

WEEKLY PEW BULLETIN



Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
Clearwater, Florida

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The Lord's Day-Sunday After the Elevation of the Cross

Martyrs Sophia and her three daughters, Faith, Hope, and Love; Ieromartyr Herakleides; Righteous Anastasios and Euxiphios.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

At Holy Trinity in Clearwater, we are constantly and sedulously monitoring and assessing the situation. Thanks be to God, we have had no reports about any injuries to our people. Most of our people also report no major damages to homes and businesses, just fallen trees, debris, and litter. Most of our people also still have no power.

Our Church buildings and campus are intact. As most of you know, we have had no Church since our fire, but our Altar area and Platytera were enclosed and protected. There was no damage. Our campus is littered with debris, but our landscaper and custodian addressed the cleanup. There appear to have been no major leaks and damage to the exterior and interior of our campus buildings and offices. We installed hurricane proof windows and doors recently, so that was providential. We lost a small shack, but that was insignificant. Power was out and restored on Thursday. Our fellow Floridians know too well the attendant and ensuing issues that grow in the summer heat and humidity. We lost what was in the refrigerators and freezers, but we saved the prosforo for Thursday's and Sunday's liturgies. Our phones and internet were out of service until Friday afternoon. We thank you for being patient with us during this time. Needless to say, we have cancelled and postponed events until it is safe to hold them.

Thus, we are in no need of assistance. Ironically, we have been encouraging and raising money for the IOCC and other charities the past two weeks for the victims of Hurricane Harvey. We are also trying to encourage and help our local shelter and food pantry here in Clearwater, RCS, through volunteers and donations, collections, and distribution of necessities for those in dire need.

I am more concerned for our brothers and sisters in Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Naples, Jacksonville, Savannah, and Charleston with whom I have had con-

tact and consequent concern and sympathy after hearing their reports.

We thank all of you for your prayers. With those whom I spoke and mostly texted, I also enjoyed sharing and receiving the levity as well as the prayers and brotherly concern, which we all needed as each of us became the new bull's eye each time Irma shifted. It was rather amusing to be praying for poor Jacksonville, Charleston, and Savannah, and then for poor Miami and Fort Lauderdale, and then poor Orlando, and then poor Naples, and then poor Tampa Bay, and then, believe it or not, Pinellas County, became the projected direct hit, until God pushed it west at the last minute to break up the eye, and so, we got a 2, which became a one as it left us. We were praying that we would just not be obliterated. If that hurricane shifted a little east with the abundant and very warm waters of the Gulf, that beast would have been fed and energized, and then, America would have experienced its greatest catastrophe ever.

It was difficult for all of us. The saddest day of my life was leaving my home, seeing the pictures and memories of my children, saying my prayers, and just leaving one light on before closing up and heading to a non evacuation area home of one of our dear parishioners--our little red candel light in front of our iconostasion. As I pulled out of the driveway, I took what may have been the last picture of our home. That night was almost surreal. We did not expect it to keep shifting. In fact, I invited my cousin and his wife to come to stay with us, for we never get hit by hurricanes this high up on the west coast of Florida. Some people fled Miami for Naples and then Naples for Clearwater. In short, this hurricane was so big you just could not out run and escape it. By the time it shifted, and then aimed towards us, it was too late for us to evacuate. We had no time to prepare our homes. I just threw all our patio equipment into the pool, and by God's Grace, Father Andrew and

Fourth Eothinon Gospel

Luke 24:1-12

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."

Apolytikion of the Holy Cross

Save, O Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance. Give victory to those who battle evil and protect us all by Your holy cross. (p. 181 of Liturgy Hymnal)

Plagal Second Tone Apolytikion

The angelic powers appeared at Your tomb, the soldiers guarding it become as dead men, and Mary stood at Your grave seeking, seeking Your most pure Body. But You made hell a captive: You were untouched by its might. You came to the virgin and granted life. O Lord, who rose from the dead, Glory to You! (p. 119 of Hymnal)

Apolytikion of the Holy Trinity

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 Hymnal)

Sampson came to my door to help move the items that required two people to lift. Unbeknownst to me, my daughter Vasi from NIH in Bethesda was monitoring our house with her phone, and she called and told me: "Daddy, Father Andrew and Father Sampson are at the house."

I thank my little angel, my youngest daughter Sophia. Months ago travel was arranged for her and Presvytera Eleni to go to NIH in Bethesda, MD for tests and procedures. They were scheduled already to fly out late Friday afternoon. We learned that Pinellas County was closing school Thursday and Friday, so we immediately checked to see if there were anymore seats on that flight for my older daughter Vasi. Miraculously, there was one left. We got it. I got them to the airport extra early to be certain. I was so happy that plane took off, for I was afraid of cancellations or postponements. Providentially, Bethesda was our first parish, and the children were baptized there. Moreover, Sophia and Vasi have their Godparents there with them. Sophia's Name Day is Sunday. They will go to Church in the morning to Saint Sophia in Washington, D.C. where Presvytera and I were married, and return back to our home Sunday.

