



Light of Life



VOLUME 16 ISSUE 9

DECEMBER 2016

FR. PETER DAY—PROISTAMENOS

Priest's Message

*Today is born of a Virgin, he who holds creation in the hollow of his hand.
As a mortal he is wrapped in swaddling rags, he who in his being cannot be handled.
God lies in a manger, who of old established the heavens in the beginning.
He is nourished with milk from the breast, he who rained Manna on the People in the desert.
He summons Magi, the Bridegroom of the Church.
He accepts their gifts, the Son of the Virgin.
We worship your birth, O Christ.
Show us also your divine Epiphany.
from the Idiomelon of the Ninth Hour of Nativity.
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,*

What a joyous event we celebrate on December 25th – the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We celebrate with caroling and with feasting – the signs of “good cheer.” Christmas parties, gift swaps, house decorations, and the gathering together of family and friends give us a warming in our hearts that brings out the *magic* of the season. But there is more to the season than magic - there is *mystery*.

What an awesome mystery it is, that the Son of God becomes man, for our salvation. The magic and the merry times of the season often get in the way of our sensing the deep mystery that is contained within the Babe wrapped in

continued on pg. 6

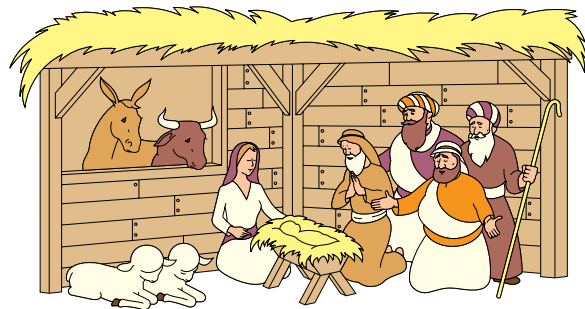


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- Vice President*
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- Treasurer*
 Melissa Simones
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 Michael Pelletier
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- John Kesaris
- Tom Goodwin
- Peter Goranites
- Roger Naous
- Norm Rattey
- Christine Sirois
- Michael Coombs

Food for fellowship time
 after church
 December

- 4.....
- 11..
- 18.....
- 25..... No Memorials

If you wish to host a memorial or sponsor food for after church fellowship please sign up.



BULLETIN OF THE
 PARISH OF THE
 HOLY TRINITY
 GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

December
 2016



155 Hogan Road
 P. O. Box 1344
 Lewiston, Maine 04243-1344
 Phone & Fax (207) 783-6795

Committees

- Building & Addition:** John Stass, Mike Pelletier, & Jason Levesque
Cemetery: Michael Pelletier
Education: Chris Sirois
Festival: Peter Mars & John Kesaris
Finance & Endowment: Dorothy Moskovis, Duke Goranites,
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Book Store Manger: George Simones
Visitation Committee: Margery Mars & Christine Sirois
 Other Members: Ann Pelletier, Rosemary Goranites,
 Deserée Tanquay, and John Rozos.

Photographers:
 Dorothy Moskovis
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Writers:
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 David LeGloahec
 Margery Mars

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Church News

It's that bustling time of year, where we wonder, Where did the year go? Let us enjoy this festive time enjoying both families of blood and those united by the blood of Christ. Also remember during this busy Holiday time to remember that God did not abandon us to our own devices, but bore a savior of Himself to show us the way home and that we are forgiven for not following Him perfectly.

**Let us all keep
 Christ in Christmas.**

Fall Community Retreat 2016

The Saint Methodios Faith & Heritage Center, Contoocook, NH, was the ideal place for our fall retreat, November 18-20. This year it was a combined attendance from St. Gregory the Theologian (Mansfield, MA) and our Holy Trinity (Lewiston) churches. We were grateful for the efforts of Ann Robinson, Father Peter and Father Ted to arrange this inspiring weekend for us all. The quiet and remote setting provided alone times with God, worship, lectures, fellowship and various activities as well as five meals.



Journey back 2000 years to Bethlehem as we seek to discover a scientific explanation for the Star the wise men followed to find the baby Jesus. Investigate possible dates for the birth of Christ and look at recorded sightings of significant historical and astronomical events during this timeframe. We'll explore scientific explanations for celestial objects that could have been remarkable enough to cause the wise men to travel across the desert from Babylon to Bethlehem just to see a newborn King. Regardless of what the star was, the message of Peace on Earth and goodwill to all still rings true today!

You have church News:

**Send your text, your pictures,
 your inspirations, whatever it is,
 send it to:**

HTrinnews@gwi.net

continued on pg.4

Church News

Continued from pg. 3

Participating from our church were Father Peter and Presbytera Anthe, Peter and Rosemary Goranites, The Kroger Family (Dr. John, Christine, Brendan, Stefan, Othniel, Nicholas, Christoff, Alexandra and Clara), The Park Family (Roger, Elizabeth, Valentine), Roger Naous, Doreen Cote, Christine Sirois, Deseree Tanguay, John Zimbus, Mike and Rose Grimanis, Ann Robinson, John Rozos, Mike Coombs and Kathy Rusin, Peter and Margery Mars.

Orthros and Divine Liturgy were held in the beautiful Chapel of St. George, and Vespers and Compline services were held in the small Retreat House chapel. The breathtaking Great Room served as a gathering place for the lecture sessions and in free times for chatting and doing activities by the massive stone fireplace.

We were blessed to have Father Bob (Rev. Robert Archon), presiding priest of St. Nicholas Church in Portsmouth, NH, as our guest speaker for the two main sessions on Saturday.

I think everyone who attended would agree that it was

a very worthwhile weekend of reflection, spiritual and educational enrichment, personal growth and development, fun and fellowship, in an environment that truly encourages everyone to listen to the voice of God and appreciate the surrounding natural beauty. See Pictures on pg. 10.



LEWISTON — Therese E. (Cayer) Lajoie, 90, passed away peacefully Monday, Nov. 14, at d'Youville Pavilion in Lewiston. She was born in Lewiston on July 4, 1926, the daughter of the late Antonio and Clerina (Roux) Cayer.

Therese was a devout Catholic, regularly attending Mass at Holy Cross Church in Lewiston. She sang in the choir, was a lay presider and a Eucharistic minister. Therese was a member of the Holy Cross Senior Citizens and the Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus. Therese loved to travel with the senior citizens. She was an avid quilter, and in her downtime enjoyed playing cards and experimenting with new recipes. Family was the most important thing to her.

Therese is survived by her son, The **Rt. Rev. Denis** (Roger) Lajoie; her daughter, Michelle Lajoie; her sister, Cecile Asselin; two sisters-in-law, Lucille Terrio and Florence Potvin, and many nieces and nephews.



In the holiest shrine on the island of Kerkyra (Corfu), just off the western coast of Greece, rest the Holy Relics of St Spyridon, which after sixteen centuries, are still in such a remarkable state of preservation that every year he is carried in solemn triumph through the streets on the occasion of his feast day.

St Spyridon's place in the holy company of saints would be assured and his prominence established even if the whereabouts of his holy remains were unknown. St Spyridon was thrust into prominence by the climatic events just prior to and including the historic Synod of Nicaea of 325 AD, after a somewhat prosaic and less-than-spectacular service to the Lord in the obscurity that he seemed to prefer.

Born on the island of Cyprus, he preferred the tranquility of the countryside he roamed as a boy while shepherding his father's flocks, and even after he rose to the office of bishop he would find the time to tend the sheep on a hillside, where he knew complete contentment.

St. Spyridon's beginning were inauspicious enough, coming from a rural family which for generations had lived in such remoteness that there was no school for miles around and what little education there was to be had was imparted by parents whose knowledge was severely limited by their illiteracy. Although he was exceptionally bright, Spyridon was no exception to the rule that doomed most youngsters who were never taught to read or write.

The communities that lacked a school never lacked accessibility to a countryside church, and as a boy Spyridon's church attendance was regular. He displayed considerable fervor and

**St. Spyridon
the Wonderworker**
December 12



remarkable intelligence, which enabled him to memorize long passages from the Bible simply by listening. Although he was needed at home, Spyridon was not denied the formal education he deserved. His parents, not wanting to see his great talent and love for Christ restricted, sought counsel from their priest, who in turn arranged for the boy's education and religious training.

