

# WEEKLY PEW BULLETIN

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church  
Clearwater, Florida

Rev. James T. Paris, Proistamenos

Rev. Andrew J. Pavlakos, Assistant Priest

**The Lord's Day-10th Sunday of Matthew**

Apodosis of Transfiguration; Recovery of the Relics of Maximos the Confessor;  
Empress Eudokia; Empress Irene; Dositheos the Righteous

Office: 727-799-4605

Fax: 727-799-9173

office@htclearwater.com

www.htclearwater.com



## A LITTLE FAITH, LIKE A DASH OF SPICE, CAN MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE

After ascending Mount Tabor to show His Disciples His Eternal Glory, Jesus descended the mountain to meet His voluntary humiliation in the fallen and perishing world. As He did this, Jesus came upon a man who fell on his knees before Him and pleaded with Him to heal his son who had been suffering terribly from demons. The demons forced the boy to throw himself into the extremes of fire and water to torture and destroy him. The father was worn out just watching what his tormented son's helpless body was forced to endure. The father tried everything and even came to Jesus' Disciples to help him and deliver his son from his frightful plight. At the feet of Jesus, the father showed in manner and demeanor, as well as words, that he was offering his every hope in His Present Lord to Deliver his son and save him, as the Deliverer and Saviour of all. The father had tried to work through Jesus' established structure of His Disciples. The father attempted first to work through the system, so to speak, and respect the chain of command, but now he had no choice. He would go straight to the Source, to the Healer of Soul and Body Who had taught the Disciples to heal and cast out demons. He would go straight to Jesus, for the Disciples "could not cure him."

Having told Jesus all this plainly and truthfully, with no guile, Jesus responded most plainly for all to hear--not just the father of the boy, not just His Disciples, but even more so, the scribes and the people. To be sure, He was disappointed in His Disciples; but He was also righteously upset at His own people, especially those who should know better and yet lead the people astray--namely, the leaders like the scribes, priests, and Pharisees. His Disciples' powerlessness was due to the infection that comes from them being influenced by the faithless, selfish, and perverse. Jesus had come down from the mountain to go to Jerusalem to meet His Passion for them, and He would not be with them much longer. His time was limited. Their time was limited.

Time lost cannot be regained. It is a gift not be squandered. He would only be able to bear with them as long as His limbs and breath could bear upon the Cross that He would voluntarily endure for them. So He commanded them to bring the suffering son, for whom He Himself would suffer and die. So they brought the boy to Jesus, and He rebuked the demon. Recognizing the Creator and Lord of All, the demon immediately came out of the tormented son, and the boy was cured immediately at His Word, the Word that created the world, and the Word that redeems the world with His Word.

Stunned, the Disciples asked why they could not cast out the demon, as He had cast it out. To this, Jesus told them simply but penetratingly: "because of your unbelief." Jesus told them that even if they had the faith of the tiny mustard seed they would be able to move mountains, and moreover, that nothing would be impossible for them. This was most illustrative. One of the tiniest seeds of all, the mustard seed can grow into a tree twenty feet wide by twenty feet high. Even more, the mustard is very hardy and can endure and overcome the harshest of conditions. Furthermore, the mustard tree can be cut down to its trunk and still continue to grow and thrive. Little, it grows big, tall, and strong. At first, it seems insignificant, but it is most significant. It gives shade, shelter, spice, flavor, and health. It is small, unassuming, and unimpressive at first, but it is so much more in the end, and ultimately, the end of the matter is better than the beginning.

Thus, the mustard seed is like faith. To the world it is of no account, but to those who believe it is something glorious and redemptive, for it protects, shelters, and gives. Those with the eyes of Faith can see the potential hidden within. The mustard seed is like the little nascent Church Christ established that would grow to reach out and save the entire world. The mustard seed symbolized the small, insignificant, persecuted Church that would grow and prosper, overcome all, and give to the world a fragrant foretaste of the Kingdom of God that will give infinitely and forever to

**Tenth Eothinon Gospel John 21:1-14**

After you descended into Hades and resurrected from the dead, Your Disciples, naturally disheartened by their separation from You, O Christ, resorted to working again. So they went back to the boats and the nets, and there was no catch at all. But then, O Savior, when You appeared as the Master of all, You commanded them to cast the nets on the right side of the boat. They put Your word into action at once; and so great was the shoal of fish. Then, an unusual meal was ready for them ashore. That meal, which Your Disciples partook of then, grant us to enjoy now spiritually, O Lord who love humanity.

