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# THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF  
HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
ROANOKE, VIRGINIA

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VOL. 16 ISSUE 01

JANUARY 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we go through the season of Holidays and we extend Season's Greetings with those we encounter and exchange gifts with those we love or care for, do we ever consider what it is that we are proclaiming and what our actions indicate? What do we mean, for example, when we say "I love you" to those we exchange gifts with? And why do we refrain from saying "I love you" to anyone crossing our path? Is it because it is unreasonable to extend love to everybody? And if so why?

In order to obtain an explanation for our behavior, it is important to first investigate what we mean with the "I love you" proclamation we make. "I love you" can mean that A) "I love the way you make me feel; you bring me joy and warmth with the things you give me or do for me. You agree with me, your actions support my needs and you make me look good and place me as the center of attention. This is why I keep you around, why you are important for me. For these reasons, I say I love you."

On the other hand, "I love you" can mean B) "The world without your habits (whether those are eccentric, quirky, or even neurotic) would be infinitely poorer. Your ways of thinking, acting, and perceiving things are mysteriously unique and, through these, you affirm that nobody can be like you. You are irreplaceable and a cause for wonder on how rich, unfathomable and complicated the world I share with you is."

Can we think of many other things that can be said in either point of view? Certainly. However, there is no third alternative; we can say "I love you" because we care either for ourselves or we care for others. And with the birth of Christ on this earth, aiming at the regeneration of all humans, we need to learn to abandon attachment to ourselves and adopt the wondrous and all-encompassing acceptance of the love of others. Christ offered us a divine example of how to become friends with our Father who loves us all and how to imitate Him with the extension of our love to those around us. It was not His suggestion, but rather His command that His disciples (and therefore all of us following them) love each other as He loved them, despite their disbelief. He offered to us a living lesson of His love for the world and for every human person in it. He assured us that our needs will be met, because our caring Father takes care of everybody. We only have to worry about how to emulate Him and His actions.

As result, how can we choose A over B? This is precisely the drama of the world and of us who live in it. We need to abandon selfish “love” and replace it with that of the love of the world and of all people. Once achieved, then the gifts will be unlimited, endless and appreciative of each other’s’ wonders.

In Christ,

Fr. N. Galanopoulos

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### DEATH

With great sadness our Church Family would like to express our sympathy to the family that lost their loved one:

+ **George Lampros Peroulas** fell asleep in the Lord on December 5th, 2017 at the age of 97. The funeral was held on Friday, December 8th.

*May his memory be eternal and life be on to his surviving family members.*



# Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

30 Huntington Boulevard, N.E.

Roanoke, Virginia 24012

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Rev. Fr. Nick Galanopoulos

E-MAIL: [frnickgalan@gmail.com](mailto:frnickgalan@gmail.com)

Church Administrator: Georgia Liagki E-MAIL: [htrinityroa@verizon.net](mailto:htrinityroa@verizon.net)

## 2017 - 2018 PARISH COUNCIL

Carol Royal	President
Dr. Paul Dallas	Vice President
	Secretary
Deno Poulos	Assistant Secretary
Matt Mandros	Treasurer
Andre DeMaurice	Assistant Treasurer

## Board Members

Naji Karim	Dr. Wendy Larson-Harris
Lampros Peroulas	Dr. Charles Tarasidis
Terry Tomaras	David Williams

## ORGANIZATIONS

Philoptochos President – Tina Poulos  
Religious Education – Dr. Wendy Larson Harris  
GOYA – Ariana Mandros & Dino Oikonomou  
Chanters - Dr. Paul Dallas  
Happy Hearts - Joanne Stamus, Vickie Stamus, & Amelia Tames  
Dance Troupe – Maria Hatzios  
Book store – Denise Stewart  
Megdova President – Dr. Paul Dallas  
Webmaster – Mark Bonds

## COMMITTEES

Adornment - Basil Grapsas  
Archives – Chris Stratton  
Education - Dr. Wendy Larson Harris  
Festival – Pete Simopoulos  
Finance – Dr. Bobby Karageorge & Chris Stratton  
Grounds – Dr. Charles Tarasidis  
Planning – Bobby Ziogas  
Projects – Dr. Charles Tarasidis  
Stewardship – David Williams  
Ushering & Welcome –

The deadline for notices to be placed in the bulletin is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Please email them to [htrinityroa@verizon.net](mailto:htrinityroa@verizon.net) attention: Georgia Liagki on or before this date. Thank you

