



THE PHILOXENIA OF ABRAHAM

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE PARISH OF THE
HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH, HOLYOKE... WELCOME!
WEB: WWW.HOLYTRINITYHOLYOKE.MA.ORG

Rev. Father Thomas J. Cokotis, Economos

Telephone: (413) 525-8474 (home); (413) 896-5923 (cell)

APRIL 2021

Greetings Holy Trinity Parishioners and Friends.

As you stroll through the local stores, you'll see an abundance of bunnies, baskets, and candy for sale, and those may be the only signs of Easter you'll find outside of the church. Unlike its Christmas counterpart, Easter is mostly uncommercialized, which is pretty remarkable: the day that we celebrate the glory of Christ's resurrection remains untainted by retailers and marketers.

However, just because we're not receiving an Easter ad upon Easter ad in our newspapers and inboxes doesn't mean we should pigeonhole the holiday as a minor celebration. Holy Pascha Easter Sunday is perhaps the most crucial holiday on the Christian calendar—even the word crucial has its roots in Christianity, stemming from the term for crucify.

“And immediately the Spirit drove Him into the wilderness. And He was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan, and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered to Him. Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the Gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the Gospel” (Saint Mark 1:12-15).

The season we call Great Lent, the forty days before Easter, represents the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness, continually being tempted by Satan. When He emerged from the wilderness, He knew it was time for the prophesy of His crucifixion, painful death and glorious resurrection to be fulfilled.

As Christian Orthodox believers, we remember this. We look to this time of the year as a way to go into our own 'wilderness' of sorts; we pray, we confess, we worship, we outreach to the less fortunate, we try to focus on God more and ourselves less. We prepare ourselves for the grief of Christ's death, and we take joy in the Gospel of His rising on the third day again. We are granted eternal life only through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; the Messiah lifted up.

While our Advent-Christmas celebrations are filled with joy as we remember the holy birth of our King, Great Lent is when we focus on the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Traditionally, many faithful choose to participate in some form of fasting during this renewal time-believers have been known to fast from various foodstuffs as well as television, music, internet and cell phone usage. Others decide to study the Holy Bible more closely or experience a time of solitude. Perhaps you will commit to attending the Great Lenten Services (Pre-Sanctified Gifts Liturgy-Wednesdays, Salutations to the Holy Theotokos-Fridays and the Small Compline-Monday) from now until the glory of the +Great Holy Pascha and Easter Sunday, which falls on May 2nd+

Whatever your personal preference, Great Lent can be the time when you decide to let go of old habits and develop a more joyful, Christ-centered way of living your life. I would like to invite you and your family to join and pray with me as we prepare for a very special time of tremendous spiritual growth and renewal here at our beloved Holy Trinity Church!

In Christ's Love, Father Tom Cokotis

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- PAGE 2 – Calendar of Events
- PAGE 3 – Parish Council/Philoptochos News
- PAGE 4 – Epistle / Gospel readings



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Website: www.holytrinityholyoke.ma.goarch.org

GREAT LENT AND APRIL 2021 SERVICES

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS! THANKS! EUXAPISTO!

+Friday, April 2nd + Third Salutations to the Theotokos + Mother of God+ 7:00 p.m.

+SUNDAY, APRIL 4th + THIRD SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT+
THE VENERATION OF OUR LORD'S HOLY CROSS+

Matins 9:00 a.m. + Divine Liturgy 10 a.m.+

PROCESSION WITH THE HOLY CROSS AND FRESH SPRING FLOWERS.

+Wednesday, April 7th + PRE-SANCTIFIED HOLY GIFTS LENTEN LITURGY+ 6:00 p.m.

+Friday, April 9th + Fourth Salutations to the Holy Theotokos + Mother of God+ 7:00 p.m.

+SUNDAY, APRIL 11th + FOURTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT +ST. JOHN CLIMACUS+

Matins 9am + Divine Liturgy+ 10:00 a.m.

Monday, April 12th *Monthly Parish Council Zoom Meeting from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

+Wednesday, April 14th + PRE-SANCTIFIED HOLY GIFTS LENTEN LITURGY+ 6:00 p.m.

+Fri, April 16th + Fifth & Final Salutations to the Holy Theotokos + Mother of God+ 7:00 p.m.

+SUNDAY, APRIL 18th + FIFTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT+ST. MARY OF EGYPT+

Matins 9am + Divine Liturgy+ 10:00 a.m.

+Monday, April 19th + Great Lent Small Compline Service+ 7:00 p.m.

+++PLEASE NOTE: A SEPARATE HOLY+WEEK 2021 SCHEDULE WILL BE MAILED OUT &
ELECTRONICALLY SENT TO ALL OF OUR HOLY TRINITY PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS
THAT WE HAVE AN ADDRESS FOR CURRENTLY ON FILE+++.