Ordained a priest just after the turn of the fourth century, Spyridon was assigned to a rural community much like the one in which he had been reared and made it his first act to use the church as a school for the education of children whose parents he convinced that their offspring could be made more useful citizens if they were given time enough from their chores to

continued on pg. 6

Priest's Message

continued from pg. 1

swaddling clothes. When we ponder, at the same time, the beginning and the end of the life of our Savior while He is man living on earth, we see the true depth of this mystery.

At our Fall Retreat last month, Fr. Bob Archon spoke to us about the connection between the Winter Lent of Our Lord's Nativity and the Spring Lent of His Passion and Resurrection. The Hymnography of the Church helps us to make this connection between His Nativity, His Crucifixion and His Resurrection. The hymn (the ideomelon above) that is sung at the Ninth Hour of the service of the Royal Hours of Nativity shows us this mystery.

In His humility	He teaches us His majesty
He is a babe born of a Virgin, yet	He is God and holds all of creation in His hand.
He comes in humility, wrapped in swaddling rags, yet	His essence can never be known by us, because He is truly God, of one essence with the Father.
God lies in a humble manger, yet	He established the heavens in the beginning.

The troparion of Holy Friday, that we know so well (sung during the service of the Twelve Gospels), gives us the same inconceivable contrast at the end of Jesus' earthly life:

Today is hung upon the tree, Σήμερον κρεμάται ἐπὶ ξύλου,	He who suspends the earth upon the waters. ὁ ἐν ὕδασι τὴν γῆν κρεμάσας.
---	--

Our Lord's Nativity, Passion and Resurrection are all part of God's plan to bring us to Him, to give us salvation through His Incarnation, God becoming man. He comes to us to teach us, in His humility, just what His majesty is. He comes to us so that we can begin the journey with Him to His glory in His Resurrection. He comes to us to show us that He is God and that we are called to be like Him.

Have a blessed Nativity! Καλὰ Χριστούγεννα! from Presvytera Anthe and Fr. Peter

St. Spyridon from pg. 5

learn at least the rudiments of education, particularly how to read and write. His dedication to the people and his complete commitment to the Savior did not go unnoticed, and he was appointed bishop of his province, a post in which he won the admiration of his flock and prominence in the international Christian community.

Whenever he could get away from the responsibilities of his office, he chose to rest and

refresh himself by returning to the hillside and to the sheep on his family farm. It was in 325 AD that the momentous Synod of Nicaea (First Ecumenical Council) was convened at the request of the Emperor Constantine to resolve the issues so divisive in that era, a conclave to which the greatest figures of Christianity were invited. Among them was the shepherd-bishop Spyridon, whose reputation preceded him and who was therefore made one of the directors.

At this meeting Spyridon met St. Nicholas, with whom he formed a lasting friendship, one destined to form a parallel of their lives which comes down to us as a glorious part of the rich heritage of Christianity.

St Spyridon acquitted himself most honorably at his meeting and was instrumental in settling a heated debate on the Mystery of the Holy Trinity, which allowed for a successful conclusion to the most important council in early Church history.