# JANUARY DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE

## JANUARY 2018

Mon. 1/1/2018	<b>Circumcision of the Lord, St. Basil</b>	8:00 AM Orthros 9:00 AM Liturgy
Epistle:	St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians 2:8-12	Gospel: Luke 2:20-21, 40-52
Usher(s):	Beth Gianakouros	
Fri. 1/5/2018	<b>Orthros, Great Hours, Great Vespers, D. Liturgy of St. Basil, Great Hagiasmos</b>	8:00 AM Orthros 9:00 AM Liturgy
Epistle:	St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 9:19-27	Gospel: Luke 3:1-18
Usher(s):	Beth Gianakouros	
Sat. 1/6/2018	<b>Holy Theophany</b>	8:00 AM Orthros 9:00AM Liturgy
Epistle:	St. Paul's Letter to Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7	Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17
Usher(s):	Voula Dallas	
Sun. 1/7/2018	<b>Synaxis of St. John the Baptist</b>	9:00 AM Orthros 10:00AM Liturgy
Epistle:	Acts of the Apostles 19:1-8	Gospel: John 1:29-34
Usher(s):	Naji Karim, Deno Poulos	
Sun. 1/14/2018	<b>Apodosis Theophany</b>	9:00 AM Orthros 10:00AM Liturgy
Epistle:	St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 4:7-13	Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17
Usher(s):	David Williams, Terry Tomaras	
Wed. 1/17/2018	<b>St. Anthony the Great</b>	8:00 AM Orthros 9:00 AM Liturgy
Epistle:	St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 13:17-21	Gospel: Luke 6:17-23
Usher(s):	Beth Gianakouros	
Sun. 1/21/2018	<b>15th Sunday of Luke</b>	9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Liturgy
Epistle:	St. Paul's First Letter to Timothy 4:9-15	Gospel: Luke 19:1-10
Usher(s):	Angela Flegas, Nada Melki	
Sun. 1/28/2018	<b>Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee Triodion Begins Today</b>	9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Liturgy
Epistle:	St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 3:10-15	Gospel: Luke 18:10-14
Usher(s):	Chris Flegas, Carol Royal	
Tues. 1/30/2018	<b>Synaxis of The Three Hierarchs: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian &amp; John Chrysostom</b>	8:00 AM Orthros 9:00 AM Liturgy
Epistle:	St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 13:17-16	Gospel: Matthew 5:14-19
Usher(s):	Beth Gianakouros	

**USHERS ARE REQUIRED TO ARRIVE FIFTEEN MINUTES PRIOR TO BEGINNING OF LITURGY! THE USHER LEADER IS TO ARRIVE FOR THE BEGINNING OF ORTHROS. IF YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO USHER AS SCHEDULED, PLEASE CONTACT ANOTHER USHER FROM YOUR LIST TO REPLACE YOU. In case of a discrepancy between printed announcements and electronic listings, electronic listings will be considered as the official times and will be adhered to. The online Bulletin and website are updated as needed and it's where official times for the services are listed.**



*Greek Orthodox Ladies'  
Philoptochos Society  
of Holy Trinity Church*

JANUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we enter a new year, my prayer for all of us in our church family, is that our Lord Jesus continue to bless and keep us and to make His face shine down upon us, and to grant us His peace and favor. May His Holy Spirit fill us and lead us to see with His eyes and feel with His heart, to persevere in His work, our lives and His church, in these difficult times.

If anyone in our church family is unable to get to church, is ill, or just needs to have some love, please let Philoptochos (any member), or Fr. Nicholas know so we can keep our bond with each other. Also, please welcome any newcomers, college students and visitors that you see or know of.

Please remember to host coffee hour and fill in the dates on the Coffee Hour Calendar at the back of the Fellowship Hall.

Thank you to all who participated in the celebration coffee hour honoring St. Nicholas. It was a lovely luncheon.

