

HOLY TRINITY
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
110 EAST WALLEN ROAD
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA 46825

FATHER PAUL C. BEBIS

January 2009



THE DOVE

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Thank you to all who participated in last month's Joy Retreat on December 13th. It was awesome!

Thank you to all the "Ahepa" for a great Luncheon on Sunday, December 14th!

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Happy New Year, 2009

A beginning is a new promise, a new possibility, a new vision. Another year has passed us by and another step has been taken in our journey of life. When all the steps are taken, and all the years are added up, what will truly matter to us is to be able to say with St. Paul, "I have done my best in the race, I have run the full distance, I have kept the faith. And now, there is waiting for me the prize of victory awarded for a righteous life."

As the New Year begins, it is a good time for us to pause and reflect upon our spiritual journey and ask ourselves where our we? Are we going in the right direction or have we taken a break from our spiritual efforts? Can we use the start of the New Year to act as an impetus to repentance and spiritual renewal, or we will squander another opportunity to get on track with the Lord? Yes, we live in a difficult world, a time when modern technology gives us endless information through the internet, advanced computers, ipods, and all the latest gadgets, and because of all this many people are becoming more confused and distracted about their beliefs. For some of us, we allow the secular beliefs that inundate our lives daily to become our central values. The Gospel, "The Good News" which Christ introduced to us many centuries ago has the same power today to transform human life as ever it did in the past. Now more than ever we need to become aware of God living in us. Everyone of us has received His grace at our Baptisms. It all depends on us, for as we go through life, we need to discover this presence of God within us so that we can adequately respond to it. The Feast of Christmas reminds us that God became human so that humanity might become one with God. We can choose never to grow if we remain indifferent to God within us. When we were children, we drank milk, and ate baby food. When we become adults, we become more advanced. We eat solid foods, meat, vegetables and bread. This is the same in spiritual growth. We must begin with a simple understanding of God's presence while moving to more intricate concepts of God as we get older. As children our prayers are simplistic. But as adults, our prayers advance to a new dimension, for our prayers become words of repentance, silence, intercession, meditation, praise, generosity, charity and fasting. Now is the time to move forward, to renew our lives and to grow with God and His Church. Each time we approach the Chalice on Sunday Morning, we hear the priest say, "With the fear of God, with faith and with love draw near," for we receive Holy Communion with the possibility and hope of renewing and recommitting our lives to Christ. Our goal is to keep striving. Happy New Year!!!

Father Paul C. Bebis

St. Timothy.
Wednesday, January 22nd, 2009

The name Timothy comes from the Greek words, “time” and “Theos” (one who honors God). This adequately describes Timothy, a servant of the Lord who gave his life for Christ. He was born in Asia Minor during the first century A.D. He met St. Paul while St. Paul was on one of his famous journeys throughout that part of the world, and immediately he became a devoted Christian. In turn, St. Paul invariably displayed great affection and respect for Timothy. The fifteenth and sixteenth books of the New Testament which are called the “Pastoral Letters” were written by St. Paul and addressed to Timothy. Timothy accompanied St. Paul on many of his journeys in Greece and Asia Minor. While St. Paul taught in Corinth, Timothy was right by his side. In fact, St. Paul sent Timothy to Macedonia as well as on many other missions which were of vital importance for the growth and preservation of the Christian Church. St. Paul installed Timothy as Bishop of Ephesus, the great city of the pagan goddess Artemis. The pagans of Ephesus resented the appearance of Timothy, and they brought great persecutions to the Christians in that area. In the year 72AD, followers of the Pagan Gods, during a wild and weird ritual at the temple, attacked the Christian community of Ephesus, and Timothy was stoned to death in front of his church. Several years after his martyrdom, his remains were enthroned in the Altar of the Church of the Apostles in Constantinople, together with the remains of both St. Luke and St. Andrew. He is remembered by the Fathers of the Church as a young man who found Christ and served the Church with great devotion.

