



THE PHILOXENIA OF ABRAHAM

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

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MARCH 2021

Greetings Holy Trinity Parishioners and Friends.

Life can be very challenging, but God is always great and merciful!

We often hear people say they would like a little “peace and quiet.” I think we can all say a hearty “amen” to that, especially with all that is taking place in our world right now. Yet, I wanted to take a few moments to encourage you today on this thought of “peace.”

At times, we have wrongly concluded that peace is simply the absence of conflict of any kind, yet we forget that Jesus came into a world that was filled with political and moral turmoil. Yet, He was, and IS the Prince of Peace! As Jesus walked the dusty roads, followed by his disciples, everywhere he went benefitted from the peace He brought into the situation.

Political and religious leaders may have struggled with having a sense of peace because He came to restore hope and dignity to society's downtrodden and forgotten. As He did this, the religious leaders felt their control of the people slipping away.

Yet, all this time, Jesus knew a day would come that He would be taken out of this world, and His mission would be left in the hands of the disciples.

He gave some comforting words to them at the time, and I believe these words still apply to us today: From St. John (14:27) “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

The peace that the world gives is temporary and governed by the events surrounding us, yet the peace the Lord gives is one that comes from our innermost being because of His presence.

Here is a beautiful story that illustrates the kind of peace Jesus Christ gives:

Two painters were asked to paint a picture illustrating peace. The first painted a beautiful evening scene in the foreground of a lake, its surface calm and unruffled. Trees surrounded it; meadows stretched away to the distant cattle gently browsing; a little cottage, the setting sun—all spoke of perfect rest. The second painter drew a wild, stormy scene. Heavy black clouds hung overhead; in the center of the picture, an immense waterfall poured forth vast volumes of water covered with foam. One could almost hear its unceasing roar, yet perhaps the first thing to strike the eye was a small bird, perched in a cleft of a huge rock, absolutely sheltered from all danger, pouring forth its sweet notes of joy. It is the second painter who could describe the peace that passes all understanding, which is the Lord Jesus Christ, the wisdom of God in the heart of the redeemed. One can only have peace with himself if he has peace with God.

Remember that the circumstances around you should not dictate your peace. HE is our peace!

Blessings, Good Health, Love, Peace, Prayers and Stay Safe in Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Father Tom Cokotis

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GREAT LENT AND MARCH 2021 SERVICES

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS! THANKS! EUXAPISTO!

+Sunday, March 14th, Forgiveness & Cheesefare Sunday - NO SERVICES

+CLEAN MONDAY, MARCH 15TH, GREAT LENT BEGINS TODAY+.

+Friday, March 19th, First Salutations Service to the Theotokos, Mother of God @ 7:00 p.m.

**+Saturday, March 20th, Third and Final Saturday of the Souls+
Matins+Divine Liturgy+Memorial Service @ 9:00 a.m.**

**+First Sunday of Great Lent, March 21st, Sunday of Orthodoxy+
Matins+Divine Liturgy+Procession with the Holy Icons @ 9:00 a.m.**

***Monday, March 22nd, Parish Council Meeting 6:00-8:00 p.m.**

**+THURSDAY, MARCH 25TH, ANNUNCIATION OF THE THEOTOKOS & (200) YEARS
ANNIVERSARY FOR GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY+Matins+Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 a.m.**

+Friday, March 26th, Second Salutations To The Theotokos-Mother of God @ 7:00 p.m.

**+Second Sunday of Great Lent, March 28th, Sunday of Saint Gregory Palamas+
Matins+Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 a.m.**

+Wednesday, March 31st, Great Lenten Pre-Sanctified Holy Gifts Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m.

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

“FOR WHERE TWO OR THREE
GATHER IN MY NAME, THERE I
AM WITH THEM” – Matthew 18:20



**Holy Trinity celebrated
Saturday of Souls**

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
- Be sure to “SPRING AHEAD” this Sat. evening

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

FACILITY & GROUNDS UPDATE

During the COVID-19 pandemic we have not been able to gather in our Fellowship hall, but worship services, maintenance, and some number of renovations has continued. This is to assure that Holy Trinity is well maintained and safe for all of our parishioners.