Congratulations to our own Anna Semonco, Executive Director of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southwest Virginia, on receiving a \$17,000 grant from the Children's Medical Fund. Please see letter following.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 7<sup>th</sup> – Vasilopita (Proceeds to St. Basil Academy)

John 13:34-35 **"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."**

Colossians 3:13 **"Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."**

Your Sister in Christ,

Tina Poulos, President



Southwest Virginia

**Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southwest Virginia** ♥ Keeping Families Close

2224 Jefferson Street SE ♥ Roanoke, VA 24014

Phone 540.857.0770 ♥ Fax 540.857.9584 ♥ info@rmhouse.net

*Keeping families close when they need it the most*

December 1, 2017

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox  
Church Fr. Nick Galanopoulos  
&  
Ladies Philoptochos  
Society 30 Huntington  
Blvd. NE Roanoke, VA  
24012

Dear Fr. Nick Galanopoulos & Members of the Ladies Philoptochos Society:

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Staff, Volunteers, and especially the Families of The Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southwest Virginia, thank you for extending an invitation to apply for the Children's Medical Fund Grant. We are honored to be the recipient of a \$17,000 grant from the Children's Medical Fund for The Ronald McDonald Magic Room.

The Magic Room will resemble a toy store with bright colors and encased shelving filled from floor to ceiling with toys. For a child getting ready to undergo treatment, it's a place where he or she can choose a toy (or two) and just be a kid. The Magic Room is for a mother who hasn't had time to shop for a birthday present for the sibling who might be feeling a bit neglected. It's for the dad who wants to give his premature baby a ridiculously large stuffed animal.

We look forward to beginning construction of the Magic Room the beginning of the year and I will keep you up-to-date as to its progress. My hope is that by early spring we will make you a part of the official opening of the Magic Room.

A family recently wrote to us, "It means the world to us to have such kindness extended our way in the midst of a hard time." Thank you for enabling us to extend this kindness and bring a little magic to those who need it most.

Sincerely,

Anna Semonco, Executive Director

# COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

January 2018

- We plan to start the option to have your stewardship pledge auto debited. We need at least 15-20 people to sign up for this option. Please see a board member for information. We would like to start it this month, if interested please let us know.
- We have a website committee. If anyone wants to add or post information on our church website please reach out to one of the committee members (Charlie Tarasidis, David Williams, or Wendy Larson-Harris).
- In last month monthly newsletter and what was stated at general assembly regarding the rental fee was incorrect. Correct fee is 750 for the first three hours.
- in mid January we will issue out individual codes for access to the church for those that have a key
- Father Nicholas will start to organize the library at church and looking into putting shelves in choir loft
- roof repairs have been completed
- hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season

## APPRECIATION

The church has received a letter from Wanda Smith and it is posted bellow:

*"Dear Church family.*

*Thank you so much for the continued prayers, cards, calls, texts and love you have shown my family during this illness. Most recently, thank you for the generous monetary gift. It was timely and helpful.*

*Love to all,*

*Wanda Smith*

## Fellowship Hour Hosts For December



December 3	The Topasna Family
December 10	Philoptochos for Celebration of St. Nicholas
December 17	Sunday School for Nativity Celebration
December 24	Philoptochos

The 2018 calendar is posted in the church hall; please show your hospitality by signing up to be a host.

## Religious Education

**Sunday School Classes will begin again on January 14<sup>th</sup>**

Our theme for the spring will be "Stories Jesus Told": we will be learning about the parables.

**Sunday January 28<sup>th</sup> Coffee Hour Special Focus: Orthodoxy in Alaska**

Alaska has a unique place in the story of Orthodoxy in America; we will learn about both the history and life today. Alaska native Marwood Larson-Harris and Wendy Larson-Harris will present a brief talk with slides.





[www.RoanokeGreekFestival.com](http://www.RoanokeGreekFestival.com)

**September 14, 15 and 16, 2018**

I hope that you and your family had a blessed Christmas. As you begin to think about how you will give of your time and talents to our church this year, we hope that you will give generously your time and talents to the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Greek Festival. With our festival's growth, the commitment of time is needed by our parishioners. If you have any questions on how you can become more involved with the festival, please see me any time throughout the year. The planning for this year's festival has already begun!

It is never too early to begin cultivating new sponsors for this year's festival. If you have anyone that you would like for us to contact in becoming a sponsor of our event, please contact Dr. Paul Dallas (529-6356). We have many different ways that any business can become a sponsor. We humbly ask for your support in this area.

May you have a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,

Peter Simopoulos, Chairman  
Roanoke Greek Festival

## *Roanoke*



On Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> the Hellenic Club enjoyed a great show, the Virginia Christmas Spectacular, at Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg. We had a great group of parishioners join us for the show and/or dinner. Everyone had a wonderful time of fellowship and enjoyed the Christmas spirit. Thank you to everyone who drove to Lynchburg to attend.

