

# 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-2nd Sunday of Luke**

Ananias of the 70 Apostles; Dominos the Martyr; Romanos the Melodos; John Koukouzelis, Maistoros.

Office: 727-799-4605

Fax: 727-799-9173

office@htclearwater.com

www.htclearwater.com



## POSITIVE VS. NEGATIVE

Far too often, this fallen, hurting world seems to tell us no. There are so many laws that we do not know about, and, unfortunately, ignorance is no defense under the law. We had no idea about laws being passed, and yet they were passed. We are supposed to be represented and have input, but laws are nevertheless passed that affect our lives. Whether we know it or not, or whether we like it or not, we are all guilty under the law. In fact, there are so many laws that we could not possibly know them all. Furthermore, we are constantly reminded about what we cannot do. Think about it just for a moment. How many times do you go by signs telling you what you cannot do. Stop, Do not enter, No Trespassing, No, No, No. Even as a child when we first went to pre school, the first and most prevalent words were no, no, no. No, we don't do that. No, that is unacceptable. No, that is not allowed. We feel trapped in the Monopoly game of life: "Do not pass Go. Do not collect \$200.00.

If there are to be healthy relationships, there needs to be empathy, self awareness, care, and reciprocity. Society and life would be so much easier if we did not just avoid from fear, but rather participated out of love. The Old Testament and the Law were very much legalistic, condemning, judging, and punishing. The primary incentive was fear. It kept the People of Israel separate and apart from their neighbors, their potential enemies. It kept the People from relating, mixing with, and being with foreigners and strangers who might contaminate their religion and pollute their race. The Law gave them an identity so that they would be united, cohesive, and separate.

The Law also kept them from hurting one another so they would not weaken themselves in the presence of numerically superior foes. The Law was a basic, lower level morality for survival in a fallen, dangerous, violent world. Just think about the 10 Commandments. They are replete with "Thou shall not's". They basically say that, if you want to just survive, do not do these things to one another; otherwise, you will destroy one

another and whatever is left of you will be overtaken by your many enemies. In short, the Law was negative. The Law was given to keep the people from self destruction. It was not positive, and certainly was not redeeming.

In today's passage, Jesus tells His disciples something very different. He simply says: "And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise." The operative word is "do." Do is very different than do not. It is the opposite. Jesus' disciples were used to being told do not. Now, Jesus radically changes things. He tells them to do. The Christian ethic, therefore, is a positive ethic. The Christian Teaching is a transformative Teaching. The Christian Philosophy is redemptive Philosophy. Christ wills redemption not condemnation. Christ wills salvation not survival. Christ wills forgiveness not judgment. All this He wills out of His Ecstatic Love. Love is not self contained and distant. Love is engaging and embracing. God is Love.

This is why Christ our God came down from the Heavens in time to assume our humanity in its entirety in order to save us entirely for eternity. Fallen and suffering, we tarnished the Image and Likeness in Which we were created for Fellowship with God and one another. Created in the Image of the Trinity, we were meant to be relational beings, doing--not avoiding--everything in love, concord, peace, and harmony. We were not created to be separate, fragmented, divided, or confused. The Trinity (the Triune God) is relationship and reciprocity. Likewise, Jesus, the God Man (Theanthropos) is Relationship. Jesus is God and Man without separation, fragmentation, division, or confusion.

Our Orthodox Tradition reinforces and makes real this doctrinal Teaching. In the Divine Liturgy, Jesus offers Himself to us in Communion in the Mystical forms of the bread and wine, for we are experiential, sentient beings. As He is perfectly God and Man, the Eucharist is perfectly man's offering of bread and wine and God's offering of His Body and Blood. In reciprocity, in cooperation with His Grace, we are

### **Sixth Eothinon Gospel**

**Luke 24: 36-53**

O Christ, You are the true peace of God with humanity, when You gave Your peace to the Disciples after the resurrection, You frightened them; for they thought that they were seeing a ghost. But You quieted the agitation of their souls by showing them Your hands and Your feet. And while they still did not believe it, You partook of the food and reminded them of the teachings, and thus You opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. Then, when You affirmed the promise of the Father, and You blessed them, You departed for heaven. We therefore join them in worshipping You; "Glory to You, O Lord!"

### **Plagal Fourth Tone Apolytikion**

From on high You descended, O merciful Lord. You accepted the cross and three days in the tomb to free us from the bondage of sin, O our life and resurrection. "Glory to You," O Lord. (p. 127 of Liturgy Hymnal)

### **Apolytikion of St. Ananias**

O holy Apostle Ananias, make intercession to our merciful God, that He grant our souls forgiveness of offenses

### **Apolytikion of St. Romanos**

In you, O Father, is preserved undistorted what was made in the image of God; for taking up the cross, you followed Christ and by example taught, that we should overlook the flesh, since it passes away, and instead look after the soul, since it is immortal. And therefore, O devout Romanos, your spirit rejoices with the angels.

granted Perfection and Communion, Completion and Unity. This miracle happens because we came together in His Name as One People, offered Him thanksgiving, worship, and praise, offered our alms (charity) to those in need, whom He created and for whom He suffered and died, and through whom, we give to God as He wills. This miracle of Holy Communion happens because we offer Him, as He instructed His disciples when He established the Eucharist, the perfect offering of humanity--namely, the bread and wine. In obedience to His Word, as we offered Him the bread and wine, the sustenance for this life, He, in return, offered His Body and Blood, the super essential Bread for eternal life.

This all happens because we do. We are called to come together as one, in one place, in His Name, to experience the Pentecostal Event of the Gift of the Holy Spirit. We are called to come together and give thanksgiving and worship to God. We are called to come together and forgive one another. We are called to come together to make our offering at His Altar to His Church and those in need, and thereby, we make the offering to Him. Thus, He offers Himself, as we offer ourselves--unconditionally. In the same way, He forgives us, as we forgive one another. This is doing to one another and doing for God. God does. God initiates, but we must respond. God calls us. We must come.

We are called as His Church, for the Greek word for Church actually means those who have been called to come together as one. We are summoned for reconciliation and unity. All these things presuppose doing, not avoiding. God wants us to do. He wants us to be grateful, pray, worship, and praise Him. God wants us to forgive one another as we want to be forgiven; God wants us to help His Church, Which He established for our healing, reconciliation, and eternal salvation. God wants us to help one another and those in need.

However, we must respond and act. We must do. God calls us. In the End, we cannot be like a little boy in trouble and say, "Well, I didn't do anything." That is precisely the point. You did not do anything. You could have done something, but you did not. A Christian must do. As you do, so you are. If you want to be authentic. If you want to be. Then, you must do. Our destiny is not an earthly promised land, limited in time and space. Our destiny is The unlimited, eternal Heavenly Promised Land. In Christ, we are a new being, a new creation, resurrected, transfigured and glorified in the Age of Grace, not judged, condemned, and imprisoned under the tyranny of the Law.

The Age of Grace is doing, growing, thriving, and being in the fellowship and Image and Likeness of God. In the Old Age, we were sterile, barren, corrupting, and dying. In the New Age, we are dynamic, fecund, growing, and becoming. Christ wants us to be free and powerful. Christ wants us to do unto others and so do for God, and thereby, ultimately do for ourselves. God is Love. Christ is Love Embodied. We must do, so His Love lives through us for the benefit of all, for what we do now in His Name, is for eternity. We must do by sowing His Love in sacrificial deeds, so one day, together with Him, we may reap the harvest of everlasting joy.

✠Father Jim

**THIS WEEK'S EVENTS**

**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: 17th Sunday**

II Corinthians 6:16-18 (p. 116 of Liturgy Book)

**Gospel: 2nd Sunday of Luke**

Luke 6:31-36 (p. 241 of Liturgy Book)

*Creed in English*



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

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

**Monday, October 2**

5:00pm Greek School
6:15pm PTO Meeting
6:50pm Greek School Adults

**Wednesday, October 4**

1:00pm Leisure Timers
5:00pm Adult Basketball
5:00pm Greek School
6:30pm Orthodoxy 101



**Thursday, October 5**

1:00pm Outreach Meeting
7:00pm Choir Practice

**Friday, October 6-Sunday, October 8**

St. Stefanos Volleyball Tournament  
 Young Adult Conference - connectorthodoxy.org

**Sunday, October 8-3rd Sunday of Luke**

8:45am Orthros (Matins)
10:00am Church School
10:00am Divine Liturgy
11:00am Adult Religious Education Class
1:00pm PRE-TEEN Retreat at St. Johns
5:30pm Sr. Hellas Practice

**TODAY DURING COFFEE HOUR**

Welcome Table; Oral History Project, Capital Campaign



**MEMORIALS**

6 Months Konstantinos Lagos  
 1 Year Georgia Mavrogenis

*COFFEE HOUR is graciously offered by the Orthodox Mens' Club.*

**OUR 2017 STEWARDSHIP PROGRESS**

**Goal:**\$445,000 - **Received:**\$295,946 - **Remaining:** \$149,054  
**Per Family Per Month:** \$109

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



## **Breast Cancer Awareness Month - October 2017**

**In memory of those we have lost to Breast Cancer and to honor all the survivors, Philoptochos is sponsoring a month of awareness.**

Today we will be distributing pink ribbons to all parishioners as a reminder that early detection & testing saves lives.

**Join us at our next Philoptochos Meeting, October 17, 2017 at 7:00pm, all are welcome.** Coffee Fellowship will begin at 6:00 p.m. We are having a guest speaker, Dr. Katherine Dadisman-Wilson.

## **3 simple ways you can make our Family Fall Fest a BIG success**



### **DONATE**

a large bag of wrapped candy in our PTO candy box by **Wednes, Oct 18\***



### **SPONSOR**

a specific part of the festival on our PTO Donor Board\*



### **VOLUNTEER**

during the festival (**Oct 20**)  
Contact us to see where you can help

**\*PTO candy box and donor board are located near the Greek School office in school bldg**



**Thank you for your continued support**



### **PTO CONTACTS**

**Soula Tsetsekas:** [tse2fly@hotmail.com](mailto:tse2fly@hotmail.com) - 727-260-3965 **Rini Xilas:** [rinishokkos@hotmail.com](mailto:rinishokkos@hotmail.com) - 412-999-0357

## **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, Manoli, Nicholas.