2021 PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council President
Mario Bolivar - (413) 747-7332

Vice President of Ministries
John Kaloroumakis - (413) 204-0273

Vice President of Facilities
Robert Roy - (413) 531-7492

Asst. VP of Facilities
John Sullivan Jr. - (413) 530-0479

Parish Council Treasurer
Ken Konstantinidis - (413) 306-0030

Assistant Treasurer - Vacant

Recording Secretary
Alexis Morin - (413) 219-8765

Corresponding Secretary
Ronah Baillargeon - (413) 478-3751
Angela Orlich - (413) 531-7190



**HOLY TRINITY CELEBRATED
GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY
Thursday, March 25th at City Hall**

**Thank you to those that were able to
attend and represent Holy Trinity
Greek Orthodox Church!!**

PASTORAL REMINDERS

- For a clergy visit: Contact Father Tom directly at (413) 525-8474 (home) / (413) 896-5923 (cell)
Email: tcokotis@aol.com
- Weekly Services are streamed live on Facebook at HT GOAChurch
- Holy Trinity web site is under construction;
www.holytrinityholyoke.ma.goarch.org

Automated Phone Messages

Holy Trinity uses a "Call One" automated phone messaging system to distribute important parishioner notifications.

Kindly notify us for a change in phone number to avoid missing a call one message from Father Tom. Contact Father or Sharon Konstantinidis at 413-210-0242 or at kskksk@aol.com

The Philotochos has begun collecting for the Great Lent, Holy Week, and Epitaphio Flowers. This yearly budget is over \$1,000 and all donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance for your continued generous support.



The Ladies of the Philotochos are offering **Tsoureki Easter Breads** for your Pascha table. (Suggested donation is \$10.00 each.)

Please order by April 18th

Orders will be ready for pickup on:
Saturday, April 24th (Lazarus Saturday)
and
Sunday, April 25th (Palm Sunday)

Kindly make checks payable to Holy Trinity Philotochos, Mail to Holy Trinity Church, 410 Main Street, Holyoke, MA 01040 Attention Philotochos

Thank You in advance for you continued support!



Dinner...
Take Out
Only

Sunday, April 25, 2021

(Following Divine Liturgy & Blessing of the Holy Palms)
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
410 Main St. Holyoke, MA

THIS IS A TAKE OUT EVENT ONLY.....

PRE-ORDERS AND PAYMENT ARE REQUIRED by APRIL 18, 2021.

PICK UP AFTER DIVINE LITURGY AND BLESSING OF THE HOLY PALMS

Adults: \$20 / Children: \$5

Dinner Includes:

- Baked Scrod
- Rice Pilaf
- Green Beans
- Salad/Dressing
- Rolls/Butter
- Dessert
- Beverage

For more information leave a message for:
Holy Trinity Church @ 413- 533-9880 OR
Ken Konstantinidis @ 413-306-0030 OR
Text Sharon Konstantinidis @ 413- 210-0242



Treasurer's Report

Stewardship pledges to date (March): \$23,382

The yearly **Stewardship Pledge Form**, has be mailed. Kindly fill out the form as indicated **EVEN** if you have already begun submitting your pledge, as all parishioners are required to have a stewardship form on file. Remit to: Holy Trinity Church, 410 Main Street, Holyoke, MA 01040

Thank you to all the generous donors that continue to support Holy Trinity, Kenneth Konstantinidis

HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTREACH
On Sunday, the Children will be filling candy bags for distribution at Kates Kitchen and the and Street Shelter!



Holy Trinity will begin offering the lighting of a 5-day candle on your behalf for prayers of a loved one.

To request a lit candle, email/text/call Ken/Sharon Konstantinidis and mail your \$5 donation to Holy Trinity Church, 410 Main St, Holyoke, MA 01040

2020-2021 PHILOTOCHOS OFFICERS

- President - Sharon Konstantinidis
- President Adviser – Anne Lukakis
- 1st Vice President – Rachel Kaloroumakis
- 2nd Vice President – Lisa Bolivar
- Treasurer - Vacant
- Assistant Treasurer - Vacant
- Recording Secretary – Charlene Giavis
- Corresponding Secretary – Penny Doyle

WEEKLY EPISTLE AND GOSPEL READINGS

Sunday, April 04, Sunday of the Holy Cross

EPISTLE - Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:1-6 BRETHREN, since we have a high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not take the honor upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "Thou art my Son, today I have begotten thee"; as he says also in another place, "Thou art a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek."

GOSPEL - Mark 8:34-38; 9:1 The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

Sunday, April 11, Sunday of St. John Climacus

EPISTLE - Hebrews 6:13-20. BRETHREN, when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore to himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by a greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he interposed with an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

GOSPEL - Mark 10:32-45. At that time, Jesus took his twelve disciples, and he began to tell them what was to happen to him, saying, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death, and deliver him to the Gentiles; and they will mock him, and spit upon him, and scourge him, and kill him; and after three days he will rise." And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him, and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" And they said to him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant of James and John. And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are supposed to rule over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Sunday, April 18th, Sunday of Saint Mary of Egypt

EPISTLE - Hebrews 9:11-14 BRETHREN, when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the Holy Place, taking not the blood of goats and calves but his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

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Sunday, April 25th, Palm Sunday

EPISTLE - Philippians 4:4-9 BRETHREN, rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let all men know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand. Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with you.

GOSPEL - John 12:1-18 Six days before Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. There they made him a supper; Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at table with him. Mary took a pound of costly ointment of pure nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was to betray him), said "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not that he cared for the poor but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box he used to take what was put into it. Jesus said, "Let her alone, let her keep it for the day of my burial. The poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me." When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came, not only on account of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus also to death, because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.

The next day a great crowd who had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" And Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it; as it is written, "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" His disciples did not understand this at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that this had been written of him and had been done to him. The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead bore witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign.