

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-13th Sunday of Matthew

Hieromartyr Anthimos of Nikomedia; Chariton the Martyr; Neomartyr Polydoros of Neo-Ephesus; Righteous Theoktistos; Phoebe the Righteous Deacon

Office: 727-799-4605

Fax: 727-799-9173

office@htclearwater.com

www.htclearwater.com



A CERTAIN LANDOWNER

In today's appointed passage, Jesus spoke of a "Certain" Landowner, not just any landowner. This landowner planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. It was valuable, it was protected, and it was designed to produce. He leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. When the vintage time drew near, he sent his servants to the vine dressers so that they might receive its fruit for the owner. However, the vinedressers seized his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. So, again, he sent more servants, but they did the same to them. Last of all, he sent his son, thinking they will at least respect my son. However, when they saw his son, they recognized him as the heir, and they devised to seize and kill him in order to steal his inheritance. So as they thought and plotted, they did. They cast the son out of the vineyard, and they killed him.

Having shared this story, Jesus puts the question to his listeners for their judgment: "Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?" They immediately answered that he will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons.

By so answering, they did not realize that they were invoking this righteous judgment upon themselves. Jesus was speaking to His own People (Israel). God is the Landowner. He planted the Vineyard for His People to render and gather fruit in the due time for joy and salvation. The servants were His Prophets that He sent to His People to wake them up, so they might listen, obey, and follow His instructions for the health of His Vineyard, the benefit of His People, and ultimately thereby for their own salvation. But time and time again, they refused

to listen to God's messengers, prophets, angels, law, and miracles. They murmured against, undermined, disobeyed, and even killed His Prophets. Patient and merciful, God sent more Prophets and miracles, but they remained stiff necked, hard hearted, and obdurate. They killed the other messengers, too.

So finally, in His Mercy and Compassion for fallen human nature, God sent His Only Begotten Son. God thought that surely, after His infinite patience and forbearance, they would respect and honor His Son. However, they took His Son outside of the Vineyard and killed Him, too. They did not want the blood of the Son in the Vineyard so as to somehow justify their behaviour and not be tainted by the guilt of the Blood shed, so they cast Him out to kill Him. With pre-mediation and malice of forethought, they knew full well that with no heir, according to the law, the property would pass to those in possession--themselves.

These vinedressers were God's own People. God sent the Lamb of God to take away their sins, shed His Blood to wash away their sins, cleanse them, and make them pure. As they slaughtered the lambs for the Passover on the wood of the spits outside of Jerusalem (the Vineyard), they were slaughtering the True Passover Lamb on the Wood of the Cross. Spiritually blind, they could not see what they were doing. As they murdered and shed the blood of the Prophets, so they did to the Fulfillment of the Prophets. Thinking they were obedient to the prescriptions of the Law against blood in the City, they were shedding the Blood of the One Who is the Author and Perfection of the Law outside the City. Concerned about earthly power and wealth, and about being right and deserving the praises of men, they forfeited the eternal and infinite Kingdom for the ephemeral and finite kingdom. They murdered the Righteous One, and incurred the eternal oppro-

Second Eothinon Gospel**Mark 16:1-8**

The women with their ointments went with Mary to the tomb, and they wondered how they would attain what they desired. Then they saw that the stone was rolled back, and also a godly young man who tried to quiet the disturbance of their souls. For he said, "The Lord Jesus has risen. Therefore, preach it to His Disciples and preachers, that they should go quickly to Galilee; and you will see Him, risen from the dead, as the Giver of Life and Lord."

Fourth Tone Apolytikion

The joyful news of Your resurrection was proclaimed by the angel to the women disciples. Having thrown off the curse that fell on Adam, and they ran elatedly to tell the apostles: "Death has been vanquished; Christ our God is Risen from the dead, blessing all the world with His great mercy!" (p. 111 of Hymnal)

For the Hieromartyr Mode 4

Becoming a partner with the Apostles in way of life and successor to their thrones, O God-inspired Saint, in the active life you found an entrance to contemplation. Hence you rightly expounded the word of truth, and you shed your blood in struggling for the faith, O Hieromartyr Anthonios. Intercede with Christ our God, beseeching Him to save our souls.

For the Devout Man Mode pl. 4

Like warm and gentle rain your tears of compunction made the desert burst forth in bloom. Your patient endurance made your sufferings bear fruit one hundred fold and your wondrous deeds have filled all the world with light. O holy father Theoktistos, intercede with Christ our God to save our souls. (p. 137 of Hymnal)

brium of the Eternal King and Judge Who will render the Righteous judgment they unwittingly rendered upon themselves with their very own words--only they did not recognize that they were the evil vinedressers they condemned.

God will return from Heaven (the far away country). He planted His Vineyard, and He will come for Its Fruit entrusted to His People. His People destroyed the Vineyard. They did not produce the Fruit. So God will punish them for what they did to that entrusted to their care, to His Messengers, and even to His Son; and He will lend out the Vineyard to a New People (the Gentiles) who will care for His Vineyard and give Him what He planted and what is His due as the Landowner of All. The Lord looks down from Heaven upon us, His New Israel, His New Vineyard entrusted now to our care. His Son has shed His Blood and established His Eucharist through the Blood of the Grape as the True Vine from the Wood of the New Tree planted in His Church, His New Vineyard. He will come again in glory to judge us for how we cared for His Vineyard and treated His messengers sent by Him down to the present day.

Will we be prepared and be found worthy of all that He purchased and established by His Blood? Will we listen to His messengers and His Word or will we murmur against and disobey them and choose to go our own way and follow that prideful path to perdition? His Church is His Vineyard. We are the Church (His People) called upon to care for His Church until His Second Coming. Will we be ready and be found worthy? Or will He take it away from us and give it to another, more deserving nation, who bear the true fruits that we choose not to bear, and share, and give, to Whom it ultimately belongs, but from Whom we received in stewardship for our salvation and His Glory?

A simple parable this was indeed, but not so simple to follow due to our overbearing pride and human frailty. Awake from your slumber while there is still time. Do not be complacent. Are things too difficult to bear and overcome? With prayer, fasting, and charity, and with God, all things can be overcome, and overcome for eternity. Nothing easy is worthwhile or respected. In order to be valued as gold, sometimes we must be tried in the crucible of turbulent times in order to be found worthy. Be vigilant and tend patiently, steadfastly, and courageously in His Vineyard, and render God His due fruits in the Hope and Promise of the Eternal Harvest to come.

He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God, and he shall be My Son. --Rev. 21:7

Struggling, together with you, to overcome some things in this temporary life, in order to inherit all things, with Him, in The Eternal Life, I steadfastly remain, ✠Father Jim

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

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

Kontakion of Nativity of Theotokos

Your holy birth delivered Joachim and Anna from the reproach of childlessness and liberated Adam and Eve from death's corruption, O Pure One. Thus freed from the stain of sin, we your people honor your birth, crying out to you: "A Woman thought barren brings forth the Theotokos who nourishes Christ our Life. (p. 229 of Hymnal)

Epistle: 13th Sunday

I Corinthians 16:13-24 (p. 110 of Liturgy Book)

Gospel: 13th Sunday of Matthew

Matthew 21:33-42 (p. 223 of Liturgy Book)

Creed in English



TRISAGIONS

2 Years Eleftheria Bournias
7 Years Mary Kottis Katsetos



MEMORIAL

25 Years Steve Evdemon

Sunday, September 3-13th Sunday of Matthew

Tray for Hurricane Harvey Relief

8:15am Orthros (Matins)

9:30am Divine Liturgy

5:30pm Sr. Hellas Practice

Monday, September 4-Labor Day

10:00am Church OFFICE Closed

Tuesday, September 5

5:00pm Greek School Teacher Meeting

Wednesday, September 6

1:00pm Leisure Timers

5:00pm Adult Basketball

5:00pm Greek School 1st Day, Blessing of the Water

6:30pm Orthodoxy 101

Thursday, September 7

1:00pm Outreach Meeting

6:00pm Funeral PrePlanning Seminar MossFeaster

7:00pm Choir Practice

Friday, September 8-Nativity of the Theotokos

9:00am Orthros

10:00am Divine Liturgy

Saturday, September 9

7:00pm GOYA Lock-in

Sunday, September 10-Sunday Before Holy Cross

Fundraiser for Diaconia Retreat Center

Tray for Hurricane Harvey Relief

8:45am Orthros (Matins)

10:00am Church School

10:00am Divine Liturgy

11:00am Adult Religious Education Class

12:00pm GOYA Meeting

3:00pm GOYA Basketball

5:30pm Sr. Hellas Practice

TODAY DURING COFFEE HOUR

Welcome Table, Disco Ticket Sales

GOYAnS are invited to a lock-in on Saturday, September 9th at 7PM until Sunday, September 10th after the GOYA Meeting.

E-mail
htgoya@outlook.com for more information and to sign-up.



See you there!

OUR 2017 STEWARDSHIP PROGRESS

Goal:\$445,000-**Received:**\$277,672-**Remaining:** \$167,328

Per Family Per Month: \$92

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

HURRICANE HARVEY RELIEF REMINDER

For those of you who have not received our communiques,

Our Ladies of Philoptochos (Friends of the Poor) Society will be passing a second tray this Sunday and next Sunday at Holy Trinity to help the victims of Hurricane Harvey. You may donate by cash or a check.

If by check, please make it payable to "IOCC" and write in your memo line: "Hurricane Harvey Relief." If you are not prepared this week, you may donate in next week's second tray.

You may also drop off, or mail, your donation to our Church Office. Please continue to keep them in your prayers.

"And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven." --James 5:15

Thank you and God bless you. Your Holy Trinity Family

THE ARCHONS OF TAMPA BAY AND HOLY TRINITY LECTURE MINISTRY CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO

THE CRUEL NIGHT: POGROM OF CONSTANTINOPLE SEPTEMBER 1955

**PRESENTED BY: DR. HARRY DIMOPOULOS, CHAIRMAN
CHRISTIAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOM INSTITUTE, NAPLES, FL**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2017
7:00 P.M. MATHEOS HALL
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW**

ADMISSION GRATIS



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.

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, Zacharoula, Esther, Manoli, Paraskevi, Fred, Leonidas, Gus, Barbara, Sophie.