**Apolytikion for Transfiguration**

When You were transfigured on the mountain, O Christ our God, You showed Your disciples Your glory as far as they could bear. So now, for us sinners also, let this same eternal light shine forth through the prayers of the Theotokos. O Giver of light: "Glory to You!" (p. 221 of Hymnal)

**Festal Entrance Hymn**

For with you is the fountain of life; O lord, in Your light we shall see light. Save us, O Son of God, who were transfigured in glory on Mt. Tabor, we sing to you: "Alleluia!"

**First Tone Resurrectional Apolytikion**

Although Your tomb was sealed with a stone, O savior, and Your most pure body was guarded by the soldiers, You rose on the third day giving life to all the world. Therefore, O giver of life, the powers of heaven praise You: "Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Your kingdom! Glory to Your saving wisdom, O only lover of mankind!" (p. 98 of Hymnal)

**Apolytikion of Pentecost**

Blessed are You, O Christ our God. You made wise men of poor fishermen, by sending down upon them Your Holy Spirit, and through them, You caught

all who endure and prevail in Faith. If only we, as the modern day disciples of Christ, had the requisite Faith, no matter how small and how deeply buried. We never know what lurks below the surface. We cannot judge by looks or what cannot be seen; they say still waters run deep and cannot be fathomed. So it is also with Faith. On the surface, one cannot tell how deep and profound one's Faith truly is; but if we have the Faith of a mustard seed, we can move mountains too.

The mountains represent barriers and boundaries. They symbolize heights and challenges that beckon us to overcome and find ourselves as we find new horizons and thereby experience the transforming summits of glory. With Faith and perseverance, we can overcome all barriers and impediments put in our way. All of us will and must face them. Some will be taller, steeper, and more numerous, but we will all be challenged by something at sometime. What matters is that we meet these challenges with Faith. Mountains are not just visible. They have their origins deep beneath the earth, and so are our challenges are not always visible or predictable. Faithless, we will shrink from what is visible and run from what emerges; but with the clear, penetrating eyes of Faith, we will see them, meet them, and eventually overcome them.

With Faith, we can indeed climb every mountain; and this is what Jesus is telling those who have the ears to ear. For those with Faith, nothing is impossible. Is something impossible? Then change the conditions, and the impossible becomes possible. Are mountains in your way? Then, climb them or go around them; but to do this, you must have Faith in God, trust in yourself, and confidence in others. Lastly, you must not just rely upon prayer. You must also do, and you must discipline and train yourself through fasting from all that is distracting, enervating, unhealthy, tempting, and self destructive--most especially, you must fast by keeping yourself from corruptive company, dehumanizing images, and corrosive concepts. Prayer without practice is like teaching without deeds, words without charity, or talking without doing--impotent and barren. Remember the Teacher's teaching of the fig tree. You must produce like the mustard seed.

Our Faith is like the mustard seed that is unassuming but grows and thrives to overcome all obstacles and keeps on giving for the benefit of others. It is small, humble, and simple, like the small, humble, and simple Child wrapped in swaddling clothes in an unassuming manger. God descended to earth in humility so we may ascend with Him in Glory. He ascended and showed His Disciples their destiny, but also descended the mountain to show them that the path to glory lies in humility--the humility exhibited on the Cross; a symbol ostensibly of humiliation, but ultimately one of exaltation. The Cross does not symbolize a hopeless finality; it represents victorious eternity through the transformation of the Most High. So also the mustard represents the potential of Faith to overcome and conquer all things and participate in the Glory of God.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

✠Fr. Jim

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

the whole world. O Lover of mankind, Glory to You. (p. 172 of Liturgy Hymnal)

**Kontakion for Transfiguration**

Upon the mountain were You transfigured, and Your disciples beheld Your glory as far as they were able, O Christ our God; so that when they would see You crucified they might understand that Your Passion was deliberate, and declare to the world that in truth You are the Father's radiance.

