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Our Mission

Our Mission is to become faithful followers of Christ and thus active Greek Orthodox Christians by accepting and submitting to the Will of our Lord so that we may realize salvation and enter into the Kingdom of God.

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A Message From The Editor



Hello Again Everybody,

We are sorry that we are late with this issue of The Voice. At the time of this writing, Happy Easter, Happy Mothers' Day, Fathers' Day, and congratulations to all the 12th graders – success in the future. Wherever your paths take you, never forget Holy Trinity. More on the graduates in the next issue.

It is summer and vacation time. Soon it will be Greek Festival 2014 time again. If you can volunteer your time, please help where help is needed. Let's make this a successful Festival year again.

Enjoy your summer, be safe. More in the next issue.

Angelo Pete Politis



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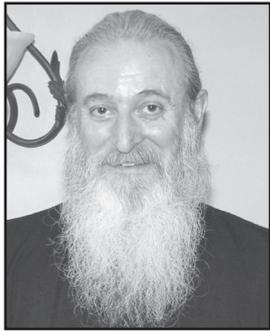


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Remarks From Father Michael



by **Father Michael Varvarelis**
Dean of the Cathedral

St. Porphyrios the Righteous

In the times that we are living, on one hand we see in society people's strong trends for materialism, pleasures of the flesh and secularism and on the other hand we are blessed enough to also find evidences of holiness.

Just a few months ago it was recognized, distinguished and proclaimed the holiness of Blessed Porphyrios Kafsokalyvitis on November 27, 2013. The previous year it was also proclaimed, the holiness of St. George Karssidis from Drama. At the same time we know for the holiness from other persons as Father Iakovos Tsalikis in Evia, Father Paisios of Mount Athos, Father Philotheos Zervakos from Paros, Father Amfilochios Makris of Patmos, Father Demetrios Gagastathis in Trikala, Father Ephraim of Katounakia of the Holy Mountain, and others.

Since recently the Ecumenical Patriarchate proclaimed the sanctity of Holy Father Porphyrios Kafsokalyvitis, I will refer briefly to his Holy life. The Blessed Porphyrios is a continuous stream to the Orthodox tradition of the great ascetics of our Church.

He was born in 1906 in Evia (Agios Ioannis, Karystia). Due to poverty, he started working very young. He read the lives of the Saints and was particularly impressed

Ο Όσιος Πορφύριος

Στα χρόνια πού βρισκόμαστε ενώ βλέπουμε στην κοινωνία των ανθρώπων έντονες τάσεις για τον ευδαιμονισμό-υλισμό, την σαρκολατρεία και την εκκοσμίκευση ταυτόχρονα διαπιστώνουμε μαρτυρίες αγιότητας.

Μόλις πριν από μερικούς μήνες ανεγνωρίσθη, διεπιστώθη και διεκηρύχθη η αγιότητα του οσίου Πορφυρίου του Καυσοκαλυβίτου στις 27 Νοεμβρίου 2013. Τον προπερασμένο χρόνο και πάλι διεπιστώθη η αγιότητα του Αγίου Γεωργίου Καρσλίδη, από την Δράμα. Παράλληλα γνωρίζουμε για την αγιότητα και άλλων ανθρώπων των ημερών μας, όπως του πατρός Ιακώβου Τσαλίκη στην Εύβοια, του πατρός Παϊσίου του Αγιορείτου, του πατρός Φιλοθέου Ζερβάκου στην Πάρο, του πατρός Αμφιλοχίου Μακρή στην Πάτμο, του πατρός Δημητρίου Γκαγκαστάθη στα Τρίκαλα, του πατρός Εφραίμ από τὰ Κατουνάκια του Αγίου Ορους, κá.

Επειδή το Οικουμενικό μας Πατριαρχείο διακήρυξε την αγιότητα του Οσίου πατρός Πορφυρίου του Καυσοκαλυβίτου θα αναφερθούμε με συντομία στο Άγιο Πρόσωπό του. Ο Όσιος Πορφύριος αποτελεί μια συνέχεια της μεγάλης Ορθοδόξου παράδοσης των μεγάλων ασκητών της Εκκλησίας μας.

Γεννήθηκε το 1906 στην Εύβοια (Άγιος Ιωάννης, Καρυστίας). Λόγω φτώχειας, άρχισε να εργάζεται πολύ μικρός. Διάβαζε τους βίους

with the life of St. John the Kalivitis. He went at a very young age to Mount Athos to the hermitage near Kafsokalyvia where the virtuous and strict Elders, Ioannikios and Panteleimon resided. With much humility, he made his obedience to the elders. Quickly he is visited by Divine Grace. Once, before his twentieth birthday, he was waiting at the inner corner of the central Church (Kyriakon) of Kafsokalyvia, in anticipation for the doors to unlock and for the vigil service to begin. At that time, Elder Demas, a hidden saint, came and does not notice the presence of Father Porphyrios. Father Demas began to pray fervently with great prostrations in front of the locked doors of the Church. Divine Grace appeared in the ascetic Demas as light and spread everywhere even covering Father Porphyrios. Thus, God using the God-bearing Elder Demas, lit the fire of the Holy Spirit to Father Porphyrios who was ready to receive the Divine Grace and keep it in his life.

Now the prayer life of Saint Porphyrios has become fruitful and very effective. He received his foresight charisma, a special gift from God. That Sunday after receiving Holy Communion and returning back to his cell/hut, he felt an unspeakable joy and a great peace. The Elders Ioannikios and Panteleimon had gone to hear confessions and at that time they were returning back to their place. As Father Porphyrios was walking back to his cell he saw his elders who were also returning to their cell, but where they were, it was not humanly possible to see them. Being puzzled he revealed to them describing the place that they were walking in detail and asked them what is this all about. They talked about these special gifts that the Lord offers to His children and reassured him that he received this great gift from God. The Blessed Porphyrios saw everything many miles away. And he would speak about this phenomenon with detail and simplicity. He spoke about science and medicine and could even diagnose illnesses. He also talked about the soul, the heart, the mind and behavior of human beings, for the liturgy and hymns of the Church.

των Αγίων και εντυπωσιάστηκε ιδιαίτερα με τον βίο του Αγίου Ιωάννη του Καλυβίτου. Πήγε νεότατος στο Άγιον Όρος να ασκητεύσει στα Καυσοκαλύβια κοντά στους Γέροντες Ιωαννίκιο και Παντελεήμονα, οι οποίοι ήταν ενάρητοι και αυστηροί. Με πολύ ταπείνωση κάνει υπακοή στους Γέροντες. Γρήγορα τον επισκέπτεται η Θεία Χάρις. Κάποτε, πριν τὰ εικοσί του χρόνια, περιμένει στή γωνία του Προ νάρθηκα του κεντρικού Ναού (Κυριακόν) της Σκήτης των Καυσοκαλυβίων να έλθουν οι μοναχοί για να αρχίσει η αγρυπνία. Τότε έρχεται ο γέροντας Δημάς, ένας κρυφός άγιος, πού δεν αντιλήφθηκε την παρουσία του πάτερ-Πορφυρίου. Ο πάτερ Δημάς άρχισε να προσεύχεται θερμά με στρωτές (μεγάλες) μετάνοιες.. Φάνηκε η Θεία Χάρις στον ασκητή Δημά σαν φως και άπλωνε παντού καλύπτοντας και τον πάτερ-Πορφύριο. Ετσι ο Θεός χρησιμοποιώντας τον θεοφόρο Γέροντα Δημά ανάβει την φλόγα του Αγίου Πνεύματος και στον πάτερ-Πορφύριο πού ήταν έτοιμος να δεχθεί την Θεία Χάρι και να την διαφυλάξει στη ζωή του.

Η προσευχή του Οσίου Πορφυρίου έγινε ενεργητική και αποτελεσματική. Έλαβε το διορατικό χάρισμα από τον Θεό πού ήταν εκτεταμένο. Εκείνη την Κυριακή αφού κοινωνήσε και επέστρεψε στην Καλύβη

He was given the revelation to know the cause why every creature was created and for what purpose. This made the people to have much respect and admiration, so that the gifts God gave him were used to bring people to repentance. So people would know Christ.

Because he had a serious illness, the elders advised him to leave the Holy Mountain and return back into the world. He went to his village and at the St. Haralambos Monastery in Evia, where the Archbishop of Sinai

The Blessed Porphyrios is a continuous stream to the Orthodox tradition of the great ascetics of our Church.

who was also named, Porphyrios, ordained him a priest. In 1940 Father Porphyrios was appointed as a Priest to the Polyclinic Hospital in center Athens. He remained in that position for 33 years confessing, praying, and advising many times and healing patients with the Grace of God. In 1950 he rented the abandoned Monastery of St. Nicholas in Penteli where he conducted services, prayers and cultivated the land. In 1979 he acquired land at Milesis Attica, near Oropos where slowly he built the Monastery of the Transfiguration. When finally he realized the end of his life was coming, he asked and was taken blind and sick in June 1991, to the place of his repentance in the cell/hut of St. George in Kafsokalyvia of Mount Athos. There he left for the eternal life on the morning of December 2, 1991.