Several months ago, we had the entrance platform treated with a microbial sealer in an attempt to finally resolve a chronic and frustrating water leak into our newly renovated bathrooms. Unfortunately, the extensive renovations did not go far enough to address the root of this leakage. The parish council maintenance committee decided to solicit the help of contractor, Mark Tellier, owner of Advance Masonry, who has done extensive masonry work at Holy Trinity. The problem area was prepared and fully treated in only two days. The area was monitored for leaks during the next several rainy days and we have now been leak-free for several months. The sealer has now made its way into the small cracks and crevasses that conventional sealers could not. Thanks to Mark and his crew we should never have to deal with leaks, mold, mildew and other moisture related health problems again.

G&H Landscaping has done a great job keeping our stairs and walkways clear of snow and ice all winter. During the warmer months they will cut the lawn and treat for weeds. Thanks Bill Gotaski and company for the work that you do.

Upon warm weather, we will engage our air conditioning contractor, Reidy Heating and Cooling (our serviceman for the last 35 years) to assure that our units are ready for the summer heat and humidity. Thank you, Roger and crew

Lastly, the South Holyoke Redevelopment Committee is working on a housing project which would require ownership of our rear parking lot, following a land swap for the adjacent, smaller city lot. The project is proposing the construction of two 2-family homes. Land swap negotiation are ongoing for a mutual arrangement where both sides needs are obtained in the transaction. We expect the swap to be official in late 2021, so keep an eye out for updates.

Next month the Philoptochos will be 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 2021 Annual Children's Pageant

Thank you to Chairperson Rebecca Renzette, the Sunday School Children (under the direction of John Kaloroumakis) and Choir (under the direction of Jim Maynard) for their gift of service in again bringing the story of the Nativity to us even with the constraints in place.

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

Treasurer's Report

Stewardship pledges to date (Feb): \$12,752

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

We are not in the same boat. We are in the same storm
Some have yachts. Some have canoes. Some are drowning.
Be kind. Show compassion. Share Gods love. Help when you can.

HOLY TRINITY OUTREACH

At the onset of the Pandemic, Holy Trinity continued to provide food donations and monetary support to Margaret's Pantry, Kates Kitchen and The Car Center totaling over \$1,600 to date. In addition, Holy Trinity Church, Philoptochos, and Sunday School outreached to the community feeding approx. 70 people.

On the Horizon: A Spring distribution of care packages and a feed the hungry event.



HOLY TRINITY WILL CELEBRATE GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY on Thursday, March 25th at 11:30 a.m. in front of Holyoke City Hall, 536 Dwight St.

THERE WILL BE NO RECEPTION IN THE MAYORS OFFICE

2020-2021 PHILOPTOCHOS 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

Sunday, March 14th, Forgiveness & Cheesefare Sunday

EPISTLE - Romans 13:11-14; 14:1-4. Brethren, salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for God is able to make him stand.

GOSPEL - Matthew 6:14-21. The Lord said, "If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. "And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

First Sunday of Great Lent, March 21st, Sunday of Orthodoxy

EPISTLE - Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-40. Brethren, by faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets -- who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign enemies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated -- of whom the world was not worthy -- wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

GOSPEL - John 1:43-51. At that time, Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And he found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael, and he said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."

Second Sunday of Great Lent, March 28th, Sunday of Saint Gregory Palamas

EPISTLE - Hebrews 1:10-14; 2:1-3. "IN THE BEGINNING, Thou, Lord, didst found the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of thy hands; they will perish, but thou remainest; they will all grow old like a garment, like a mantle thou wilt roll them up, and they will be changed. But thou art the same, and thy years will never end." But to what angel has he ever said, "Sit at my right hand, till I make thy enemies a stool for thy feet?" Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to serve, for the sake of those who are to obtain salvation? Therefore we must pay closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For if the message declared by angels was valid and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard him.

GOSPEL - Mark 2:1-12, At that time, Jesus entered Capernaum and it was reported that he was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room for them, not even about the door; and he was preaching the word to them. And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "My son, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, "Why does this man speak thus? It is a blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question thus in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your pallet and walk? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins'-he said to the paralytic-"I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home." And he rose, and immediately took up the pallet and went out before them all; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"