Liturgical Calendar

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| Thursday, January 1 st , 2009- | “The Feast of St. Basil the Great, and the Circumcision of Jesus Christ.” Orthros, 8:30AM and Divine Liturgy, 9:00AM. |
| Sunday, January 4 th , 2009- | “Sunday before Theophany,” Orthros, 9:00AM and Divine Liturgy, 10:00AM |
| Monday, January 5 th , 2009- | “Eve of The Epiphany,” Orthros, 8:30AM, Divine Liturgy and the Blessing of the Waters, 9:00AM. |
| Tuesday, January 6 th , 2009- | “The Theophany of our Lord,” Orthros, 8:30AM, the Divine Liturgy and the Blessing of the Waters, 9:00AM. |
| Wednesday, January 7 th , 2009- | “The Feast of St. John the Baptist,” Orthros, 8:30AM and Divine Liturgy, 9:00AM. |

- Sunday, January 11th, 2009- “The Sunday after Theophany,” Orthros, 9:00AM and Divine Liturgy, 10:00AM.
- Saturday, January 17th, 2009- “St. Anthony the Great,” Orthros, 8:30AM and Divine Liturgy, 9:00AM.
- Sunday, January 18th, 2009- “St. Athanasios the Great and Cyril,” Orthros, 9:00AM, and Divine Liturgy, 10:00AM.
- Wednesday, January 21st, 2009- “The Feast of St. Maximos the Confessor,” Orthros, 8:30AM and Divine Liturgy, 9:00AM.
- Sunday, January 25th, 2009- “The Feast of St. Gregory the Theologian,” Orthros, 9:00AM and Divine Liturgy, 10:00AM.
- Friday, January 30th, 2009- “The Feast of the Three Hierarchs,” Orthros, 8:30AM and the Divine Liturgy, 9:00AM.

Altar Boys for January

Sunday, January 4th, 2009- “The Thessalonians,” Co-Captains-Greg Kaplanis, and Pantelis Kaplanis, Triandaphillos Kaplanis, Demetrios Kaplanis, and Frank Makridakis.

Sunday, January 11th, 2009- “The Colossians,” Co-Captains-William Fliotsos, and Michael Fliotsos, Alex Bond and Nick Bond.

Sunday, January 18th, 2009- “The Ephesians,” Co-Captains-Jimmy Cox, and Panagiotis Pliastos, Nick Gogos, Chris Rongos, and George Rongos.

Sunday, January 25th, 2009- “The Galatians,” Co Captains-Yanni Boutaris and George Toskos, Bayden Lee, and Demetrios Lee.



The Cutting of the Vasilopita
after the Divine Liturgy
Sunday, January 11th, 2009

Coffee hour sponsored by the Greek School.

The Meaning behind the Vasilopita

The tradition of the Vasilopita, which means the sweet “Bread of Basil” commenced in the fourth century, when St. Basil the Great, who was the Bishop of Cappadocia of Caesarea in the last half of the fourth century, wanted to distribute money to the poor in his Diocese. He commissioned some women to take sweetened bread, in which he arranged place gold coins. Thus, the needy families in cutting the bread to nourish themselves, were pleasantly surprised to find gold coins. The Vasilopita tradition has been carried on until today, where special sweet bread is prepared both in Orthodox Homes and in the Church Community itself. Sweets are added to the bread which symbolizes the sweetness and joy of everlasting life. It also symbolizes the hope that the New Year will be filled with the sweetness of life, liberty, health, and happiness for all who participate in the Vasilopita Observance. When the Vasilopita is prepared, a coin is usually added to the ingredients. When the bread is cut and the observance begins, the individual who receives that portion of the Pita which contains the coin receives a special blessing for the New Year. Saint Basil himself is considered one of the greatest saints of our Church. He was the first person in history to establish an orphanage for little children. He also founded the first Christian Hospital in the world. His fame as a holy man spread like wildfire throughout the Byzantine World. He was considered one of the wisest and most compassionate clergymen in the entire history of the Church. His feast day is observed on January 1st, 2009, the beginning of the New Year and the Epiphany Season. The Church, therefore, in respect for his money contributions to the Church and to humankind in general, combined joy and happiness of the New Year with the glory of the Birth of Christ, and the Epiphany into what is known in the Orthodox Church as the Vasilopita Observance.

Saint John Chrysostom on Stewardship

Be the guardian of your sacred money and become a self-ordained Steward to the Poor. At your bedside, you should keep the Gospel on your side, and your almsgiving on the other. We have all the use of our finances, but no one can ever have ownership over them. When we die, we have to leave our goods to others. We can only make use of them during life and then we are deprived of their possessions in the life hereafter. Thus, it is obvious that only the ones, who do not allow their finances to possess them, and disregard their satisfaction, can hold a real possession of them. For who-ever uses their belongings to distribute them to the poor, proves that they make proper use of them. Only in this way will people hold dominion over their possessions in life and beyond death. However, if someone wishes to have both their possession and use in life, let him be deprived of these goods. God has made you rich. Why then do you make yourself poor? He made you rich in order to help the needy ones and by this action to obtain remission of your sins. He gave you money not to hide it and thus be subject to damnation, but to impart it and through this generous action justify your salvation. The greatest thing is not to possess money, but to possess godly fear and full piety.