Saint Porphyrios insisted on the Sacrament of Holy Confession, and said: "we must know that man is not responsible by only himself for his transgressions... Every man has inside himself the living marks of his parents, especially the mother ... creating a situation in the soul of the man because of his parents, which follows him for the remainder of his life and leaves their tracks inside him... but there is a secret. There is a way for the man to be delivered from this evil. The solution is the sacrament of Holy Confession, which is done by the Grace of God ... while you tell the confessor your sins there comes the Divine Grace and you are delivered from all your bad tracks, spiritual wounds, traumas and guilt. Because at the time when you say

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The President's Message



by John Tsumas
Parish Council
President

Dear Parishioners,

I hope that everyone had a wonderful Pascha and that you were able to enjoy the time with your family and friends. It is a wonderful time of the year that brings our entire community together and gives us the opportunity to reflect on the sacrifice made by Christ.

At Holy Trinity, we know that financial stewardship is a sacrifice and an important component of a balanced spiritual life. Returning to God from that which God has given us, is a tangible way to express our faith. When each of us gives, as we are able, we fund the operation of our community. Together, when we all pledge, we grow into our full potential as the body of Christ.

Making your stewardship pledge allows you to make intentional decisions about your financial giving. When you plan ahead for your giving, you make choices about spending your money in ways that reflect your faith and values. Determining the amount of your annual pledge is between you and God. However, as you make this important decision, reflecting on your vision of stewardship may be helpful. Please consider the following elements:

Duty - I give because I am supposed to give

Fairness - I give to pay my own way

Gratitude - I give to return a portion of my blessings

Generosity - I give to help Church ministries and the growth of our community

We ask that you prayerfully consider what level of giving is right for you and your family. We are all at different places in our lives, but are each able to help in our own way. Reflect on where you currently are and ask yourself if you can do more, or if you are able to start giving if you have not been.

Yours In Christ,

John Tsumas

President

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral

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your sins, the confessor prays fervently to the Lord for your deliverance." For this reason, if a man is not forgiven, and is not united with God through the Sacrament of Confession, then he will suffer more difficulties in his soul.

Many times at the end of a particularly pure confession with Fr. Porphyrios, the confessed person would smell a sweet fragrance filling the room where he is confessing.

It is unbelievable to observe that the Blessed Porphyrios kept the Gift that God gave him with his careful, ascetical life by praying constantly and especially at night, conducting the services of the Church, fasting carefully, by loving and honoring the saints, especially the Virgin Mother of Lord, and not complaining ever for the many illnesses he had. He suffered from illnesses from his childhood, also he suffered from cancer and finally he became blind. The Blessed Porphyrios learned by heart, the Psalter and the New Testament, especially the Gospel of John. He said for the services and hymns of the Church that ... "The hymnographical texts written by St. John Damascene, Saint Theophan the Written etc. each word is written by the Holy Spirit. And just to see these texts with your eye, to hear with your ear, to sing with your tongue, then the Holy Spirit is sanctifying you, and then easily you fall in love with Christ and then all evil is bearable!"

I would like to conclude these thoughts on Blessed Porphyrios with an incident that reveals the foresight gift of this blessed Saint and the way He is using to bring the person closer to God. One morning two persons, when the Elder was in Milesi, wanted to walk with the Elder till the Church for the Liturgy, to have more time to listen to him and benefit from his words. They understood very quickly that the Elder was getting tired and they saw that a taxi was approaching

and they asked the Elder since they were tired of walking if it was blessed to stop the approaching taxi to take them to the church. Elder agreed to it under one condition that when the taxi driver would ask questions they would not answer any of his questions and not speak. They agreed. They stopped the taxi and as they were going to church the taxi driver was commenting ironically about the clergy and how bad the media was portraying them these past days. The taxi driver asked "What do you guys say about this?" No response. At the end he turned to the Blessed Porphyrios and said ironically: "And you grandpa what do you say about all this?" Then Father Porphyrios told him to listen very carefully to this incident. "There was a young man in the village" and the Elder named the village of the taxi driver. "This young person had neighbors who were an old couple who had great wealth. But without any heirs. The young man entered the house and killed them. After the bodies were buried in the yard of their home, he made false papers and managed to inherit everything. He sold all the properties and you know what he did with the money? He bought a taxi." The taxi driver was stunned at what he heard and slowly stopped the taxi and asked Father Porphyrios to come out of the cab to talk to him. The taxi driver was terrified and remarked, "What you said, only you and I know this. Do not tell this to anybody else." Father Porphyrios said, "My child, you fear me because I know of what it happened and I am a Man! You are scared of the law of the land? But aren't you afraid of God who knows all these things?" The Blessed Porphyrios would reveal things to persons to help them repent, change and become godly.

By the Grace of God I will try to write a few more facts from the life of St. Porphyrios in the next issue of the "Voice."

With respect and love,
Father Michael

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αισθανόταν μια ανείπωτη χαρά και μια απέραντη γαλήνη. Οι Γέροντες Ιωαννίκιος και Παντελεήμων είχαν φύγει για να εξομολογήσουν. Καθώς περπατούσε προς το κελί τους έβλεπε τους Γέροντες του πού και εκείνοι επέστρεφαν στο κελί, αλλά εκεί πού ήταν ανθρωπίνως δεν ήταν ορατοί. Όταν ήλθαν οι Γέροντες με απορία μεγάλη τους εμπιστεύθηκε τι έβλεπε και εκείνοι τον διαβεβαίωσαν ότι να μην ανησυχεί αλλά αντίθετα να είναι ευγνώμων στο Θεό γιατί έλαβε αυτό το μεγάλο χάρισμα. Ο Όσιος Πορφύριος έβλεπε τά πάντα ακόμα και από μίλια μακριά. Και μιλούσε για όλα με λεπτότητα και απλότητα. Μιλούσε για την επιστήμη, για την ιατρική και έκανε διαγνώσεις ασθενειών στους ασθενείς, μιλούσε για την ψυχή, για την καρδιά, για τον νου και την συμπεριφορά των ανθρώπων, για την Θεία Λειτουργία, για τους ύμνους της Εκκλησίας. Του δόθηκε η αποκάλυψη να γνωρίζει για την αιτία πού πλάσθηκε το κάθε δημιούργημα και ποιό σκοπό έχει. Προκαλούσε στους ανθρώπους έκπληξη και θαυμασμό και έτσι τα χαρίσματα πού τού έδωσε ο Θεός τα χρησιμοποιούσε για να φέρνει τους ανθρώπους σε μετάνοια. Έτσι οι άνθρωποι γνώριζαν τον Χριστό.

Επειδή ο Πάτερ Πορφύριος είχε σοβαρή ασθένεια οι Γέροντες του τον συμβούλεψαν να αφήσει το Άγιο Όρος και να επιστρέψει πίσω στον κόσμο. Έρχεται στο χωριό του και μετά στο Μοναστήρι του Αγίου Χαράλαμπος Ευβοίας όπου ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Σινά Πορφύριος τον χειροτονεί Ιερέα. Το 1940 ο πατήρ Πορφύριος διορίζεται εφημέριος στο Νοσοκομείο Πολυκλινική Αθηνών. Σ' αυτή τη θέση παραμένει για 33 ολόκληρα χρόνια εξομολογώντας, προσευχόμενος, συμβουλευόμενος και πολλές φορές θεραπεύοντας ασθενείς με την Χάρι του Θεού. Το 1950 ενοικιάζει το εγκαταλελειμμένο Μοναστήρι του Αγίου Νικολάου στα Καλλίσια Πεντέλης όπου κάνει ακολουθίες, προσεύχεται και καλλιεργεί τά κτήματα. Το 1979 εγκαθίσταται στο Μήλεσι Αττικής, κοντά στον Ωρωπό όπου σιγά-σιγά ανεγείρει το Μοναστήρι/Ήσυχαστήριο της Μεταμορφώσεως του Σωτήρος. Όταν τελικά προαισθάνεται το τέλος του ζήτησε και τον μετέφεραν, τυφλόν και ασθενή, τον Ιούνιο του 1991, στον τόπο της μετάνοιάς του στο καλύβι του Αγίου Γεωργίου στα Καυσοκαλύβια του Αγίου Όρους, από όπου και έφυγε για την αιώνια ζωή το πρωί της 2ας Δεκεμβρίου το 1991.