continued on pg. 8

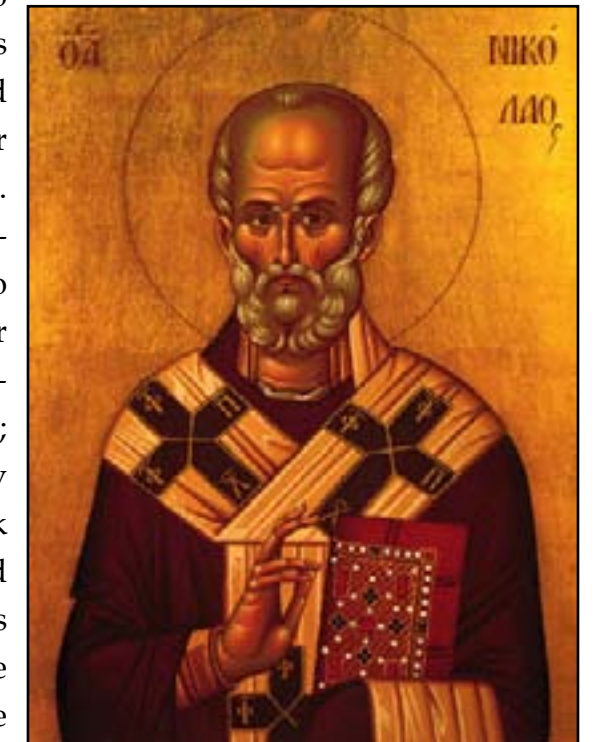
This Saint lived during the reign of Saint Constantine the Great, and reposed in 330, As a young man, he desired to espouse the solitary life. He made a pilgrimage to the holy city Jerusalem, where he found a place to withdraw to devote himself to prayer. It was made known to him, however, that this was not the will of God for him, but that he should return to his homeland to be a cause of salvation for many. He returned to Myra, and was ordained bishop. He became known for his abundant mercy, providing for the poor and needy, and delivering those who had been unjustly accused. No less was he known for his zeal for the truth. He was present at the First Ecumenical Council Of the 318 Fathers at Nicaea in 325; upon hearing the blasphemies that Arius brazenly uttered against the Son of God, Saint Nicholas struck him on the face. Since the canons of the Church forbid the clergy to strike my man at all, his fellow bishops were in perplexity what disciplinary action was to be taken against this hierarch whom all revered. In the night our Lord Jesus Christ and our Lady Theotokos appeared to certain of the bishops, informing them that no action was to be taken against him, since he had acted not out of passion, but extreme love and piety. The Dismissal Hymn for holy hierarchs, The truth of things hath revealed thee to thy flock ... was written originally for Saint Nicholas He is the patron of all travellers, and of sea-farers in particular; he is one of the best known and best loved Saints of all time.

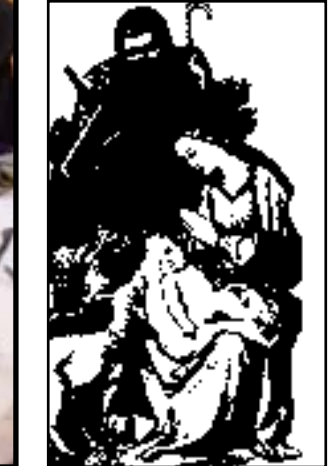
Reading courtesy of Holy Transfiguration Monastery, Brookline, MA Apolytikion courtesy of Holy Cross Press, Brookline, MA Kontakion courtesy of Holy Cross Press, Brookline, MA



Our Holy Father Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra

December 6





St. Spyridon from pg. 6

Like his friend St Nicholas, St Spyridon fell victim to pagan persecution and was one day hauled off to prison, where he was so brutally beaten by the guards that he lost the sight of one eye. Years of misery were to follow then, for rather than execute him the Romans consigned him to the mines. There the gentle bishop lived in squalor and labored in agony for many years before at last he died. Faithful to the end, his last words were in praise of the Lord. His body was cast into a ditch from which it was taken by friends for Christian burial. Later removed, his body lies intact to this day, preserved by the hand of God.

from Orthodox Saints Vol 4 Fr George Poulos, Orthodox Press.



Fall Retreat
November 18-20, 2016
St. Methodios Faith and Heritage Center Metropolis of Boston



IN DECEMBER 1914

World War I had just started, but along the western front in France, signals were being passed that there should be a Christmas truce. Carols were being heard in trenches in French and German. Men began to creep out of the trenches and to fraternize along the line. The London Rifle Brigade reported: "It was agreed in our part of the firing line that there would be no firing and no thought of war on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day." A football match was played between the French and the Germans in front of the trenches. And how did the high commands of both nations like it? Evidently, they didn't know what to make of this out-break of peace. By December 1915, orders were being sent out against fraternization. And so the horror of this war increased, and there was never a repetition of the unofficial Christmas truce of 1914. War is hell. Ever has been and ever will be. And men of goodwill sometimes opt for a truce, the most sensible solution short of peace. But men of good will are sometimes in short supply.



Journey back 2000 years to Bethlehem as we seek to discover a scientific explanation for the Star the wise men followed to find the baby Jesus. Investigate possible dates for the birth of Christ and look at recorded sightings of significant historical and astronomical events during this timeframe. We'll explore scientific explanations for celestial objects that could have been remarkable enough to cause the wise men to travel across the desert from Babylon to Bethlehem just to see a newborn King.