Our January outing will be held on **Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at Carlos Brazilian International Cuisine, 4167 Electric Road, Roanoke at 6 p.m.** We invite everyone to join us in celebrating the New Year! Please RSVP that you will be coming by **Monday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>** to Frances Simopoulos at (434) 851-6830 or [ptsims@ntelos.net](mailto:ptsims@ntelos.net).

As we begin our new year of planning, please let me know if you have any suggestions for our club. Also, please be reminded that everyone in our parish is a member of the Hellenic Club! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via email or by phone.

I wish everyone a Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Frances Simopoulos

## 2018 HOUSE BLESSING INFORMATION

The Feast of Holy Theophany (January 6th) is one of the many joyous Holy Days in the Orthodox Church. The Holy Theophany commemorates the Baptism of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the waters of the Jordan River. Woven within the traditions of the Orthodox celebration of the Feast is the blessing of the homes of the faithful. The purpose of blessing homes is to show our acceptance of God's sanctification and to reveal the home as what it was created by God to be: a way to His Kingdom. It also shows that the "church in the home," the family, is a reflection of the Church. By blessing the home, we consecrate it and all activities therein to God.

This year Fr. Nick will be blessing homes beginning on January 5<sup>th</sup>. Listed below are the days and times Father Nick will be able to bless your home. Please complete the form below and return it to the Church Office or to Father Nick personally NO LATER THAN JANUARY 5<sup>th</sup>. Please be flexible with your schedule on that day. You will be notified a day or two before the approximate time of Father's visit. If you are unable to be home for Father's visit because of conflicts or illness, please call the Church Office and reschedule.

When Father Nick comes to your home, the following should be observed:

1. Have as many family members there as possible.
2. Set a place either in the dining room or kitchen with the following items:
  - A. An Icon
  - B. A medium sized bowl with water filled a quarter of the way.
  - C. A white hand towel
  - D. A candle
  - E. Incense (optional)
3. Print the FIRST NAMES of all family members on a sheet of paper.
4. Please remember that since Father Nick will be making many visitations, a social visit may not always be possible at this time.
5. Please turn on all lights in the rooms to be blessed.



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Please CIRCLE the day of week and time you wish Fr. Nick to come to your home:

DAY - MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY SATURDAY

TIME - 9:00am — 12 Noon

1:30pm — 4:30pm

6:00pm — 9:00pm

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_



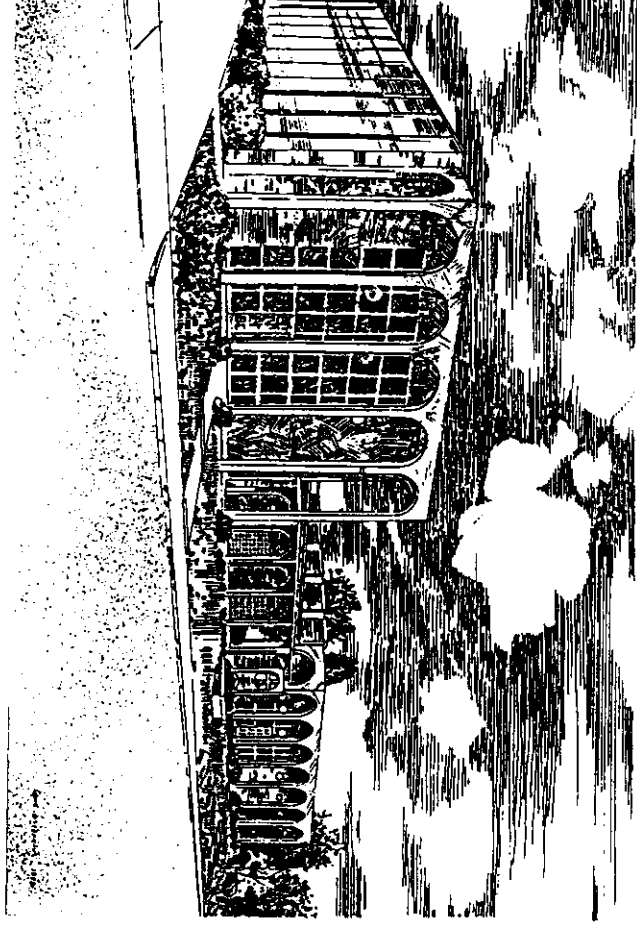
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**ROANOKE, VA**