**Epistle: 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday**

1 Corinthians 4:9-16 (p. 105)

**Gospel Reading: 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday**

Matthew 17:14-23 (p. 215)

**Megalynarion**

Your childbirth occurred without corruption. It was God, wearing flesh, who came forth from your all-holy womb. He was seen upon the earth and lived among men, O Theotokos; therefore we all magnify you.

**Communion Hymn**

We will walk in the light of the glory of your face, O Lord, forever. Alleluia. (p. 330 of Hymnal)

**Post Communion Hymn**

When you were transfigured...

Creed in Greek

**TRISAGION**

3 Years Mike Papadakis

**MEMORIALS**

3 Years Helen Parharides

17 Years Maria Gabriles

25 Years IGOUMENI THEKLA  
of North & South America

**ALTAR FLOWERS AND COFFEE HOUR**

*are offered in memory of IGOUMENI THEKLA of North and South America by the Markris Family.*

**ARTOKLASIA FOR DORMITION**

*On Monday is offered by Fotina Bakkalapulo.*

*On Sunday is offered by Sia Zaharas.*

**Sunday, August 13-10th Sunday of Matthew**

8:15am Orthros (Matins)

9:30am Divine Liturgy

9:30am First Day of Church School Class

3:00pm GOYA Basketball Practice

**Monday, August 14-Eve Dormition of the Theotokos**

6:00pm Great Vespers

**Tuesday, August 15-Dormition of the Theotokos**

9:00am Orthros

10:00am Office Closed

10:00am Divine Liturgy

**Wednesday, August 16**

1:00pm Leisure Timers

5:00pm Adult Basketball

**Thursday, August 17**

9:00am Cooking for Homeless

**Sunday, August 20-11th Sunday of Matthew**

8:15am Orthros (Matins)

9:30am Divine Liturgy

9:30am Church School

11:00am Adult Religious Education Class

11:30am Altar Orientation (Acolytes)

11:30am GOYA Board Meeting

11:30am Ministry Fair

12:30pm PTO Meeting

**SUMMER HOURS REMINDER**

Until Sunday September 3rd....

**Sunday Orthros will begin at 8:15 and Divine Liturgy will begin at 9:30. Weekday Orthros will begin at 8:30 and Divine Liturgy will begin at 9:30.**

**TODAY DURING COFFEE HOUR**

Welcome Table, Capital Campaign Information; Oral History Project

**OUR 2017 STEWARDSHIP PROGRESS**

**Goal:\$445,000-Received:\$262,307-Remaining: \$182693**

**Per Family Per Month: \$80**

*Please help our community reach its stewardship goal by fulfilling your pledge, increasing your pledge, or making a pledge. Thank you!*

LIVE MUSIC

FOOD & FUN



HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

# DISCO PARTY

featuring the music of

## Disco Inferno

\$50 per person

Doors open at 8 pm

Cash Bar

Heavy hors d'oeuvre

## SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 16, 2017

Matheos Hall

409 S. Old Coachman Road  
Clearwater, FL 33765

For information or tickets call: 727-799-4605

### SUNDAY

#### FELLOWSHIP

If you have been to coffee hour the past few weeks, you may have noticed we ordered them from a different donut company. Those delicious donuts are from Jupiter Donuts in Palm Harbor. During the summer months, we wanted to try a new donut company in hoping we could find one within our budget that delivers. With the fall season quickly approaching, we would like to find a company that will deliver to us while keeping our cost and your cost down. We encourage your feedback and welcome suggestions for other donut companies in the area that we may contact. Please call the main office with your suggestions.

Thank you.

### PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN NEED

To have a name added to the prayer list, please contact Esther Tsikos (727) 736-3409 or email her at [esthertsikos@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:esthertsikos@tampabay.rr.com).

Please pray for the following people:

Ryan, Athena, Petros and Christina, George, Anna, Margaret, Demetrios, Steve, Theodore, Angela, Anna, Teresa, Connie, Christine, Tiffany, John, Ginny, Kiersten, Fred, Bartholomew, Sheri, Catherine, Athanasios, Evangelia, Eleni, Andy, Jack, Despina, Frederica, Mary, Georgia, Peggy, Faye, Sophia, Frank, Ruth, Irene, Raymond.