God has been good to us. He has blessed, protected, and delivered us through your prayers, concern, and love. I have too many miraculous stories to share with you from these past few days that time does not permit. Suffice it to say, we have one another, the Saints, the Angels, and the Theotokos. I cannot count the number of people texting from throughout the country sharing their concern and love and offering their prayers. The Power of Prayer and the Hand of God pushed the greatest hurricane ever away from us at the last minute. The words of Christ ring true for you the Faithful, Christ's modern day disciples, "For assuredly, I say unto you, if you have the faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you." **We said move this hurricane from here to there, and the hurricane moved.**

My brothers, we have been encouraging our people this last week to pray and fast and give. That is our Holy Triad, more powerful than any worldly nuclear triad. We had agiasmos, paraklesis, Holy Communion, we fasted, and we give for Hurricane Harvey. And God in His Infinite Love, Mercy, and Power moved the biggest, fastest, and most powerful hurricane our country has ever experienced, and He did so at the very last minute.

"What god is as great as our God? You Alone are the God that works wonders." (Ps. 77:14) This was surely a transformation of the Most High.

Allow me to close with words of wisdom from Saint James, the Brother of the Lord: **"My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing."** --James 1: 3-4.

Prayerfully, joyfully, and patiently, I remain, your brother in Christ,
✠Father Jim

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Kontakion of the Holy Cross

Bestow Your mercies on the people called by Your name, Christ God, who freely let Yourself be raised on the cross. To all who battle evil give joy in Your power, by gracing them with victory over every foe. For having You as their ally they possess a weapon of peace, an invincible trophy of victory. (pp. 233, 235 of Liturgy Hymnal)

Epistle: Sunday after the Cross

Gal 2:16-20 (p. 148 of Liturgy Book)

Gospel: Sunday After the Cross

John 3:13-17 (p. 307 of Liturgy Book)

Creed in English

○ Champion General I your city now inscribe to you triumphant anthems as the tokens of my gratitude, being rescued from the terrors, ○ Theotokos. But since you have the dominion unassailable, from all kinds of perils free me so that unto you, I may cry aloud: Rejoice, ○ Bride unwedded.

Sunday, September 17-Sunday After Holy Cross

8:45am Orthros (Matins)
 9:00am AHEPA Blood Drive
 10:00am Divine Liturgy
 12:30pm GOYA Volleyball Pick Up and Lunch
 5:30pm Sr. Hellas Practice

Monday, September 18

5:00pm Greek School
 6:50pm Greek School Adults

Tuesday, September 19

6:00pm Agape Community Pot Luck Dinner
 7:00pm Orthodox Men's Club

Wednesday, September 20

1:00pm Leisure Timers
 5:00pm Adult Basketball
 5:00pm Greek School Open House
 6:30pm GOYA Gathering
 6:30pm Orthodoxy IOI

Thursday, September 21

6:00pm Funeral PrePlanning Seminar Curlew Hills
 7:00pm Choir Practice

Saturday, September 23- Conception of St. John the Baptist

9:00am Fall Community Retreat
 9:00am Divine Liturgy

Sunday, September 24-1st Sunday of Luke-Food Drive

8:45am Orthros (Matins)
 10:00am Church School
 10:00am Divine Liturgy
 11:00am Adult Religious Education Class
 12:30pm GOYA Meeting
 12:30pm GOYA Volleyball Practice
 3:00pm GOYA Basketball
 5:30pm Sr. Hellas Practice



MEMORIALS

40 Days Michael Anthony Honey
 40 Days Steve Katsougrakis
 40 Days Vasili (William) White

TODAY DURING COFFEE HOUR

Welcome Table; Oral History Project

OUR 2017 STEWARDSHIP PROGRESS

Goal:\$445,000-**Received:**\$281,464-**Remaining:** \$163,536

Per Family Per Month: \$90

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

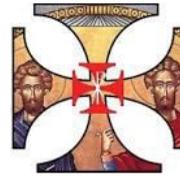
COFFEE HOUR is offered in memory of Steve Katsougrakis by Freeda Katsougrakis.

**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**



Holy Trinity Philoptochos

Invites you to an "Agape"
Community Pot Luck Dinner

Tuesday, September 18, 2017, 6:30 pm

Let us come together as a Church Family, share a meal and give thanks to God for keeping us and His Church safe during Hurricane Irma.

Last names beginning with A-M,
please bring a casserole or salad for 6-8 people

Last names beginning with N-Z,
please bring a dessert for 6-8 people

Drinks & Entrée will be provided

**Entertainment will be a "Sing- a- Long"
with Demetri Kousouthanis**

Please notify the church at 799-4605 if you are attending so we can properly prepare.

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.