President's Corner
By Chris Rongos

It's time to bid farewell to 2008. Though this year has gone by quickly we've all weathered ups and downs, and now it time to begin a new year and start off on a joyful spiritual note.

It has been my honor to serve as Parish Council President for this past year. I'd like to thanks each and everyone for their kindness and generosity. You have truly made my job a joy and a privilege.

To all Holy Trinity parishioners I wish you good luck in 2009 and pray for a healthy, prosperous new year.

In closing, I'd like to thank all my Board Members for working together and helping to make this an exceptional year for Holy Trinity.

May God bless you all!

“You ask how you can save yourself when sin stands at every step. And you sin at every moment? The answer is simple, at every step, at every moment, call upon the Savior, and you will save yourself and others.”
(St. John of Kronstadt).

Wisdom of Faith

“Better a little with righteousness than much gain with injustice.” (Proverbs 16:8).

“He who has realized love for God in his heart is tireless in his pursuit of the Lord his God, and bears every hardship, reproach, and insult nobly, never thinking the least evil of anyone.” (St. Maximos the Confessor).

Parish Council Corner

This year, we have one new member of the Parish Council, and three were re-elected on Sunday, December 14th, 2008. Our new member is Tony Zannis of Fort Wayne. In addition, Chris Rongos, our current President, George Gogos, our current Vice-President, and Deanna Gountras were re-elected. Congratulations to all of you and have a blessed 2009!!

Philoptochos Corner

“The year 2008 went by and I am very pleased and proud of the success we had of all the programs and projects of our Philoptochos organization. We feel deep appreciation to the ladies who always have been there to work hard every time we need the help for the Philoptochos Projects for our church and we are very grateful for their efforts. May God bless. Now we are going into the year 2009, and we are hoping of another year of success, and we wish you a good beginning, (Kali Apxi), to the New Year of 2009. The Philoptochos Christmas Party held on December 9th was excellent. The food was delicious. Philoptochos President Elly Schmidt presented the “Past President Pins” and “Certificates of Merit” to all the presidents from the beginning of our Philoptochos Organization as well as great remarks for their efforts and a job well done. All of us had a very good time and lots of Christmas gifts. With all that, we are grateful to the Chairmen, Trish Poursanides, and Tina Doublas for their commitment and hard work in putting this event together. The Bake Sale despite with the bad economy went well. We are thankful for all the donations for The Christmas Card, for the Christmas Flowers, the Linus Blanket Program, the Hurricane Ike Project, and for all the contributions to the needy. I am very proud of the Philoptochos Ladies, young and older for being there throughout the year, 2008, and I thank you so very much. And now we wish to everyone, a Merry Christmas, and a great healthy and prosperous New Year. The Birth of Jesus Christ means to bring peace and harmony into the world. Make God Bless to keep you in his mighty care. I will see you at the next meeting, 2009. Xpovia Polla.”

(Elly Schmidt, President of Philoptochos)

Sunday School Corner

Special thanks to Zoe Zannis and the parents and teachers who prepared a beautiful performance at our “Christmas Pageant” held at Holy Trinity on Sunday, December 28th, 2009 following Divine Liturgy. It was an enjoyable time and the children had a great time. In addition, we thank all the children for doing such an incredible job!!!! God Bless you!

Some Topics to discuss.

Sunday, January 4th, 2009- No Sunday School, “Family Worship Sunday.”

Sunday, January 11th, 2009- Classes Resume. “The Epiphany.”

Sunday, January 18th, 2009- “The Vasilopita.”

Sunday, January 25th, 2009- “St Gregory the Theologian.”

THE FORT WAYNE HOLY TRINITY FOLK DANCE GROUP

TA KALA PAIDIA

The beginner groups are composed of children ages 4-8 at the time of registration. The Instructors for this group are Rea Fourgas (489-9589) and Zoe Zannis (338-1283). Practice for the beginner groups is usually on the first and third Tuesday of each month.

Our next practices are as follows: **these dates are corrected from the original mailed Dove**

- + Tuesday, January 6th, 2009 from 5:00PM to 6:00PM.
- + Tuesday, January 20th, 2009 from 5:00PM to 6:00PM.

TA ASTERIA

The intermediate groups are composed of children ages 9-14 at the time of registration. The instructors for this group are Stella Skembos (486-3712) and Kathy Rongos (338-0948). Practice for the intermediate groups is on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month.

