

# 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-1st Sunday of Luke

Thekla the Greatmartyr and Equal to the Apostles; Ahmet the Neomartyr;  
Celebration of the Miracle of the Theotokos in Kythera (Myrtydiotissa)

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## LAUNCH OUT INTO THE DEEP

Jesus had ridden Peter's mother in law of her fever, healed those who had various ailments and diseases, exorcised demons, and was preaching in the synagogues. Word had spread like wild fire about this Jesus, and people were coming from far and wide to hear His Word. Jesus went from place to place because He was sent to preach the Kingdom of God, and so the people followed Him. Eventually, He came to Lake Gennesaret (Galilee). There He came to the boat of fisherman named Simon. He asked Simon to take Him in his boat and put out a little from the land to give Him some space from the throngs that were surrounding Him. Having the space and tranquility that the water afforded, Jesus sat down and taught the masses from the boat. Little would Simon and the people realize that by this action Jesus would prefigure the nascent Christian Church, for the boat would come to symbolize the Church and Jesus' sitting symbolize the teaching of The Teacher and Great High Priest Who brought them healing from the Cathedra (Seat) of His Church.

But Peter would soon be in for so much more. After His teaching, Jesus told Simon to launch out in the deep and let down your nets. Wise and pastoral, and knowing everything as Simon's Creator, He wanted Simon to leave his comfort zone, overcome his fears, and grow wiser, stronger, and braver and have the faith, confidence, and trust so he could be the best that he could possibly be for his appointed purpose in life and boldly stretch his horizons until he meets his destiny. The boat and water were symbolic of passage. Travel by water was the fastest form of travel in the ancient world. However, it was fraught with

peril. The weather being fickle could send the storms and winds to buffet the boat, and the ancients feared monsters and gods that lurked in the deep. The boat and water represented the unexpected storms and dangers of life. Although life is a mystery, it is also temporary, and Jesus wanted Simon to grow in faith to live his fully in preparation for his subconsciously longed for passage from earth to Heaven, through Him Who was in His midst guiding him.

At first perplexed, Simon told Jesus that they had toiled all night but caught nothing. Nevertheless, at the Word of God Who created the universe and Who would save His creation, Simon obeyed, put out from the land, and let down his net. Jesus was teaching him to persevere and be persistent, like a good father telling his son if at first you do not succeed, try, try, again. Moreover, one must not keep doing the same thing over and over again if it does not work. One must find and try a different way.

Perhaps the area Simon had tried was overfished. Perhaps the din of the throngs scared away the fish. Maybe the time of day was not fortuitous. Maybe Simon was too timid to go further where the fish were. As life itself, fishing is not easy. Ultimately though, Jesus as Son of God and Creator knows all and sees all. Jesus knew where the fish were, but He wanted to bring Simon along to lead, instruct, and transform him. Jesus wanted to show Simon how to find plenty from paucity, success in failure, joy in disappointment.

No matter what the circumstances, there is always the Kingdom of God present and at hand for those with the Faith and spiritual eyes to see and comprehend. As sure as the sun rises, the

### **Fifth Eothinon Gospel**

**Luke 24:13-35**

O how wise are your judgements, O Christ! How was it that to Peter You granted to understand Your resurrection by the grave clothes alone whereas to Luke and Cleopas You spoke as You walked with them, and in speaking did not immediately reveal yourself? And for this reason You were upbraided as the only visitor to Jerusalem who was unaware of what had happened there in those days. Then You, who arrange everything for the benefit of Your creature, interpreted the prophecies concerning You, and when You blessed the bread they recognized You. Even before this, their hearts were burning in recognition of You. Then to the Disciples, who were gathered together, at once they clearly proclaimed Your resurrection; by which have mercy on us.

### **Grave Tone Apolytikion**

By Your cross, O Lord, You destroyed death; to the thief You opened paradise. The myrrh bearers sorrow You transformed into joy, and You sent Your apostles forth to proclaim that You had risen from the dead, Christ our God, bestowing on all the world Your great mercy. (p. 123 of Liturgy Hymnal)

### **Apolytikion of the Theotokos**

O come, all you people, and let us in faith clap our hands and sing sacred songs to her who is the Mother of God, and longingly cry aloud: "Rejoice, O protection of all those who entreat you; rejoice, the salvation of those who honor you with longing; rejoice, O Lady who restored the paralyzed man to health."

darkness never overcomes the light. With Faith and perseverance, Simon's failure will be transformed into success.

Listening to, obeying, and acting on Jesus' Divine Word, a transformation of the Most High occurred immediately. Simon's nets filled so quickly with such a great catch of fish that his nets began to break. Simon's success to suddenly to turn to failure; but once again, the Lord provided, for nearby their partners were ready and able to come quickly to help with catch, and they did, and their boat filled as well. The success was overwhelming to the point of overwhelming their boats.

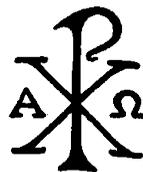
Emotionally overwhelmed, Simon Peter fell down before Jesus, confessed his sins, and acknowledged Him as Lord, for indeed, Jesus is the Lord of all creation, the fish and the sea, and man. From this point on, Simon, and his partners, James and John, would leave everything behind and follow Jesus. From being fishers of fish, they would become fishers of men. They would no more bring fish into the boat, they would bring men to the Church. They would no longer be on their own in the unpredictable, transitioning sea of life. They would be in the presence of the Lord together Who would Pilot their ship to the safe and calm Harbor, the true and Ultimate Destination.

With Faith in God, confidence in ourselves, and trust in our brothers who share our work, we can put out into the deep and discover a world beyond measure and discover our full potential. We can go beyond the familiar to the profound. Life is a mystery that beckons us to conquer barriers and stretch horizons. Like Simon, we must obey the Word of the Lord and launch out. Before we can cast our net, we must cast out fear, before we can bring in the catch. The sea and the catch is the Lord's, but we must be partners in the work of bringing men and women to salvation in our boat where the Lord Teaches, Heals, and Saves--the boat that is His Church from where He once sat with Simon Peter and taught.

May we all cast out fear with Faith, launch into the sea of life, and bring others to His Church as His true modern day Disciples this day--His Fishers of Men for eternity whom He has called to meet their destiny.

Yours in Christ,

✠Father Jim



THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

**Apolytikion of St. Thekla**

All aflame with love for your Creator, from the teachings of the sacred preacher, you disregarded as fleeting all things mundane. And being bold in the face of the penalties, you gave yourself as a beautiful gift to God. Thekla, glorious companion of the Apostle Paul, we pray you entreat your Bridegroom, Christ, and ask Him to grant us His great mercy

**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)

**Ordinary Kontakion**

O unfailing protection of Christians, and our faithful advocate before the Creator: though we are sinners, do not ignore our entreaty; but in your goodness, grant your timely help to us who appeal to you in faith. Quickly make intercession; on our behalf make speedy supplication, O Theotokos, for you always protect those who honor you. (p. 225 of Hymnal)

**Epistle: St. Thekla**

II Timothy 3:10-15

**Gospel: 1st Sunday of Luke**

Luke 5:1-11 (p. 239 of Liturgy Book)

Creed in Greek



**TRISAGIONS**

3 Years Mary Papis  
8 Years Bill (Basilios) Mihalopoulos  
20 Years Nick Kallivrousis

**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  
12:00pm Jr. Hellas Dancers  
12:30pm GOYA Meeting  
12:30pm GOYA Volleyball Practice  
3:00pm GOYA Basketball  
5:30pm Sr. Hellas Practice

**Monday, September 25**

5:00pm Greek School  
7:30pm Parish Council Meeting  
6:50pm Greek School Adults

**Tuesday, Sept. 26-Falling Asleep of St. John the Theologian**

10:00am Divine Liturgy

**Wednesday, September 27**

5:00pm Adult Basketball  
5:00pm Greek School Open House  
6:30pm Orthodoxy 101

**Thursday, September 28**

7:00pm Pogrom of Constantinople  
7:00pm Choir Practice

**Sunday, October 1-2nd Sunday of Luke**

National Church Music Sunday  
8:45am Orthros (Matins)  
10:00am Church School  
10:00am Divine Liturgy  
12:00pm GOYA Meeting  
12:30pm GOYA Volleyball Practice  
5:30pm Sr. Hellas Practice



**TODAY DURING COFFEE HOUR**

Welcome Table; Oral History Project, Capital Campaign

**OUR 2017 STEWARDSHIP PROGRESS**

**Goal:**\$445,000-**Received:**\$292,160-**Remaining:** \$152,840

**Per Family Per Month:** \$84

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

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are offered in memory of Mary Papis and Nick Kallivrousis by Nina Pazos and Family.

**COFFEE HOUR** is offered in honor of Sia Zaharis' 80th Birthday by her 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](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, Zacharoula, Esther, Manoli, Paraskevi, Fred, Leonidas, Gus, Barbara, Sophie, Zizimos, Jaxton, Marina, Titika, Despina, Demetri, Anna, and Manoli