Επέμενε, ο Όσιος Πορφύριος, στο Μυστήριο της Ιεράς Εξομολογήσεως, και έλεγε: «Δεν ευθύνεται μονάχα ο άνθρωπος για τα παραπτώματά του.. Ο κάθε άνθρωπος έχει πάρει μέσα του και τα βιώματα των γονέων του και ειδικά της μητέρας... Δημιουργείται

μια κατάσταση στην ψυχή του ανθρώπου εξαιτίας των γονέων του, πού την παίρνει μαζί του σ' όλη του την ζωή και αφήνει ίχνη μέσα του... Υπάρχει, όμως, ένα μυστικό. Υπάρχει κάποιος τρόπος ν' απαλλαγεί ο άνθρωπος απ' αυτό το κακό. Ο τρόπος αυτός είναι η γενική Εξομολόγηση, πού γίνεται με την Χάρι του Θεού... Την ώρα πού τα λες στον εξομολόγο, έρχεται η Θεία Χάρη και σε απαλλάσσει απ' όλα τά άσχημα βιώματα και τις πληγές και τα ψυχικά τραύματα και τις ενοχές. Διότι την ώρα πού τα λες, ο εξομολόγος εύχεται θερμά στον Κύριο για την απαλλαγή σου». Γι' αυτό και ο άνθρωπος

Ο Όσιος Πορφύριος αποτελεί μια συνέχεια της μεγάλης Ορθοδόξου παράδοσης των μεγάλων ασκητών της Εκκλησίας μας.

άμα δεν συγχωρεθεί, άμα δεν ενωθεί με τον Θεό διά του Μυστηρίου της Εξομολογήσεως όλο και περισσότερες δυσκολίες θα παθαίνει στην ψυχή του.

Πολλές φορές ιδιαίτερα στο τέλος μιάς καθαρής εξομολογήσεως ο εξομολογούμενος ένοιωθε μια ευωδία να γεμίζει τον χώρο της εξομολογήσεως.

Είναι αξιοσημείωτο να παρατηρήσουμε ότι ο Όσιος Πορφύριος κράτησε το Χάρισμα πού του έδωσε ο Θεός με την προσεκτικά ασκητική ζωή του αφού προσηύχεται συνεχώς και ιδιαίτερα το βράδυ, τελούσε τις ακολουθίες της Εκκλησίας, νήστευε προσεκτικά, αγαπούσε και τιμούσε τους Αγίους και ιδιαίτερα την Παναγία Μητέρα του Κυρίου, και δεν παραπονεύθηκε ποτέ για τις πολλές ασθένειες πού είχε. Έπασχε από μικρός, προσεβλήθη από καρκίνο, τυφλώθηκε. Ο Όσιος έμαθε απέξω το Ψαλτήριο καθώς και την Καινή Διαθήκη και ιδιαίτερα το κατά Ιωάννη Ευαγγέλιο. Έλεγε για τις ακολουθίες και για του ύμνους της Εκκλησίας ότι... «τα υμνογραφικά κείμενα πού έγραψε ο άγιος Ιωάννης ο Δαμασκηνός, ο Άγιος Θεοφάνης ο Γραπτός κ.ά. κάθε λέξη είναι γραμμένη από το Άγιο Πνεύμα. Και μόνο να δει αυτά τά κείμενα το μάτι σου, να τά ακούσει το αυτί σου, να τα ψάλλει η γλώσσα σου, το Άγιο Πνεύμα σε αγιάζει, και μετά εύκολα ερωτεύεσαι τον Χριστό και όλα τά κακά αντέχονται!»

Θα ήθελα να κλείσω αυτές τις σκέψεις για το Όσιο Πορφύριο με ένα περιστατικό πού αποκαλύπτει το διορατικό χάρισμα του Οσίου και τον τρόπο για να φέρνει τον άνθρωπο στο Θεό.

Εκείνο το πρωϊνό οι δύο λαϊκοί ήθελαν να περπατήσουν με τον Γέροντα μέχρι την Εκκλησία όπου θα λειτουργούσε, τώρα πού ήτο ο Γέροντας στο Μήλεσι ώστε να έχουν περισσότερο χρόνο να τον ακούνε και να ωφεληθούν. Όμως κατάλαβαν καθώς περπατούσαν ότι κουραζόταν ο Γέροντας γι' αυτό όταν είδαν ένα ταξί να πλησιάζει

είπαν στον Γέροντα ότι οι ίδιοι κουράσθηκαν περπατώντας και άμα ήταν ευλογημένο να σταματούσαν το ταξί πού πλησίαζε για να τους πάει στο Εκκλησάκι. Ο Γέροντας συμφώνησε με ένα όρο, ότι όταν ο ταξιτζής θα τους κάνει ερωτήσεις εκείνοι δεν θα απαντήσουν σε καμιά του ερώτηση. Συμφώνησαν. Σταμάτησαν το ταξί και καθώς τους πήγαινε στο Εκκλησάκι ο ταξιτζής ειρωνικά τους έλεγε τα άσχημα των κληρικών πού τά μέσα μαζικής ενημέρωσης σχολίαζαν εκείνες τις μέρες και μετά τους ρωτούσε «Τι λέτε εσείς παιδιά γι' αυτά;» Καμιά απάντηση. Μετά από πολλές ερωτήσεις και αφού δεν έπαιρνε καμιά απάντηση στο τέλος γύρισε προς τον Όσιο Πορφύριο και του είπε ειρωνικά: «Και εσύ παππούλη τι λές για όλα αυτά;» Τότε ο πάτερ-Πορφύριος του είπε να προσέξει το περιστατικό πού θα του διηγήτο. «Ήτο ένας νέος στο χωριό» και ονόμασε το χωριό του ταξιτζή. «Αυτός ο νέος είχε γείτονες ένα ζευγάρι γερόντων πού είχαν μεγάλη περιουσία. Όμως δεν είχαν κανένα κληρονόμο. Ο νέος μπήκε στο σπίτι τους και τους σκότωσε. Μετά έθαψε τα σώματα στην αυλή του σπιτιού τους. Στη συνέχεια έκανε ψεύτικα χαρτιά και κατάφερε να τους κληρονομήσει. Πούλησε όλη τη κληρονομιά και ξέρεις τι έκανε με τά λεφτά; Αγόρασε ένα ταξί.» Κόκαλο ο ταξιτζής σιγά-σιγά σταμάτησε το ταξί και παρακάλεσε τον πάτερ-Πορφύριο να βγει έξω από το ταξί για να του μιλήσει. Ο ταξιτζής τρομαγμένος του λέγει: «Αυτά πού είπες μόνο εσύ και εγώ τα γνωρίζουμε. Μη τά πεις σε κανέναν άλλον.» Ο πατήρ-Πορφύριος του είπε: «Παιδί μου, φοβάσαι εμένα πού είμαι άνθρωπος; Φοβάσαι τον νόμο του κράτους; Μά δεν φοβάσαι τον Θεό πού τά γνωρίζει όλα αυτά; Τον Θεό πρέπει να σκεφτόμαστε και να φοβόμαστε».

Αποκάλυπτε πολλά ο Όσιος για να βοηθήσει τον άνθρωπο να μετανοήσει.

Με την Χάρι του Θεού θα προσπαθήσω να γράψω ακόμα μερικά περιστατικά για τον Άγιο Πορφύριο στο επόμενο φύλλο της «Φωνής» ("Voice").

Με σεβασμό και αγάπη,
πατήρ Μιχαήλ

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ΠΕΝΘΗ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΙΚΑ

Maria Liras Hondros CHARLOTTE - Maria Liras Hondros, 77, of Charlotte and Athens, Greece, passed away peacefully in the early morning hours of Sunday, March 16, 2014. Born Oct. 17, 1936, in Milia, Evrytania, Greece, Maria was a daughter of the late Andreas and Alexandra Liras. She was a member of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral and was a restaurateur with her husband. Maria was a homemaker, a loving wife, and above all, a devoted mother and grandmother. She enjoyed traveling, cooking, sewing, gardening, swimming and spending time with her family. Survivors include her husband, Athanasios Hondros; daughter, Penny Hondros; son, Nick A. Hondros and wife, Beth; granddaughters, Lena Vlahos and Maria Elise Hondros; sister, Sophia Politis and husband, Angelo; nephew, Andy Politis, and many beloved nieces, nephews, cousins and other relatives both in the United States and Greece. Funeral service was held at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 11 a.m., Tuesday, March 18, 2014. Interment followed in Evergreen Cemetery. The Trisagion was held at 7 p.m., Monday, March 17, 2014, at the Cathedral. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Building Fund, c/o Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 600 East Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28203 and Levine Cancer Institute, c/o Carolina HealthCare Foundation, Inc. P.O. Box 32861, Charlotte, NC 28232. Arrangements are in the care of Hankins & Whittington Funeral Service, 1111 East Blvd., Charlotte, NC. Please share condolences online at www.hankinsandwhittington.com.

Marie Pappas Pitsikoulis CHARLOTTE - Marie Pitsikoulis died at her home on Sunday, March 23, 2014. She was a native Charlottean, born on April 9, 1923, the only daughter of George Theodore Pappas and Ioanna "Jennie" Beleos. Mrs. Pitsikoulis was a graduate of Central High School, class of 1940. On July 8, 1951, she married Crist A. Pitsikoulis and moved to Fayetteville, North Carolina. Upon returning to Charlotte in 1957, she and her husband opened the Driftwood Restaurant. A member of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral since its organization, Mrs. Pitsikoulis was a Sunday School Teacher, choir member and founding member of the Estia Club. She was also a member of The Greek Ladies Philoptochos Society for over sixty years and had served on its board as treasurer. Until the time of her death, she was a devoted member of the 1st Service Choir at the Cathedral. Mrs. Pitsikoulis was preceded in death by her husband, parents, older brother, Steve G. Pappas and nephew, George A. Pappas. She is survived by her four daughters, Maria Kleto and her husband, Sam, twins Anna and Joanna Pitsikoulis, and Toni Karnazes and her husband, Nick; grandchildren, Tommy Kleto, Cathy Tsoulos and husband, Angelo, Elizabeth Kleto and Taso Karnazes, all of Charlotte. Survivors also include her brothers, Theodore G. Pappas and his wife, Jane of Nashville, Tennessee, Angelo G. Pappas and his wife, Maria of Sonoma, California, sister-in-law, Katharine Pappas of Ormond Beach, Florida and many loving cousins, nieces and nephews. Funeral services were 11:00 AM Wednesday, March 26, 2014 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral with the Reverend Michael Varvarelis officiating. Interment followed in Evergreen Cemetery. A Trisagion was at 7:00 PM Tuesday evening at the Cathedral. In lieu of flowers, memorial

donations may be sent to The Greek Ladies Philoptochos Society, Agia Elpis Chapter, or the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral Renovation Fund, both at 600 East Boulevard, Charlotte, NC 28203. Arrangements are in the care of Hankins & Whittington Funeral Service; please share condolences online at www.hankinswhittington.com.

Gus P. Smaragdis "Charlie" CHARLOTTE - Gus P. "Charlie" Smaragdis passed away on April 4, 2014, at his home surrounded by family and friends. He was born in Karpenision, Evrytania, Greece, on Aug. 22, 1935, to Pavlos and Georgia Smaragdis. He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Nancy Tedder Smaragdis, and one sister and her family, Eleni Floraki of Karpenision, Greece. Also surviving are two sons, Pavlos and his companion Tammy, of Charlotte and Dimitrios "Jim" and his companion Louie, of Austin, Texas; three grandchildren, Wesley, Caleb and Ariana; and one great-grandchild, Maxim. Charlie came to the United States in 1956 and settled in Charlotte with his family in 1969. Until his retirement, he worked in various restaurants in and around the Charlotte area for 35 years. Reverend Father Michael Varvarelis conducted services at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 8, at Wilson Funeral and Cremation Service, 5301 Albemarle Road, Charlotte. Interment followed at Evergreen Cemetery on Central Avenue. The family received friends one hour prior to the service on Tuesday at the funeral home. The family requested that in lieu of flowers, donations in Charlie's memory be made to Hospice & Palliative Care Charlotte Region, 1420 East 7th Street, Charlotte, NC 28204; Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral Building Fund, 600 E. Boulevard, Charlotte, NC 28203; or a charity of your choice. We will all remember Charlie for his big heart and big smile. Online condolences may be made at www.wilsonfuneralservices.com.

his father and uncle at George's Grill. Later he built his own restaurant in the Elizabeth neighborhood and named it Stassinos Restaurant. After selling the restaurant, he was involved in the real estate business. For a number of years, he enjoyed a hobby in beekeeping and also traveling back to his native Greece and his place at Myrtle Beach, S.C. He was a member of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral and the Evritanian Velouchi Association. He was preceded in death by his parents, Stavros and Aleki Stassinos; his two sisters, Mary Brown, Catherine Triantis; brother-in-law, Tryphon Triantis; nephew, Philip Triantis and a brother-in-law, Pete Kythas. He is survived by his wife, Dina Goulas Stassinos and his daughter, Aleki Stassinos; brother-in-law, Bill Goulas of Greece; sister-in-law, Nicki Kythas of Greenville, S.C. and a sister-in-law, Antonia Mousios and her husband, Dimitrios of Greece, and a brother-in-law, Richard Brown of Boone and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews. A Trisagion service was held on Wednesday, March 26, 2014, at 7:00 pm at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. The funeral was on Thursday, March 27, 2014, at 11:00 am at Holy Trinity. Interment followed in Evergreen Cemetery. Memorials may be sent to Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral Foundation, 600 East Boulevard, Charlotte, NC 28203 or to the Panagia Prousiotissa Chapel, 121 Greenwich Road, Charlotte, NC, 28211. Arrangements are in the care of Hankins & Whittington Funeral Service, 1111 East Blvd., Charlotte, NC. Please share condolences online at www.hankinsandwhittington.com.

Vivian Markos Stathopoulos CHARLOTTE - Vivian Markos Stathopoulos, of Charlotte, passed away peacefully on Friday, April 4, 2014, and began her passage to be with her Lord in Paradise. She was born in Mouzilo, Evrytania, Greece, on June 20, 1928, and she immigrated to the United States with her family in 1948. On March 4, 1951, she married John George Stathopoulos in Greensboro. She settled with her family in Charlotte in 1955. She was a restaurateur with her husband in the La Roma and La Torino restaurant businesses in Charlotte for many years. She enjoyed working at The Barclay Cafeteria in SouthPark Mall for many years as the head cashier where she greeted all of the customers with her infectious smile and kindness and her special greeting of "how are you honey?" Vivian was a

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Evangelos Stavros Stassinos CHARLOTTE - Evangelos Stavros Stassinos, "Angelo", age 78, died Sunday, March 23, 2014. He was born in West Fragista, Greece, on Jan. 21, 1936, and came to the United States in 1946. His family settled in Charlotte. After graduating from Central High School and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Angelo served in the U.S. Army Reserves. He then went into the restaurant business with

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loving wife, mother and grandmother who always sacrificed for her family. She enjoyed gardening, cooking, sewing, spending time with her grandchildren, and traveling, particularly taking trips to the beach and to her native Greece. She was a member of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral since 1955. She was preceded in death by her husband, her parents Chris and Julia Markos, and her sister Mary. She is survived by her six children, George (Janet), Chris, Nick (Dina), Harry (Regina), Helen (Henry) Brown, and Julia (Lee) Newton, and her twelve grandchildren, John, Vivian and Chris Stathopoulos, Yianni and Tommy Stathopoulos, Christina, John, Julia and Nicholas Stathopoulos, Catherine and Elizabeth Brown, and Emily Newton. Her family was blessed with a lifetime of tenderhearted love, laughter, and kindness. Her family will always remember her for her love, devotion, tireless energy, and her dedication to them. Words cannot describe the loneliness her family will feel now but we are comforted with our faith knowing that our mother and grandmother has passed on to her eternal life with God in Paradise. We will miss you always our beloved mother and grandmother. You are the bright light in our lives and may you rest in peace and comfort in the hands of your heavenly Father. Services were held at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, including a Trisagion Service on Sunday, April 6, 2014, at 7:00 p.m., and the Funeral Service on Monday, April 7, 2014, at 11:00 a.m., with The Reverend Michael Varvarelis officiating. Interment followed in Evergreen Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Foundation, 600 East Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28203. Arrangements are in the

care of Hankins & Whittington Funeral Service, 1111 East Blvd., Charlotte, NC. Please share condolences online at www.hankinsandwhittington.com.

Eleni D. Zaravelis CHARLOTTE - Mrs. Zaravelis, 80, of Charlotte, passed away Friday morning, the 14th of March 2014. She was born the 9th of November 1933 in Klafsion, Everytania, Greece to the late Athanasios and Vasiliki Toufekias. The Trisiagon service was held 7:00 PM, Sunday, the 16th of March 2014 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Funeral service was held 11:00 AM, Monday, the 17th of March, 2014 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Burial followed in Evergreen Cemetery. Bearing the casket of Mrs. Zaravelis was her family. "Zaravelo will be missed by many", and is survived by her beloved husband, Dimitrios Zaravelis of Charlotte, NC; a son, John Zaravelis and his wife, Helen; a daughter, Kiki Zaravelis and husband, Konstantinos; her four grandchildren who she adored: Kostas Koutsokalis, Dimitrios Zaravelis, Maria Koutsokalis and Sammy Zaravelis; a brother, Nick Toufekias and wife, Helen and a sister, Dina Papageorgiou and many nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a brother, Dimitrios. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made in remembrance of Mrs. Eleni Zaravelis to the Ministry Fund or Renovation Fund at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 600 East Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28203. Notes of encouragement and condolences may be made to the family by visiting www.ellingtonfuneralservices.com. The Zaravelis family is being served by Ellington Funeral Services, "The Historic Morehead St. Chapel.

Daughters of Penelope Venus Chapter #102

The Daughters of Penelope has successfully completed its 2014 High Tea and Fashion Show. On Saturday, February 15, 2014, the Queen of Hearts Fashion show celebrated its 18th annual event at Carmel Country Club by raising \$10,000 for the Carolinas Breast Cancer

Other highlights of the event included over 45 door prizes and over 20 raffle prizes.



Mechelle DeLuca-Melissaris of Our Place boutique, right, with models from the Daughters of Penelope wearing casual and dressy spring looks from the store



The Venus Chapter of the national service organization Daughters of Penelope's 18th annual Queen of Hearts High Tea Luncheon and Fashion Show at Carmel Country Club. The event as a fundraiser for breast cancer research and education at Carolinas HealthCare System's Levine Cancer Institute.

Tables of ten (10) for the February 21, 2015, event are being sold. For



Dr. Terry Sarantou and his wife, Heidi

Fund at Carolinas HealthCare System's Levine Cancer Institute. The celebration included a talk by surgical oncologist Dr. Terry Sarantou. Cancer survivor, Moira Quinn, vice-president of Charlotte Center City Partners, shared her story.



Fashion show emcee Laura Palka Callis of WSOC-TV, Christina Skiouris, hat contest winner Diane LaPoint and speaker Moira Quinn

more information, please contact Dianne Leventis, daleventis@bellsouth.com or 704-366-8284.

The Daughters has pledged \$50,000 to the Levine Cancer Institute which



Some of the Ladies with their hats!

Gracing the runway were ten elegant models wearing casual and spring looks from OUR PLACE boutique. The fashion show was emceed by Laura Palka Callis. There was also a competition for the best hat worn by many of the participants.

includes the Dedication of a Consulting Room in the Institute on Morehead Street.

Eleni Livas Bingham
Committee Member

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Αγώνας μετανοίας

Η Εκκλησία μας, η Ορθόδοξη Χριστιανική Εκκλησία μας, μάς παρακινεί πάντα στη μετάνοια. Κυρίως όμως κατά την περίοδο του Τριωδίου. Πάντα αλλά κυρίως τότε παρακινεί τούς πιστούς η Εκκλησία μας στη μετάνοια, και επιστροφή στο Θεό Πατέρα. Βεβαίως ο κάθε Χριστιανός, εφόσον είναι και μένει Χριστιανός βρίσκεται στο δρόμο του Θεού σε κάποια σχετική μετάνοια, σε κάποιο βαθμό μετανοίας. Αλλά μετάνοια από μετάνοια διαφέρει. Δηλ. Η μετάνοιά μας είναι όχι γενική αλλά κάποιου βαθμού. Πιο απλά: Δεν μπορώ να μετανοιώσω για τις κακές μου πράξεις και να μένω αμετανόητος για τούς κακούς μου λογισμούς και λόγους μου. Ούτε επίσης είναι μετάνοια τό να διώχνω από πάνω μου τά πονηρά έργα μου, και να κρατάω μέσα μου τις πονηρές μου σκέψεις και τούς αμαρτωλούς μου σκοπούς. ή δεν μπορώ να λέγω τό * ημαρτον *, για τις αδικίες και τις κλοπές που έκανα και να μή τό

λέω όμως και για την έχθρα που κρατάω μέσα μου, και νομίζω ότι πράγματι έχω μετανοήσει. Η μετάνοια δεν πρέπει να μένει κολοβή και ελλιπής, αλλά να είναι τελεία και πλήρης γιατί αυτή είναι μετάνοια αληθινή. Όταν αποκηρύττουμε όλες τις κακίες μας, όλα τά αμαρτήματά μας και τις ένοχες κινήσεις της ψυχής μας, τότε έχουμε τή πραγματική, τή σωστή και αληθινή μετάνοια επάνω μας. Για να πετύχουμε όμως μιά τέτοια μετάνοια και να τήν περυσιάσουμε στο Θεό και στους ανθρώπους γύρω μας χρειάζεται σκληρός και επίμονος αγώνας. Χρειάζεται αγώνας επίμονος και καθημερινός. Για να πετύχουμε μιά τέτοια μετάνοια χρειάζεται να κτυπήσουμε τόν εγωισμό μας, να ποδοπατηθούν τά πάθη μας και οι μέ τις ακολουθίες της μάς παρέχει πολλά παραδείγματα ανθρώπων που πρέπει και εμείς να τούς μιμηθούμε, γιατί εκείνη η εποχή είναι περίοδος τής τέλει μετανοίας και επιστροφής στο Θεό. Ας σκεφτούμε λοιπόν στά σοβαρά. Ας σκεφτούμε τήν ψυχή μας, άς αναλογιστούμε τις αμαρτίες μας καθώς και τήν ευθύνη που έχουμε για αυτή. Να δείξουμε λοιπόν τελεία, βαθεία και

πραγματική μετάνοια, και με τήν θερμή και ολοκληρωμένη μετάνοια τής ψυχής μας άς βαδίζουμε και τή Μεγ. Τεσσαρακοστή καθώς και όλες τις ημέρες τής ζωής μας. Αμήν.
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Ο ΕΓΩΙΣΜΟΣ

Ο εγωισμός είναι ένα φοβερό και ένα τρομερό πάθος μεταξύ τών οικογενειών και ανάμεσα σε κάθε κοινωνία. Εγωιστές υπήρξαν και υπάρχουν μεταξύ τών ανθρώπων με φοβερά αποτελέσματα. Η ιστορία μάς αναφέρει αρκετά τέτοια παραδείγματα, όπως: Ο εγωισμός του Εωσφόρου αναστάτωσε τόν αγγελικό κόσμο. Ο εγωισμός τών Πρωτοπλάστων κατέστρεψε τήν ευτυχία τού ανθρωπίνου γένους. Επίσης ο εγωισμός ορισμένων ατόμων αιματοκύλησαν όλον τόν κόσμο. Ο εγωιστής είναι εκείνος που θέλει τά πάντα δικά του, και δεν βλέπει τίποτε άλλο παρά τό συμφέρον του μόνον. Θέλει τά πάντα δικά του και οι άλλοι γύρω του να πεθάνουν. Υψώνει τόν εαυτόν του, ο εγωιστής, και θέλει όλοι οι άλλοι να τόν εγκωμιάζουν και να τόν

επαινούν. Θέλει να φθάσει στην κορυφή τών αξιωμάτων, χωρίς να δίνει σημασία τό πώς θα φθάσει. Ο εγωισμός προσβάλλει τόν άνθρωπο από τής νεανικής του ακόμη ηλικίας. Κοιτάζουμε τό μικρό που παιδί θέλει όλο τό φαγητό δικό του. Θέλει τό καλλίτερο φόρεμα και αδιαφορεί για τά άλλα αδέρφια του. Αργότερα τά αδέρφια δεν μπορούν να μοιράσουν τήν περιουσία τους διότι ο κάθε ένας τή θέλει όλη δικιά του. Επίσης ο εγωιστής δεν αναγνωρίζει κανέναν ανώτερόν του. Δεν υποχωρεί μπροστά σε κανέναν. Ο Ηρώδης, όπως γνωρίζουμε, γνώριζε ότι τό νεογέννητο Βρέφος τής Βηθλεέμ, ο Χριστός, ήταν ο νεογέννητος Βασιλιάς, για τόν Οποίον γράψανε οι Προφήτες. Αυτό τό ξεύρει πολύ καλά, εν τούτοις όμως δεν αναγνωρίζει τόν Ιησούν Χριστόν. Δεν υποχωρεί, δεν τρέχει κοντά Του και να καταθέσει μπροστά στο Νήπιο

Εκείνο τό στέμμα του. Τό ίδιο συμβαίνει και με όλους τούς εγωιστές, δεν υποχωρούν μπροστά σε κανέναν οσονδήποτε ικανός και άν είναι εκείνος. Για τό λόγο αυτό ανεβαίνουν σε θέσεις και εξουσίες άνθρωποι ανίκανοι, και τό αποτέλεσμα είναι να υποφέρουν από τήν κακοδιοίκησή τους κοινότητες, και λαοί. Όλοι τους δεν ντρέπονται τούς ανθρώπους και δεν δέχονται συμβουλές. Αν δέ, πιεστούν λιγάκι τότε αλλάζουν όψη και γίνονται σαν τούς ακανθόχοιρους, όπως λέγει ο Γρηγόριος ο Θεολόγος. Δηλ. γεμίζουν από φαρμακερά αγκάθια, και τά αποτελέσματα τά γνωρίζουμε. Επομένως να αποφεύγουμε τόν εγωισμό για τό ψυχικό καλό μας και τό καλό τών γύρω μας συνανθρώπων. Αμήν.

Ιερέας π. Ταξιάρχης Βλάχος.

www.htgo.org

GOYA-HOPE/JOY News By John Georgopoulos



Joy Prom

There are three reasons why I love participating in the Joy Prom at Carmel Baptist Church. The first is that it is a great way to volunteer in the community. The second is that I really love to dance. And the third is being able to share the night with the special needs individuals who attend the Joy Prom. For those of you who do not know, Joy Prom is an event held over two nights where around 700 teens and adults with developmental or physical disabilities get to experience a prom that is specially catered to them. There is a red carpet rolled out for the guests to walk down, food & drinks are provided, a make-up station for girls, a shoe-shine station for guys, photo opportunities, and two dance floors. As a volunteer you are assigned a "date" who you escort around the church to wherever they please. It lasts about three hours total and by the end of the night you

wished it lasted longer.

Now back to the reasons why I personally love to participate in Joy Prom. Volunteering is a great way to help the community. It is also a good opportunity to complete hours for a club like the National Honor Society. My second reason, loving to dance, is a simple one. I participate in the Yiasou Greek Festival every year as a dancer, so naturally I love to dance. As mentioned before, at the Joy Prom there are two separate areas that have music playing. One area has a live band, while the other area has a DJ. Lastly, making the night of your "date" memorable is a truly rejoicing experience. Just seeing the look of pure joy that makes its way to the faces of those around and knowing that you had a hand in putting it there, is a very special thing. This year when I participated, I was assigned a beautiful woman who was a wheelchair user. Even though she was handicapped, this did not stop her from moving on the dance floor; we spent practically the whole night dancing away! At the end of the night when it was time to say goodbye, she pulled me in for a hug, gave me a kiss on the cheek, and said, "Thank you so much!" That one moment has come to be one of the most amazing experiences of my life so far.

Joy Prom is a very wonderful event to participate in. If you choose to participate next year, you will not regret it. I really hope to see more of my fellow GOYA members next year when I sign up for a third year.

YOUTH SOCCER



Congratulations to our U-10 and U-14 Girls for 1st Place in their Divisions and to U-18 Coed for 2nd Place in their division.

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Easter



GOYA-HOPE/JOY News By John Georgopoulos



Moppet Boys 1

Coach John Vastis, Theofanis Proestos, Nikolas Hadley, Vasili Poulos, Sammy Vastis, Kostantino Alexiou, Yiannis Thanos, George Tsigaridas, Vasili Katsanos, Tommy Stathopoulos, Yianni Stathopoulos



Moppet Boys 2

Coach Harris Doulaveris, Coach Gus Liagas, John Prassas, Vasili Christodoulis, Athan Kanellos, John Christodoulis, Billy Liagas, Peter Kotrotsios, Christopher Karagiannis, George Sofianos, Nicholas Polemides



Moppet Girls

Coach Yannoula Kakouras, Anna Harris, Alexandra Demestihis, Zoe Rodriguez, Sofia Georgoulis, Celeste Matalas, Evangelia Kakouras




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GOYA-HOPE/JOY News Continued



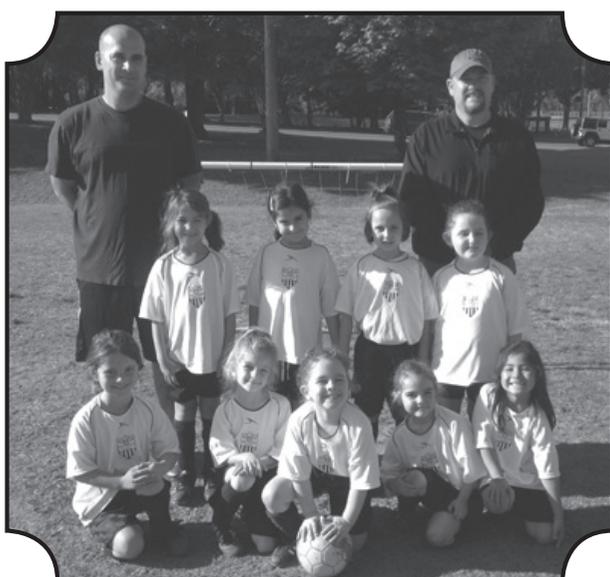
U-6 Boys

Coach Dino Pappas, Coach Bill Tasios, Andrew Gregory, Demetri Tasios, Elias Papavagelou, Sam Pappas, Sotiri Kelly, Costas Thanos, Alex Tsumas



U-8 Boys

Coach Panos Ziozios, Coach Charlie Kleto, George Tasios, Jonathan Matalas, John Christodoulis, Sam Koskinas, Basil Fourtounis, Andrew Karres, Peter Kakouras, Serafim Georgopoulos, Panayiotis Thanos, Johnny Gillette



U-6 Girls

Coach Mike Harris, Coach Spiros Kotrotsios, Athena Kotrotsios, Lena Georgopoulos, Mary Sofianos, Maryianna Georgiou, Michaila Harris, Vassiliki Skarlatos, Angelina Thompson, Christina Diamantis, Caroline Cooke



U-8 Girls

Coach Caleb Russell, Coach Angelo Kefalas, Angela Christodoulis, Ava Russell, Eleni Koukoutsis, Alexa Kaltsounis, Demi Vlahos, Dina Pittman, Meredith Anne Boukidis, Nina Christodoulis, Lexi Bisbikis, Arianna Kefalas



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GOYA-HOPE/JOY News By John Georgopoulos



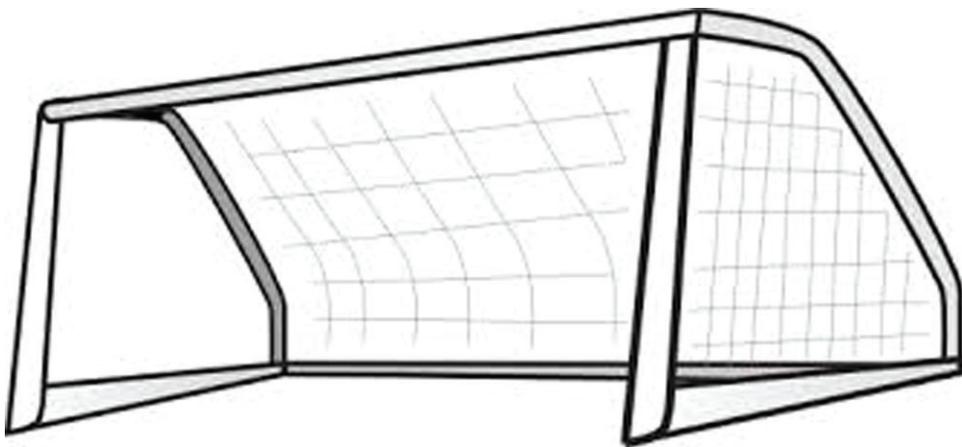
U-10 Boys

Coach George Lironis, Coach Elias Stergiou, John Michael Xyrafakis, Stephanos Soutzos, Anthony Gillette, George Matalas, Panos Vlahos, Theo Karres, Taxe Vlahos, Dimitri Zaganas



U-10 Girls

Coach Angelo Kaltsounis, Coach Greg Xerras, Coach Frank Kaltsounis, Angelika Exarhos, Angelina Galanis, Vasilgia Galanis, Kalliopi Fotinos, Mia Xerras, Vicky Koukoutsis, Anthoula Pappas, Maria Kaltsounis, Alexis Kaltsounis, Dorthy Kostopoulos, Elianna Christodoulis, Sophia Pittman, Amalia Fourtounis, Yianna Palamaris



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to be a "measure of the
stature of Christ; that we
should no longer be chil-
dren, but, speaking the
truth in love, may grow up
in all things into Him who
is the head: Christ.

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GOYA-HOPE/JOY News By John Georgopoulos



U-14 Girls

Coach Mitch Christenbury , Coach Gus Pistiolis, Coach Alexandra Politis, Maria Kastanas, Nicoletta Pistiolis, Sarah Kakouras, Sophia Christodoulis, Sophia Kaltsounis, Jaimee Ballas, Liana Kendrick, Maria Christenbury, Maria Pistiolis, Sydney Ballas, Katherine Kanos, Mersina Skenteris, Marianna Nixon, Maria Kefalas, Chloe Balatsias



U-18 Coed

Coach Panos Ziozios, Demetri Kaloudis, Johan van Ettehoven, Konner Mantekas, Chris Xyrafakis, Dimitri Politis, Sotiri Exarhos, Stefani Palamaris, Alexander Poulimenos, Alexander Dorton, John Kontoulas, Peter Drossopoulos, Tony Battah, Michael Ziozios, Jonathan Troupes, Chris Vlahos, Evan Vlahos



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Preschool By Preschool Staff



Whooo's in the News at the Preschool?

Christos Anesti! During the months of March and April the preschool children's main focus was on the Journey to Pascha and the beauty of the spring renewal. It was nice to be able to enjoy the spring weather with the children on the playground. Our preschoolers had lots of fun activities during these past two months. On March 25, they celebrated the Annunciation of the Theotokos and Greek Independence Day with a parade around the Greek Flag. Our older classes participated in some fun and educational in-house field trips. Einsteinz Lab came to the preschool on March 28 to teach our three and four year olds all about Ooey, Gooley Chemistry. On April 7, we had Mr. Nigel's come for a music session. The children had fun moving and dancing to the music, and getting some hands on lessons on musical instruments. The preschool was closed for spring break and the Easter holiday. When the children returned back to school, each of the classes enjoyed their Easter parties, the Easter Egg hunt and our special visitor... the Easter Bunny. What a fun time at the preschool!

Preschool registration is still underway if you would like to register your children ages 18 months to 4/5 year olds. Spaces are limited, so please be sure to contact us as quickly as possible at preschool@htgo.org or by calling Cindy Balatsias 704-502-3859 or Maria Kleto 704-564-5842.



March 25th 3's Class

Teacher's Corner:

M-F 4's – The Little Explorers – Mrs. Angelina Korinis & Mrs. Athina Politis

February is slipping away fast which seems even faster because of all the bad weather and the snow days. We hope that March behaves better and lets us proceed with our life and our school program in a normal fashion!

March 25th, Greek Independence Day, we will hold with pride the Greek flag and have a parade right after another big celebration at our church (Annunciation). Also, we will feel green (with envy) as we talk about the Irish and St. Patrick's Day. Blue and green will be our main colors because of these two celebrations.

We will learn a lot about dinosaurs and extinction and our sand box will be busy with our little paleontologists "excavating" dinosaur bones and teeth! We will identify and probe through our feelings and behavior and we will dust off our manners so we can be as polite as possible! The Greek National Anthem will sound better than ever as



March 25th 4's Class

our little explorers learn to sing it with pride. We will study the shamrock, we will mix blue and white to make light blue (γαλάζιο) and we will talk about the coming spring while we keep an eye on the groundhog and the shadow as they are responsible for the whole snow mess in February.

From now on, the alphabet, numbers 1-20 or so, all shapes and so many things we have covered so far will be repeated so they become more concrete in our children's minds and hopefully the conferences will be well on their way, if not finished by the first week in March.

Rejuvenation is in the air and we hope Spring and better weather, too!

As we know, this year, 2014, Easter is April 20. Our spring break and our Holy Week coincide. Every year, Easter is our main theme during the month in which Easter falls. We walk the kids through all the events Jesus went through, from the Entrance to Jerusalem, to The Last Supper, to The Crucifixion, to the death on the Cross and Entombment of Jesus, to the Resurrection, the empty Tomb and the ultimate defeat of Death. The children learn the proper greetings for the Easter period and also how to sing Χριστός Ανέστη, Christ Is Risen.

Other subjects that will be covered are our 6 legged «friends», the bugs or insects, the life cycle of some animals, such as the frog, the butterfly, the chicken and also, the life cycle of plants. April 22nd, we celebrate Earth Day and it is only proper to learn a thing or two about taking care of our planet, what recycling



March 25th 2's & 4's Classes

is and why we should all make an effort to recycle. In our class, we have a recycling bin so that the children get in the habit even when they are away from home. If you hear any roaring and a variety of other interesting sounds, it is because we will be visiting jungles and rain forests and you are very welcome to come and

join us, if you dare, that is !!!!!!!

Since in the springtime the weather can get «creative», we will be studying how tornados form and we will be creating a vortex. Our little meteorologists will also see plenty of rainbows through a prism.

Through morning activities, free play time, quite a few books, our planned daily activity(ies) that follow our books and through homework (optional, but a good idea/habit), our Little Explorers will be buzzing like the bees that come alive again in the Spring!

We want to wish everybody HAPPY and HOPPY EASTER and ΚΑΛΗ ΑΝΑΣΤΑΣΗ!

MWF 3's – The Cuddly Kittens – Mrs. Athina Politis & Mrs. Anna Koufaliotis

Can you believe it is already March? Where did February go? February was a short, stressful, busy, snowy but fun month for us with our belated Valentine's party.



March 25th Gia Hondros & Theofanis Proestos

Our "Cuddly Kittens" had so much fun exchanging the valentine's cards with their friends and tasting the goodies and cookies, our wonderful room moms have provided for us. Thank you moms! We are busy working on skills to prepare the kids for the four's and five's class and they are making fantastic progress. Our activities include much more cutting, tracing, sequencing and printing our names.

During circle time, we continue to focus on identifying shapes, colors, numbers and letters. We are trying to sound out the letters with a variety of ways like singing and rhyming them, playing games and trying to make it as much fun for them but also educational. So they think it is fun and games while they learn at the same time. We find that the result is far more effective.

Our bible verse this month is: "The Lord is my Helper I will not be afraid" Hebrew 13. Our themes will be about the new month March, the weather changes that will happen as Spring arrives, like the effects of the wind and trees blowing. Hope the weather turns nice and warm so we can explore the outdoors and fly our spring kites. We will talk about St. Patrick's Day and why we wear green, so we won't be pinched, and how St. Patrick helped people by using a "shamrock".

In addition, other themes will be about dinosaurs, zoo animals, feeling, good manners and how important it is to be respectful and how to show it to our family and friends.

March will certainly be a busy month. One of our favorite activities (that shapes fine motor skills) will be making a Greek flag and a beaded necklace with blue and white beads (the colors of the Greek flag). Why? But of course, cause we have to celebrate our Greek Independence Day and show our pride by having a class parade while singing the Greek National



Einsteinz Lab Field Trip

Anthem. Also the same day we celebrate the Annunciation of the Theotokos, a core event for the Christian faith.

So anxiously we are waiting for Spring and we are ready for the new life that it brings. It is a wonderful season and exciting time for us in our class. "Hooray for Spring" and "zhtw H Ellada".

Let's look around. Mother Earth is dressed with her most brilliant colors. April and Spring are finally here. Anywhere we turn, all our senses will be immersed in a ray of smells, brilliant sights and colors. Spring is here, baby animals are born and flowers begin to bloom. This is all God's work at its best. It is April. A month full of hands-on activities and books about caterpillars turning in to butterflies, little chicks



Einsteinz Lab Field Trip

hatching from extraordinary eggs, books about the story of Easter and its meaning. This time April brings us Easter. Our children will learn that on Easter we remember Jesus. Because he loved us so much, He gave His life for us on the cross so we could live, too. Our Bible verses this month are: "This is what love is: God loved us and sent His Son" (1 John 4:10) and "Truly this Man is the son of God" (Matt 27:54). Happy Easter everybody!

TTH 2's – The Leaping Frogs – Mrs. Vicki Exarhos & Mrs. Vickie Koskinas

March is another action-packed and busy month for the two year olds. We begin our month of learning with different books and crafts honoring Dr. Seuss, and celebrating his birthday. Our shapes for the month are the diamond, and shamrock. We will be blending the colors yellow and blue to make

Preschool By Preschool Staff

green, which we will incorporate into our many different art projects. Our themes for the month include: St. Patrick's Day, and Greek Independence Day. The children will enjoy fun filled



**Music With Mr. Nigel Sofia Georgoulis
Playing the Bongos**

activities that go along with these special days. Our religious themes include: the Annunciation, the miracles of Jesus, the Trinity, and preparing for Lent. We have a fun and busy month ahead!

Spring is in the air, and with it brings another fun-filled month of learning. April will jumpstart our Easter lesson. We will incorporate different crafts and activities focusing on the Crucifixion and Resurrection of our Lord, and some fun art projects with the Easter Bunny too! We will continue to explore the outdoors, as we discover the wonders of nature, for example: how seeds become plants and flowers, and how caterpillars turn into butterflies. Our colors for this month will be yellow and purple, and our shapes will be the oval and the cross. We wish everyone a restful and safe spring break! Καλή Ανάσταση και Καλό Πάσχα!

MW – The Toddling Turtles – Mrs. Maria Beall & Mrs. Mahe Politis

We have lots of things to celebrate this month, including Dr. Seuss' birthday, the Lenten Season and Greek Independence Day!

We will read some silly Dr. Seuss books, make a windsock to fly outside on windy days, learn colors green and blue and shapes diamond and shamrock. Mostly we will learn about the Lenten Season, which includes the Loaves and Fishes miracle, Palm Sunday and Annunciation.

Lastly, we will color a Greek flag and sing the Greek National Anthem!

This month we will continue our Easter journey as we discuss Jesus' Last Supper, Crucifixion and Resurrection. We will celebrate His Resurrection by singing Christos Anesti. In addition, the



Easter Egg Hunt

kids will go on an Easter egg hunt, learn the colors purple and yellow and the shapes oval and cross. We will finish the month with some fun April activities that include rainbows and Noah's Ark!

We have received the following thank you note from Miss Christina Nixon and her Family for the contribution of \$10,000 that our Community collected and offered to the Family.

*Dear Father Michael, Parish Council
& the Entire Holy Trinity Community*

Your kindness is special—
and so are you!

*Thank you all for your
generous check to help with the
expenses for my (Christina)
transplant. Your support and love
is greatly appreciated.*

*We would also like to thank
all of you for your continued prayers
it is a great comfort to know
as we continue this medical journey
that the Holy Trinity community is
praying & supporting us along the way.*

*It is overwhelming to us the
amount of support Holy Trinity
has given us and we know we are
truly blessed by this.
God Bless Everyone a Kala Anastasi!
Love, Christina, Georgia & Spencer Nixon.*

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John Crawford, MD

The Voice would like to extend a warm welcome to Gabor and Kika Jacques to the Greek Orthodox Community and wish them great success with their 360° Painting Franchise, which already has a large number of very satisfied customers.

360° Painting is a professional painting company specializing in both Residential and Commercial Interior and Exterior painting. Entrepreneur owners Gabor and his Greek Cypriot wife, Kika, both come from professional backgrounds. Gabor brings a wealth of knowledge to 360° Painting from his mechanical engineering and project management background and the franchise also benefits from the couple's experience of

their former real estate and renovation business.

Gabor said, "We take great pride in our work and it's the quality and attention to detail, combined with our great customer service, which sets 360° Painting apart." He continued, "We really care about our customers and their properties. We work relentlessly to give them total client satisfaction and we are so confident in our ability to deliver quality work that no deposit is necessary. Instead, our satisfied customers are happy to pay us on completion of a job well done and our job is never finished until our clients are completely satisfied with the results.."



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360° Painting can handle all of your interior and exterior residential and commercial painting requirements. We cover all angles!

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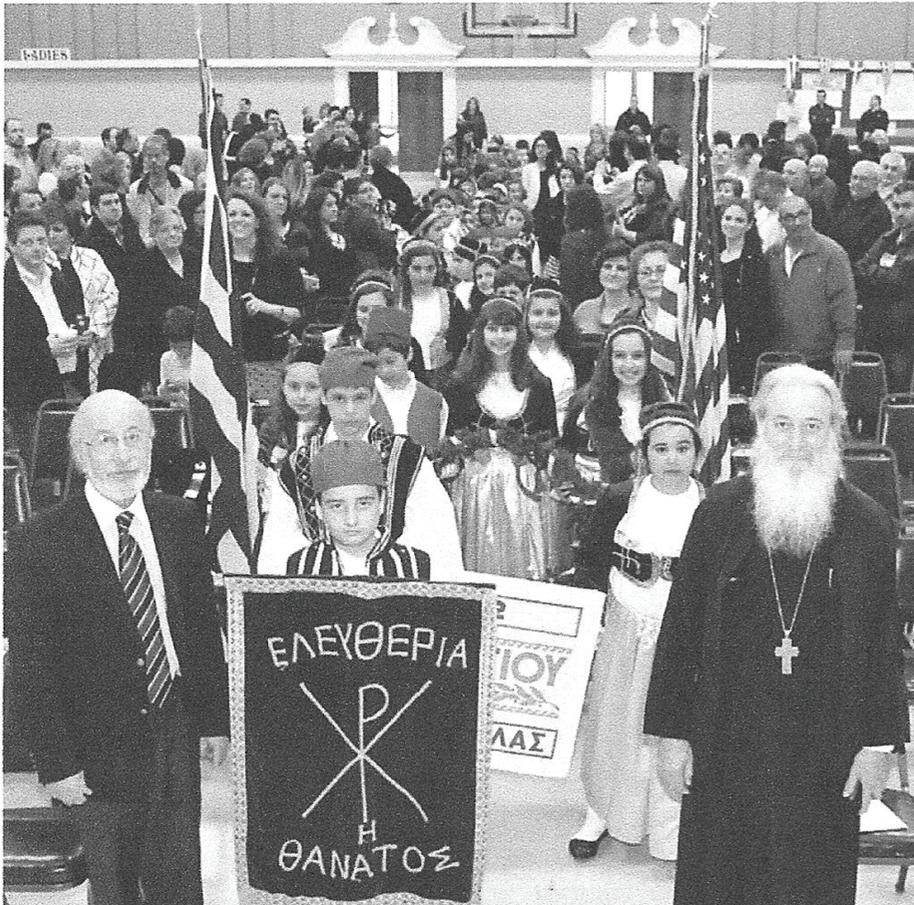
Νέα & Φωνές του Ελληνικού Σχολείου Αγίας Τριάδος

REMEMBERING... THE 25TH OF MARCH 1821

ΔΙΠΛΗ ΤΡΑΝΗ ΓΙΟΡΤΗ ΓΙΟΡΤΑΣΕ ΤΟ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΣΧΟΛΕΙΟ ΤΟΥ ΚΑΘΕΔΡΙΚΟΥ ΝΑΟΥ ΑΓΙΑΣ ΤΡΙΑΔΟΣ
Σήμερα γιορτάζει πάλι η Παναγιά... Σήμερα γιορτάζει πάλι η Λευτεριά!

LONG LIVE THE 25TH OF MARCH 1821

Με ιδιαίτερη υπερηφάνεια και λαμπρότητα γιόρτασε το Ελληνικό μας Σχολείο στις 23 Μαρτίου 2014 τη διπλή τρανή ελληνοχριστιανική γιορτή του Ευαγγελισμού της Θεοτόκου και της Εθνικής μας Παλιγγενεσίας. Ασφυκτικά γεμάτη η αίθουσα των εκδηλώσεων του Καθεδρικού μας Ναού Αγίας Τριάδος. Ο π. Μιχαήλ και όλοι μαζί ύμνησαν τη Θεοτόκο και απότισαν φόρο τιμής και ευγνωμοσύνης στους ήρωες του 1821 που έκαναν πράξη το όνειρο και τις ελπίδες όλων των προηγούμενων γενεών. Οι μαθητές του Σχολείου καταχειροκροτήθηκαν για τα ποιήματά τους, τα τραγούδια και τους παραδοσιακούς χορούς που παρουσίασαν.



Ξεχωριστή ήταν η στιγμή κατά την οποία απονεμήθηκαν τα βραβεία στους πρωτεύσαντες μαθητές του διαγωνισμού ζωγραφικής «25^η ΜΑΡΤΙΟΥ 1821 - Πριν και Μετά», το οποίο οργανώσαν δυο εβδομάδες πριν την εκδήλωση η Διεύθυνση και οι εκπαιδευτικοί του σχολείου. Ζητήθηκε από τους μαθητές όλων των τάξεων ν' απεικονίσουν σε χαρτί, με δημιουργική φαντασία και ζωγραφική επιδεξιότητα, τα ανάμεικτα συναισθήματά τους για τα 400 χρόνια σκλαβιάς και φυλακής καθώς και για τα αγαθά της ελευθερίας που χάρισε στους Έλληνες προγόνους τους η ηρωική επανάσταση του 1821. Στο διαγωνισμό πρώτευσαν οι παρακάτω μαθητές:



ΝΗΠΙΑΓΩΓΕΙΟ: Παρασκευή Παπαδοπούλου
 ΠΡΩΤΗ ΚΑΙ ΤΑΞΗ: Ανδρέας Καρύγιαννης
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 ΤΡΙΤΗ ΤΑΞΗ: Έλενα Βρεττού
 ΤΕΤΑΡΤΗ ΤΑΞΗ:
 Σταυρούλα Αποστολοπούλου
 ΠΕΜΠΤΗ ΤΑΞΗ: Σοφία Πίτμαν
 ΕΚΤΗ ΤΑΞΗ: Μαρία Καστανά



ΕΚΦΡΑΖΟΥΜΕ ΤΑ ΘΕΡΜΟΤΑΤΑ ΣΥΓΧΑΡΗΤΗΡΙΑ ΜΑΣ στους πρωτεύσαντες αλλά και σε όλους τους μαθητές που πήραν μέρος στο διαγωνισμό και είχαν την ευκαιρία να ευαισθητοποιηθούν και να μάθουν περισσότερα για το ηρωικό έπος του '21 και να αναπτύξουν μεταξύ τους την ευγενή άμιλλα προς διάκριση.

Τα βραβεία που απονεμήθηκαν στους πρωτεύσαντες μαθητές συνοδεύονταν και από δωροεπιταγές των 50 δολαρίων, προσφορά των καταξιωμένων μελών της κοινότητάς μας και υποστηρικτών του Ελληνικού μας Σχολείου Κου & Κας Αθανασίου και Ελευθερίας Νικοπούλου. *Χίλια ευχαριστώ!*

Ελευθέριος Περούλας

*Socrates Academy Students
 & Parents Are Celebrating the
 Greek Independence Day... the
 Greek and American Democracy*



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