Our next practices are as follows: **these dates are corrected from the original mailed Dove**

- + Tuesday, January 13th, 2009 from 5:00PM to 6:00PM.
- + Tuesday, January 27th, 2009 from 5:00PM to 6:00PM.

E. MERAKLIDES

Our advanced group is composed of dancers ages 15-25. Please contact Tony Zannis (338-1283) or Angela Poyiadji (586-242-3511) for more information. These dancers are typically familiar with many dances and are ready to learn some of the more challenging dances.

A "Pan Orthodox" Blessing of the Waters
At Lawton Park, at the Spy Run River Bridge
Tuesday, January 6th, 2009
At 12:00 Noon.

Everyone is invited!!!!

Daughters of Penelope Corner

The January Daughters of Penelope meeting will be held at Don Hall's Guesthouse on Saturday, January 10th at 12:00Noon, (watch for upcoming newsletter for more information about the reservation deadline.

The Daughters of Penelope and Philoptochos had another successful Bake Sale! Thank you to all the women who spent many hours making, and baking the pans of Baklava. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Meeting Calendar

- Monday, January 5th, 2009- “The GOYA,” at Holy Trinity, 7:00PM.
- Tuesday, January 6th, 2009- “The Philoptochos,” at Holy Trinity, 7:00PM.
- Saturday, January 10th, 2009- “The Daughters of Penelope,” at Don Hall’s Guesthouse, 12:00Noon.
- Sunday, January 11th, 2009- “The GOYA,” following Divine Liturgy in Classroom Building.
- Tuesday, January 13th, 2009- “The GOYAL,” at the Oyster Bar, 7:30PM.
- Sunday, January 18th, 2009- “Sunday School Teacher’s Meeting,” after Divine Liturgy.
- Tuesday, January 20th, 2009- “The Parish Council,” at Holy Trinity, 7:30PM.
- Thursday, January 22nd, 2009- “The Ahepa,” at Holy Trinity, 7:00PM.

Please schedule your coffee hour for Sundays with Elly Schmidt. If you would like to speak to Elly, please call her at 493-0719. We have openings available.

Schedule of Blessings

Date	Area Code
Wednesday, January 7 th , 2009- Thursday, January 8 th , 2009- Friday, January 9 th , 2009- Saturday, January 10 th , 2009-	46845
Tuesday, January 13 th , 2009- Wednesday, January 14 th , 2009- Thursday, January 15 th , 2009- Friday, January 16 th , 2009-	46825
Saturday, January 17 th , 2009-	46748 (Huntertown) 46742 (Hamilton)

	46747 (Hudson)
Tuesday, January 20 th , 2009- Wednesday, January 21 st , 2009-	46804
Thursday, January 22 nd , 2009- Friday, January 23 rd , 2009- Saturday, January 24 th , 2009-	46805 46802 46806
Tuesday, January 27, 2009- Wednesday, January 28 th , 2009- Thursday, January 29 th , 2009- Friday, January 30 th , 2009- Saturday, January 31 st , 2009-	46807 46808 46809 46815
Tuesday, February 3 rd , 2009- Wednesday, February 4 th , 2009 Thursday, February 5 th , 2009- Friday, February 6 th , 2009- Saturday, February 7 th , 2009-	46835 46816 46818 46819 46725

House Blessings will continue through the first week of February. There will be a calendar in front of Marcia's office on the bulletin board. Please sign the calendar for a particular time slot. If your name is "not" signed on the calendar, Marcia will call your home to set an appointment. Due to the large amount of homes that need to be blessed, Father cannot stay at your home for more than a half hour. If you cannot be at your home or business during these time schedules, please call Marcia for a new appointment at 489-0774. If your zip code has not been listed, Marcia will call you anyway.

Our 2009 Calendars will be sent to your homes during the first week of January.



Book Club Registration will take place in February for our Book Club.

on Tuesday, February 10th, 2009

Please come! We will get together during the Lenten Season.

Catch Father Paul's article in the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette, Jan. 3rd.

GOYA CORNER

Happy Holiday Greetings from GOYA! The next GOYA Meeting will be on Monday, January 5th, 2009. I hope that we will have as many GOYANS as possible attending. If any GOYAN cannot make the Monday Meeting, I will hold a second meeting on Sunday, January 11th, 2009 after Church Services in the Church Classroom Building. Our raffle drawing raised \$195.00 in ticket sales and we would like to thank everyone who participated. We wanted to thank everyone who participated in the "Santa Sitting" as well. We regret that we had to cancel the Christmas Caroling due to the weather. We would like to announce our "Annual Spaghetti Dinner" on Sunday, January 25th, 2009 right after Church Services. Ticket prices will be \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children 12 and younger, and free for children under 6 years of age. Food or money donations will be most appreciated. All donations will be used for the Annual GOYA Dayton Basketball Tournament in February. Look for our flyers every Sunday in Church. Practices have begun for basketball and are usually held on Sundays at 3:00PM at St. Peter's School on Maysville Road. Any GOYA, boy or girl, between the ages of 12 and 18 years of age may participate. We would like to see as many youths participate as possible. Please remember that in order for any GOYAN to participate in the basketball tournament, they must not only practice, but also attend GOYA Meetings and help out with GOYA activities such as Fundraisers and the Spaghetti Dinner. If there are any extenuating circumstances that are keeping any GOYAN from attending meetings, please let me know immediately. Again, if anyone who has a youth who would like to join GOYA or if anyone would like to donate to the GOYA Fund, please contact me at 260-341-4451. Thank you!

We have an updated Website, www.holytrinity.in.goarch.org. Thank you to "Tammy Toscos" for her supervision and guidance. She is now our director for our Website. If you have any new ideas or news stories for the Website, see Tammy.

Note: a reminder to pick up your "Stewardship Envelopes" in the Narthex.

THE ORIGINAL, MAILED VERSION OF THE DOVE HAD AN ARTICLE IN GREEK WHICH COULD NOT BE SCANNED IN FOR THIS ELECTRONIC VERSION OF THE DOVE. I AM SORRY FOR THE INCONVENIENCE.

Greek School Corner

KAAH XPONIA - Happy New Year to everyone from the teachers and students of Greek School!

- We will cut our Vasilopita for Greek School on Tuesday January 6, 2009.
- The Greek School students will wish everyone a .
- Happy New Year in song on Sunday January 18, 2009.
- We will have a Greek Movie night in February.

"Love is patient and kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
Love never ends."

1 Corinthians 13

"What do you have that you did not receive? And if you received it, why do you boast as if it were not a gift?"

1 Corinthians 4:7

Troy Polamalu, Faith and Football

By Jason Cole (Yahoo! Sports)



Strong Safety Troy Polamalu has become known around the Pittsburgh Steelers as the last guy out of the locker room on Sundays. All of his teammates are long gone and even more of the equipment guys have cleared out by the time he emerges. Polamalu goes through a detailed process, including a dip in a cold tub and a lengthy shower to relax after a hard-hitting afternoon.

For a guy who doesn't seem to be in a hurry, however, away from the field Polamalu does put a serious priority on his time with his wife Theodora, and with his faith.

Cole: Do you have a routine you follow on your day off?

Polanudu: "Every Monday on my day off I work out with my wife. We have a pretty decent workout. She does a lot of running and I do a lot of stretching. Every Tuesday morning, we go to Church together. We go to the Nativity of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Monastery in Saxonburg, PA.

Cole: I know you're devoutly Christian (Polanudu has a carefully arranged series of icons in his locker at Heinz Field), but exactly which denomination?

Polamalu: I am Greek Orthodox. What's really neat about the Orthodox Church is that it's like walking back in time 2000 years to the time of the Apostles. The services we attend are about four hours long, but these services were created in the original early church. The Orthodox have maintained the Truth ever since the beginning.

Cole: You're Polynesian. How did you end up at a Greek Orthodox Church?

Polamalu: There are different ethnicities in Orthodoxy, like Russian Orthodox. My wife is Greek. I was a non-denominational Christian before we got married. I later became Orthodox. So now, we sit around the monastery, meet with our spiritual mother and have a discussion, and then we go home.

Cole: Do you have any other hobbies or things you do away from the field?

Polamalu: No, not really. The singles guys often go out. We who are married usually go home. I really focus on spending time with my wife Theodora.

Cole: How hard is it to get time to go home during the season. We hear about players who stay at the stadium day and night, studying films, or working out?

Polamalu: First of all, I am a Christian, so my prayer life comes first. Second, I'm a husband so my wife comes before anything else. If I have time to do anything after that, I do it, but I don't sacrifice any time with her. I know that other guys put football first They may say that family and faith come first, but they really put football first For me, I love my faith and I know that's first... I really think I know what's important in my life and that is my faith and my wife... Football is something I enjoy to do. It's like for you, you're a reporter. It's what you do, not who you are. Football does not define me. How I am with my faith and how I treat my wife is what truly defines me as a man.