baptized in the Trinity, every Christian has the potential of sainthood.

Metropolitan Kallistos Ware writes, "It must not for one moment be thought that there are no saints except those publicly honored as such. Those who are mentioned in the calendar form are but a small fraction of the whole Community of Saints; besides them there is a great host whose names are known to God alone, and these are venerated collectively on the Feast of All Saints (observed on the first Sunday after Pentecost)."
In the fertile region surrounding the Sea of Galilee, the mustard plant was a familiar form of vegetation. Properly nourished, its seeds, which were widely used for seasoning and medicinal purposes, would commonly grow into a sturdy tree that normally measured about fifteen feet in height.

The imagery of great abundance rising from humble beginnings was not lost on our Lord, as evidenced by His famous Parable of the Mustard Seed. “The kingdom of Heaven is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, which indeed, is the least of all seeds, but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs and becomes a tree.” (Matt 13:31-32)

This parable is not meant to provide us with a glimpse of heaven, but rather its purpose is to explain the process of growth involved with spreading the word of God so that we may, one day, be part of God’s heavenly kingdom. Christ’s ministry began in a small way, with poor, uneducated fishermen serving as His messengers. In no time at all, they spread the Christian faith throughout the Roman Empire and beyond. The work of the Lord often involves seemingly insignificant people and circumstances, but the possibilities for growth are endless because of God’s power. Many in Christ’s time fully expected God’s kingdom to be revealed immediately. Church Fathers remind us, however, that all the glory that awaits us will take time to grow and mature through adversity. Still, when the kingdom of Heaven is fully formed, it will be more wonderful and bountiful than we can imagine!

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin ............... Varick, Cliffwood, New Jersey ............... Lithos in USA

Please submit all information for the September issue of The Flame by Friday, August 23, 2019.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11
ATTENDANCE 95 ~ CANDLE AND TRAY COLLECTIONS $396

Holy Trinity Cathedral
Greek Orthodox Community of New Orleans
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☎ Very Reverend Father George Wilson, Dean
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Resurrection Apolytikion

Plagal Tone 4

You descended from on high, O compassionate One, and condescended to be buried for three days, so that from the passions You might set us free. Our life and resurrection, O Lord, glory be to You.

Apolytikion of the Feast

Tone 1

In giving birth you retained your virginity, and in dormition you did not forsake the world, O Theotokos. You were translated unto life, being the Mother of Life. And thus by virtue of your intercessions you deliver our souls from death.

Apolytikion of the Holy Trinity

Plagal Tone 4

Blessed are You, O Christ our God, who made fishermen all-wise, sending upon them the Holy Spirit and, through them, netting the world. O Loving One, glory to You.

Kontakion

Plagal Tone 2

The Theotokos, unsleeping in intercession and the immovable hope of protection, could not be retained by any tomb or death. For being Life's own Mother, she was transferred to life by Him who dwelt in the ever-virgin womb.

Απολυτίκιον τῆς Ἀνάστασης

Ὑχος πλ δ’
Εξ ύψους κατήλθες ὁ εὐσπλαγχνος, ταφὴν καταδέξω τριήμερον, ἵνα ἡμᾶς ἐλευθερώσῃ τῶν παθῶν. Ἡ ζωὴ καὶ ἡ Ἀνάστασις ἡμῶν, Κύριε δόξα σοι.

Απολυτίκιον της Ἐορτῆς

Ὑχος α’
Ἐν τῇ Γεννήσει τὴν παρθενίαν ἐφύλαξας, ἐν τῇ Κοιµήσει τὸν κόσµον ὑπαρχοῦσα τῆς ζωῆς, καὶ ταῖς πρεσβείαις ταῖς σαῖς λυτρουμένη, ἐκ θανάτου τάς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

Απολυτίκιον τῆς Ἁγίας Τριάδας

Ὑχος πλ δ’
Εὐλογητὸς εἶ, Χριστὲ ὦ Θεός ἡμῶν, ὁ πανσόφοις τοὺς ἁλιεῖς ἀναδείξας, καταπέμψας αὐτοὶ τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ ἄγιον, καὶ δι’ αὐτῶν τὴν οἰκουμένην σαγηνεύσας, φιλάνθρωπε, δόξα σοί.

Κοντάκιον

Ὑχος πλ β’
Τὴν ἐν πρεσβείαις ἁκοίμητον Θεοτόκον, καὶ προστασίαις ἀμετάθετον ἐλπίδα, τάφος καὶ νέκρωσις οὐκ ἐκράτησεν· ὡς γὰρ ζωῆς Μητέρα, πρὸς τὴν ζωὴν μετέστησεν, ὁ μῆτραν οἰκῆσας ἀειπάρθενον.
ΤΟ ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ

Ματθαίου ἰ’’ 22-34

Τῷ καρῗ ἑκείνῳ, ἡνάγακασεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς τοὺς μαθητὰς ἐμβηνά εἰς τὸ πλοῖον καὶ προάγεαν αὐτὸν εἰς τὸ πέραν, ἐως ὧν ἀπολύσεως τοὺς ὀχλους. Καὶ ἀπολύσεως τοὺς ὄχλους ἀνεβῆ εἰς τὸ ὄρος κατὶ ἰδίαν προσεύχασθαι. ὦμιας δὲ γενομένης μόνος ἦν ἐκεῖ. Τὸ δὲ πλοῖον ἤδη σταδίους πολλοὺς ἀπὸ τῆς γῆς ἀπείχεν, βασανίζομεν ὑπὸ τῶν κυμάτων, ἦν γὰρ ἐναντίος ὁ ἁνεμος. Τέταρτῃ δὲ φυλακὴ τῆς νυκτὸς ἤθαν πρὸς αὐτῶν περιπατότας ἐπὶ τὴν ÿλασσαν. Οἱ δὲ μαθηταὶ ἵδοντες αὐτὸν ἐπὶ τῆς ÿλασσῆς περιπατοῦντα ἐπαράχθησαν λέγοντες ὅτι Φάντασμά ἦσται, καὶ ἀπὸ τοῦ φόβου ἐκκράζαν. Ἐνίκης δὲ ἐλάλησεν Ἰо Ἰησοῦς] αὐτοῖς λέγων, Θαρασείτε, ἐγὼ εἰμὶ μὴ φοβεῖσθε. Ἀποκρίθης δὲ αὐτὸ ὁ Πέτρος ἔπειν, Ἦκυρε, εἰ οὐ εἰ, κλεύουσα καὶ ἐλθεῖν πρὸς σέ ἐπὶ τὰ υδάτα ὁ δὲ εἶπεν, Ἐλάθε. καὶ καταβάς ἀπὸ τοῦ πλοίου ὁ Πέτρος περιπάτησεν ἐπὶ τὰ υδάτα καὶ ἤθαν πρὸς τὸν Ἰησοῦν. Βλέπων δὲ τὸν ἁνεμον ἐφοβήθη, καὶ ἀρξαζόμενος καταποντίζοντας ἔκραξεν λέγων, Ἦκυρε, σῶσον με. Εὐθέως δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐκκαίνας τὴν χείρα ἐπελάβετο αὐτοῦ καὶ λέγει αὐτῷ, Ὠλιγόπιστε, εἰς τῇ ἐδίστασας καὶ ἀναβάντων αὐτῶν εἰς τὸ πλοῖον ἐκόπασεν ὁ ἁνεμος. Οἱ δὲ ἐν τῷ πλοῖῳ προσεκύνησαν αὐτῷ λέγοντες, Ἀληθῆς Θεοῦ ὑσίς εἰ. Καὶ διαπεράσαντες ἠλθον ἐπὶ τὴν γῆν εἰς Γεννησαρὲτ.

THE EPISODE

1 Corinthians 3:9-17

BRETHREN, we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, God’s building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder. I laid a foundation, and another man is building upon it. Let each man take care how he builds upon it. For no other foundation can any one lay than that which is laid; for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work which any man has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If any man’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire. Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you? If any one destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him. For God’s temple is holy, and that temple you are.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 14:22-34

At that time, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat by this time was many furlongs distant from the land, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately he spoke to them, saying "Take heart, it is I; have no fear." And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, bid me come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; but when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "O man of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they entered the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." And when they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret.