



Join us for Divine Liturgy 10 AM every Sunday in August.



COVID 19 Restrictions: Seating is limited to 40 people. You must wear a mask and observe 6ft social distancing. Please follow the directions of the ushers for seating, communion and exiting the church.

Please do not congregated in the foyer. Exit the church immediately and visit outside in the fresh air.

The hall and kitchen are off limits to everyone. There will be no coffee hour in August.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us keep each other safe.

PARISH COUNCIL

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We are still working with the Archdiocese on the upgrade of the Holy Trinity website. With numerous more pressing computer issues because of the corona virus pandemic updates by the Archdiocese, Holy Trinity's website was put on the backburner for a couple of months. Last week the test site was reviewed, and the final adjustments are in the queue with the Office of Technology. Hopefully, the new website will be up and running in the next couple of weeks!

EPISTLE AND GOSPEL READINGS



- August 2:**
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:10-17
Gospel: Matthew 14:14-22
- August 9:**
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 3:9-17
Gospel: Matthew 14: 22-34
- August 15:**
Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11
Gospel: Luke 10:38-42, 27-28
- August 16:**
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 4:9-16
Gospel: Matthew 17:14-23
- August 23:**
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 9:2-12
Gospel: Matthew 18:23-35
- August 30:**
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:1-1
Gospel: Matthew 19:16-26

Message from Fr. Nick

Our attention in August turns to showing added reverence to the Theotokos. This is both worthwhile and necessary, because the Virgin Mary was selected, by God the Father, to bring salvation into this world.

We must look to the Orthodox Church to understand who she was, and still is. In the meantime, it is important for us to remember, that that we cannot trust the so-called historical documentaries, or even some scholars, to give to us the real facts about her role in the Church.

The people who write these things have their own biases, and too often, what we see on television, or read in books, is motivated by the desire to get attention or to have good ratings.

Too often, the information that is presented as facts, is actually filtered through a lens that is faithless and disrespectful. Often what they report, is even contrary to the facts.

A good example of this type of misleading, information appeared in the newspaper a while back. It seems that some archeologists had found the place where King David built his city.

King David is credited with writing many of the Psalms in the Old Testament that we read. Let us keep in mind that the entire Hebrew nation, decorated their temples and their banners with what is known as the Star of David. Without even considering the centuries of oral and cultural tradition, regarding King David, by Jews, Christians, and Muslims alike, the Associated Press reported *that no definitive physical proof of the existence of King David have been found.*

Then, I suppose we are expected to believe that oral tradition, cultural tradition, hymnal tradition and scriptural tradition are to be rejected, as well.

This same rationale is often extended to the Virgin in current literature.

Scripture tells us that, the Archangel Gabriel appeared to the Virgin in Nazareth to inform her of her impending pregnancy. After the Resurrection of Jesus in Jerusalem, the Virgin Mary, traveled around the world with Lazarus' sisters Mary and Martha, with some of the Lord's Apostles, and other disciples. Later in her life she was in Edessa with St John the Evangelist. In Edessa the Archangel Gabriel appeared to her a second time. This visitation did not frighten her as it did the first time. The Theotokos had matured spiritually enough to accept these apparitions as God's Messengers. This time, the Archangel informed her that, her life in this world, would end on August 15, 45 AD. But it was not to be in Edessa. She was to go back to Jerusalem to prepare for her death and burial.

While she was traveling back to Jerusalem, she sent messages to the Apostles, informing them of her impending death so that they could say goodbye to her. They were all gathered in Jerusalem to be there with her, except for St Thomas. His ministry was in India and he was too far away to make it back on time.

To be certain, St Thomas was beside himself, not being able to say his goodbyes. Oddly enough, what had happened was, that while he was traveling from India to Jerusalem, St Thomas found himself in a supernatural state, floating in semi-consciousness. In his mind, he saw a vision of the Virgin Mary. In this vision, she handed him something. He just clutched it in his hand.

When he arrived at Jerusalem, the Theotokos had already died and as was the custom she was placed in a sarcophagus. That dear Apostle was devastated. Understandably, the other Apostles felt sorry for him, so going against Jewish laws, they decided to pull off the heavy stone covering of the sarcophagus. This way, at least, St Thomas could venerate her sacred and holy remains.

When they pulled off the lid, all they found were her burial cloths. There was no body.

In his hand, St Thomas was holding the item that the Virgin had handed him, when he saw her in his vision. It was her belt. Everyone recognized it, because she had woven it herself, while living in the Temple, and then, she wore it all her life.

The belt of the Theotokos can be found today on Mt Athos, in the monastery of Vatopedi.

The death of the Theotokos, was witnessed by countless people, and yet she returns to us over and over again. Even in these modern times her icons cry real human tears. Some years back she was seen and photographed standing on the dome of the Coptic church in Cairo for almost three years. She was even photographed at Medujorie in Yugoslavia, while talking to the three children who could see her.

The Apostles said goodbye to her in Jerusalem in 45 AD, but she did not say goodbye to them, or bid farewell to those of us still in this world.

The Virgin Mary continues to intercede for us, and to be a comfort to all who need her.



Fr. Nick



August 31: Placing of the Venerable Sash of the Theotokos

Apolytikion

O Ever-Virgin Theotokos, shelter of mankind, thou hast bestowed upon thy people a mighty investure, even thine immaculate body's raiment and sash, which by thy seedless childbirth have remained incorrupt; for in thee nature and time are made new. Wherefore, we implore thee to grant peace to the world, and great mercy to our souls.

COMMUNITY NEWS



Helen Carrozella, of Manchester, nee Athanasion, passed away on May 31.

We extend our condolences to her children John and Jeri Lynn, grandson John Lopez and her sister Virginia Bernier.

May her memory be eternal.

Name days celebrated in August:

8/8: Triantafilos

8/15: Mary, Marika, Christa, Panagiotis

8/20: Samuel

Xronia Polla to all!

PRAYER OF PROTECTION FROM THE CORONAVIRUS

by Grace Bishop Alexis (Trader) of Bethesda, OCA

O God Almighty, Lord of heaven and earth, and of all creation visible and invisible, in Your ineffable goodness, look down upon Your people gathered in Your name. Be our helper and defender in this day of affliction. You know our weakness. You hear our cry in repentance and contrition of heart. O Lord who loves mankind deliver us from the impending threat of the corona virus. Send Your Angel to watch over us and protect us. Grant health and recovery to those suffering from this virus. Guide the hands of physicians, and preserve those who are healthy that we may continue to serve You in peace and glorify Your most honorable and majestic Name, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

For the children and young adults in our community

Steven Christoforou, Director of the Youth and Young Adult Ministry of the Archdiocese, is quite an interesting man who energetically speaks to the needs of the youth and young adults in the Orthodox Church. He has put together various educational resources for young people of all ages. There is a great series called "Be the Bee" which is now available in its entirety along with several summer resources at <https://www.goarch.org/youth>.

While Sunday School is on break - this is a great resource for families.

Portion of Archbishop Elpidophoros' Homily on the National Day of Mourning over Ἁγία Σοφία, July 24, 2020

Let us be the House of Wisdom. Let our Seven pillars be the virtues of love, kindness, compassion, mercy, forgiveness, patience, and humility. Let us offer at every time and in every place the Offering that was sacrificed for the life of the world, mingling the Blood of the grape to receive the Divine Eucharist from Wisdom's own table of the Holy Altar.

Thus, my beloved, we will overcome the grief of this present moment, and attain the vision of God that Great Church is and shall ever be. The Kingdom of God upon earth. The Kingdom of Peace. The Kingdom of Joy. The Kingdom of Love.

Through the prayers of the All-Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, may we attain this Kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, who is glorified and worshipped, unto the ages of ages. Amen!

SPIRO AND CHRISTA HAVELES

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*When a common man, whoever he is is
triumphant but unjust, violent and reckless
will lead to disaster and that will fall on the
innocent as well as on the guilty.*

N.D.F. Kitto

Thomas E. Moumouris



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*Order of Ahepa
Danielson Chapter 418
Yankee District*

Our wish: for everyone to stay well!

From

*The Daughters of Penelope
Asteria Chapter*



**George and Tammy Gionis
and**

**4 G's Pizzeria
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**Remembering Demi on August 14 - her
85th birthday**

Gloria and George Lakatzis

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