(Artwork by Olga Pastuchiv, used by permission)

Regardless of what the star was, the message of Peace on Earth and goodwill to all still rings true today!

The Orthodox of Maine are invited to a private showing of **"Mystery of the Christmas Star"** on Saturday, **December 10 at 1:30 P.M.** at the M.F. Jordan Planetarium, University of Maine at Orono. What joy in our coming together to witness this mystery of the Bethlehem Star!

We are blessed to have this opportunity to take a trip together to the University of Maine at Orono for a special viewing of the Christmas Star at the planetarium. We are grateful to Ray Goulet, assistant director at the planetarium, for reserving the planetarium and putting on a special show for us.

The plan is to attend the presentation with the folks from St. Demetrios (Saco), St. George (Bangor), Our Savior (OCA) church in Old Town/Bangor, and Eleni Margaronis who is in Farmington is spreading the word in the Farmington area. Please each of you spread the word to friends and family.

Following the viewing, we will enjoy a meal and will socialize at Orono House of Pizza followed by Vespers at St George Greek Orthodox Church in Bangor. It has been suggested. The cost for the planetarium show is \$3.50 per person.

Please check the following links for more information. Let us know by December 4. Take care.

With love in Christ,

Pres. Anthe & Jaye Goulet

<https://astro.umaine.edu/events-calendar/mystery-christmas-star-2/2016-12-09/>

<https://eatstreet.com/orono-house-of-pizza-ohop/menu>

If any of you would like to explore the idea of including an all ages "play" experience at the Orono Trampoline Park along with the planetarium show, here is the link: <http://www.oronotrampoline.com>



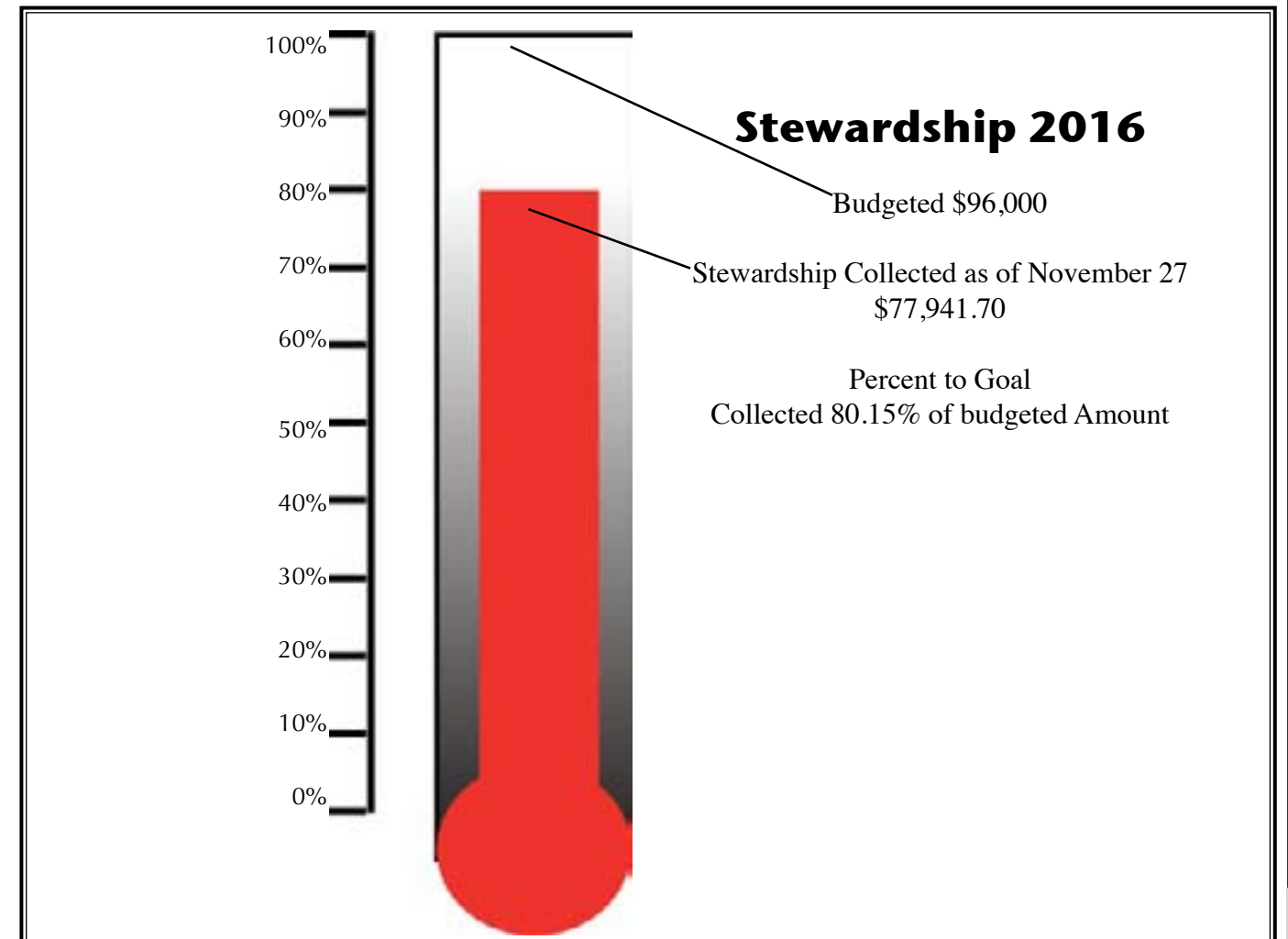
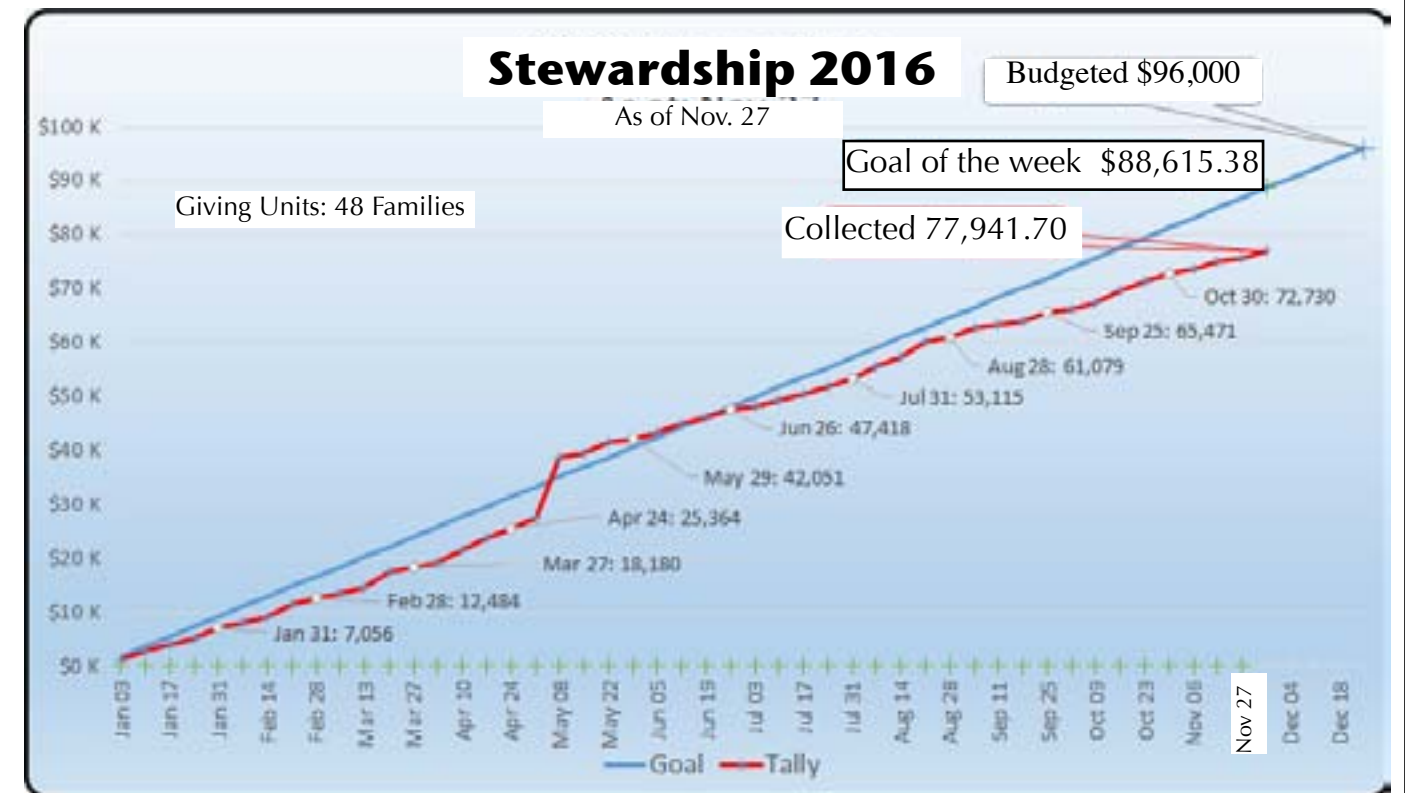
Cooking for the Pastry Sale



pictures submitted from D. Moskovis



"For the Son of Man does not even have a place to lay his head"
 He came to this world and was laid into a borrowed manger.
 He sailed across the Sea of Galilee in a borrowed boat.
 He rode in Jerusalem as a King on a borrowed donkey.
 He had his last meal with his friends in a borrowed room.
 He willingly carried a borrowed cross to his death.
 He was laid to rest in a borrowed tomb.
 He is the gift of everlasting life to those who believe that the Son of God became Flesh to dwell among mankind



M E M O R I A L S



In Memory of
**Theodore &
Elizabeth Kleros**
May their memories be eternal

In Memory of
**Ervin & Virginia
Pelletier**
May their memories be eternal



In Memory of
**Mary
Samson**
May her memory be eternal

In Memory of
**James & Mary
Goranites**
May their memories
be eternal



In Memory of
**John
Margarones**
May his memory be eternal

In Memory of
**Spiro & Antigone
Bournakel**
May their memories
be eternal



In Memory of
**Anthe
James**
May her memory be eternal

In Memory of
Charles Bournakel
May his memory be eternal



In Memory of
**Georgia
Taxiarchis**
May her memory be eternal

In Memory of
**Nicholas
& Evridice
Merkouris**
May their memories



M E M O R I A L S

In Memory of
Michel Prouchinsky
May his memory be eternal



In Memory of
Sophia Amfilio
May her memory be eternal



In Memory of
Lewis Kesaris
May his memory be eternal



In Memory of
**Steve &
Loretta
Karvelas**
May their memories
be eternal



In Memory of
**Spero & Jennie
Vlacheas**
May their memories be eternal



In Memory of
Alikí Karagiannes
May her memory be eternal



Memorials

If you wish to have a memorial in the bulletin, please see D. LeGloahec or eMail to: HTrinnews@gwi.net. Listed below is the name and the last bulletin.

Amfilio.....	12/2017
S. & A Bournakel.....	10/2017
Goranites	Perpetual
James	Perpetual
Kargiannes	12/2016
Karvelas	12/2016
Kesaris	Perpetual
Kleros.....	Perpetual
Margarones.....	Perpetual
Merkous.....	Perpetual
Pelletier.....	Perpetual
Prouchinsky	12/2016
Samson	Perpetual
Taxiarchis.....	Perpetual
Vlacheas (2)	12/2016

Memorials

Cost in the Bulletin

2 Months.....	\$20.00
1 Year	\$110.00
Perpetual	
(No Expiration)	\$1000.00



If you need *Koliva* (wheat) for a memorial, please contact the Ladies Society who will prepare it. There is no cost

The birth of Jesus Christ of Nazareth has split history in two so that each calendar is reckoned before or after His birth. The year in which He was born marks the period known as Anno Domini, and the years before that as BC

Our Lord's Nativity is observed on December 25. The early church fathers made the birth date of our Lord deliberately to coincide with and offset the pagan celebration of Saturnalia, that festive pagan day of celebration in which the sun crossed the imaginary line drawn on the later-day maps as the equator.

To the pagans it signified a rebirth of the sun, now returning to the north to assert its full power and bring on the spring season; but to the Christians it marked the birthday celebration of Jesus Christ, the Son of God who had created not only the sun, but all the other stars and planets of the universe.

Jesus Christ who on more than one occasion said simply, "Follow me," leaving no chart but that which lies in the true Christian heart and which requires no formula beyond that which we call "love."

The Old Testament abounds in testimony of the coming Messiah, long anticipated by the prophets, who were aware that the original sin of man who was stained by evil in the Garden of Eden could only be cleansed by the blood of a Messiah sent by God. The theological recognition of god as representing universal love also recognized that God chose to share love with man, and for that purpose was man and woman created.

A second premise is that man has it within his grasp to find happiness; and a third, that in doing so he glorifies God in whose image he was created. That placed man in harmony with God and nature; but this harmony was shattered by Adam and Eve who, in the disobedience of God in paradise, lost their membership in the alliance and was at the mercy of



nature, as well as the mercy of God.

Man had fallen from grace and had no mastery over nature; but God, in his infinite mercy, was not about to obliterate that which was cast in His own image. Therefore, He saw to it that with the ascendancy of a sun in winter He gave to the world His only begotten Son.

The Christian soul has been spared because on December 25 the Saviour was born, and God so loved the world He had created that He sacrificed his Son thirty-three short years later for the redemption of all mankind. The star that shone over Bethlehem on the eve of the Saviour's birth to light the way for the Wise Men of the East still shines as an eternal beacon in the hearts of all those who have Jesus Christ in their hearts.

Adapted from Orthodox Saints, vol 4, by Fr George Poulos, Holy Cross Orthodox Press

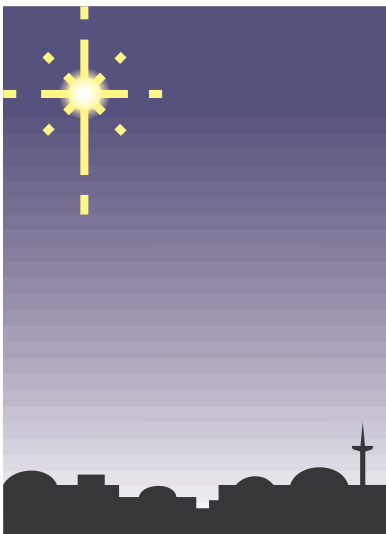
December

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4 10 th Sunday of Luke Orthros 9:00 AM Liturgy 10:00 AM General Assembly	5	6 Nicholas the Wonderworker 8:00/9:00 AM Orthos/Liturgy	7	8	9 Conception of the Theotokos 8:00/9:00 AM Orthos/Liturgy	10
11 11 th Sunday of Luke Orthros 9:00 AM Liturgy 10:00 AM	12 Spyridon the Wonderworker 8:00/9:00 AM Orthos/Liturgy	13	14	15 Eleferios & Anthica 8:00/9:00 AM Orthos/Liturgy	16	17
18 Sunday Before the Nativity Orthros 9:00 AM Liturgy 10:00 AM	19 Parish Council 6:30 PM	20	21	22	23	24 Nativity Eve Vespers 7:00 PM
25 Holy Nativity Orthros 9:00 AM Liturgy 10:00 AM	26	27	28	29	30	31 St. Basil Vespers 7:00 PM



HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING AGENDA December 4, 2016

Opening Prayer Priest
Election of Moderator
and Recording Secretary President
Recording Secretary's Reports of March Tracey Levesque (March)
General Assembly and September Special Norm Rattey (September)
Assembly
President's Report Jim Simones
Priest's Report Fr. Peter Day
Treasurer's Report Melissa Simones
Ladies Society Report Melissa Simones
Orthodox Youth Report Pvt. Anthe Day
Stewardship Committee Report Ann Robinson
Business:
Election of Parish Council Member of Board of Elections
Election of Board of Auditors (2017 Term) Moderator
2017 Budget Melissa Simones
Building Renovations John Stass
Adjournment Moderator
Closing Prayer Fr. Peter Day



FROM:
HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
P.O. Box 1344 155 HOGAN ROAD
LEWISTON, ME 04243-1344



TO: