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# THE COMMUNICATOR

**DECEMBER 2018—JANUARY 2019**

*Co-editors—George and Susan Pergakis*

*Edition 01—New Communicator*



# December 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6 St. Nicholas the Wonderworker	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 Parish Council Mtg 6:30pm	14	15
16 Greek Pastry Sale	17	18	19 HAA Christmas Program 5:00pm	20	21	22 SS Pancake Breakfast –HAA CULTURAL CTR
23 SS Nativity Pageant	24  Christmas Eve	25 	26	27	28	29
30	31					

# January 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 Circumcision of Christ—St. Basil the Great	2	3	4	5
6 Holy Theophany	7	8	9	10 Parish Council Mtg 6:30pm	11	12
13 Vasilopita Celebration!	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

**A Message from Father Nikolaos.....**

The Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

With special skills and grace the hymn-writers of our Holy Orthodox Church exalt the event of the Divine Dispensation through the sacred hymns of today's great feast, that of the Incarnation of the Word and Son of God, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The event of the Incarnation of God the Word consisted of a unique and unrepeated event. For it proclaimed not only the beginning of the salvation of mankind, but, simultaneously, it expressed the infinite Love of the One and Only True God, the Holy Trinity, towards His creation, man.

The Angels in Heaven rejoice; they glorify together with the shepherds of the humble village of Bethlehem. The whole Universe leaps with joy. The Earth offers the Cave; the desert the Manger; the heavens the Star; the Magi the presents; and we, the logical creatures of God the Creator, Who as an Infant is born today and is wrapped in swaddling-clothes and is placed in a Manger of the horses, offer ourselves, our hearts and souls to the Divine Infant.

Man, from the beginning of his creation, was gifted with many charismata and wisdom. God honored man to be the king of all and became the crown jewel of all Creation. Unfortunately, Satan envied this honor and glory with which God vested man, so that through deception and craftiness he deceived the first-created.

The disobedience of the Divine Commandment became the starting point of mankind's sufferings. Adam and Eve in their desperate situation, they attempted to cover their nakedness. This nakedness does not refer to the nakedness of their body, but to the spiritual nakedness of being deprived from God's Divine Grace, which abandoned them at the moment when they had abandoned God and gave their trust to the Serpent.

Man's mind and conscience were darkened. The first-created remained unrepentant. They did not take advantage of the three opportunities which God offered them for forgiveness. The one throws the responsibilities to the other, and the worst of all was that Adam, who benefited more than any other creature, throws the blame of his fall to God Himself.

This ungratefulness of Adam and the insult against God is what is called as the Original Sin. Henceforth, this sin is inherited by all men, as being Adam's offspring. This sin is forgiven only through the Holy Sacrament of Baptism.

The Fall of the first-created was great, as great as were the benefits which they had received from God. God, granted them all Nature and placed one only rule to keep. They had everything and, yet, they wanted to steel deification; they attempted illegally to become 'gods' as their Creator, but without the Grace of their Creator. God wanted them to become perfect through obedience to His Divine Will, but they wanted to achieve this perfection and deification without struggling. The results was catastrophic not only for Adam, but for all his descendants. Fear, cowardice, accusing of one another, lies, slander, hatred, envy, murder, mortality and finally death replaced man's conditions which he had in Paradise.

Man, from king of all Creation, became a slave to sin and death. Any attempt to restore his relationship with God was in vain. His mind was darkened so much that instead of worshipping the True God, he turned and worshipped the elements of nature. Idols replaced the Holy Trinity and man was led from one error to another.

But, the Love of God did not abandon the creation of His Hands deserted and unprotected. As a caring Father, He prepared the path of salvation. God through His Prophets proclaimed the Good News concerning the mission of His Elect, His Son and Word. The Messiah, the Savior of the world, will come from the Virgin Mary, who through her holiness pleased God and proved that man is capable to conquer sin and to become a chosen vessel. God the Word will be born from the Holy Spirit and of the Virgin Mary and will become Man similar to us, but without sin. His mission will be one, to save His people from the slavery of sin and the tyranny of death.

Moses, in the Holy Spirit, sees the flaming but not burning Bush. Jacob dreams about the Ladder which united Heaven and earth. Ezekiel sees the Eastern Gate through which the Lord God shall pass and it will remain shut. Isaiah sees the Virgin Mary from whom Jesus was born, the one who is called Christ, which in Greek is translated Emmanuel and means that God is with us.

Truthfully, when the fullness of time came, God sent His Son, Who is born from the Virgin Mary and as an Infant was wrapped in swaddling-clothes and circumcised. As an infant, He is persecuted by the insane Herod. As a perfect man, He dwelt amongst men and taught the people. He is falsely accused by the Jews as a seductive person. He is arrested and condemned unjustly as a Thief. He is crucified as Criminal and faced death; and on the third day, as God Almighty, He rose from the dead. He suffered all these things in order to restore Adam and all his descendants.

The Nativity of the Son and Word of God is the fulfillment of Divine Promise given in the Garden of Delight concerning man's salvation, and which begins with the birth at Bethlehem and leads to the Crucifixion on Golgotha, the glorious Resurrection, the Ascension in Heaven and the Enthronement on the right hand of God the Father. Through this Divine Dispensation, the Son and Word of God ended the rule of Satan who held mankind under the bondage and tyranny of death. Christ grants to all those who will believe in Him eternal Life.

Christ's Nativity gave to mankind the Light of the True Knowledge of God. Man, free from the darkness of not knowing God, can know the True God through the Light of the Holy Gospel and His Holy Orthodox Church. Freed from the falsehood of idolatry, man is able to worship the One and Only True God, the Holy Trinity. He knows the way, which leads him to conquer virtues and holiness. As a free person, man can walk on the path of salvation.

God leaves Heaven and comes down on earth. He becomes a perfect Man, in order to raise man to the heights of the Deity. The One Who is without flesh, takes up flesh. The One Who is Bodiless, receives body. He, who cannot be contended by the Universe, is restricted in the boundaries of human nature, and simultaneously fills all things with His Presence.

God and Man. Two Natures and two Wills, which remain unmixed and unconfused, united in the One Person of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

"And the Word became flesh", not that man became god, neither that man ascended into Heaven, but that God the Word out of love towards man took up all the human nature in order to sanctify and save it. God the Word, with His birth, overcame sin and freed mankind from mortality and death. Without this Divine Dispensation, no one could have inherited the eternal Kingdom of God.

God the Word reveals Himself to man and invites everyone to become a member of His Kingdom. He invites all men to enter through the narrow path. He does not want anyone to be lost. Everyone can become 'sons' of God by adoption and Grace and co-heirs of Christ.

The Nativity of our Savior and Redeemer Jesus Christ, the Incarnated Son and Word of God the Father, addresses us, today and sends us an important message and one special invitation:

Let us follow the Star, which guides us to Bethlehem of Judaea. Let us kneel with the humble shepherds before the Creator of all. Let us become co-travelers with the three Magi and let us offer to the Divine Infant our tears of repentance. Let us open our hearts and souls in order to welcome within us the Divine Infant which was born by the Holy Spirit and of the Virgin Mary. Let us abandon the sinful pleasures of this world of vanity. Let us receive with the simplicity of our hearts the angelic message, that "today a Savior has been born, who is the Lord Christ" and let us sing "glory to God in the highest and on earth peace amongst men according to God's Good Will". Amen.

By His Eminence Metropolitan PANTELEIMON of Antioch

**Philoptochos News**

A heartfelt Thank You to all parishioners & guests who made our **Greek Food Fair and more!** a great success! Your generous support & donations significantly help the philanthropic mission of our Philoptochos. Recent Philoptochos donations include: 3rd & final distribution of \$8,333 in fulfillment of \$25,000 commitment to the Hellenic American Academy, \$5,000 donation to Church Hall Restoration Fund, Christmas Gift to Philoxenia House, National Philoptochos 2018 Fires in Greece Fund and the fulfillment of National & Metropolis Philoptochos obligations

Special Thanks to the tireless ladies who cooked, baked, served or helped in many other ways at the Fair and throughout the year at all our Church Events! To the Sunday School, HAA PTA and vendors; we are delighted that you joined us in making this our Fair so special!

**Upcoming events.....**

**Christmas Wishes & Gifts** will be distributed, by a team of Philoptochos Ladies of Holy Trinity & Transfiguration, to Orthodox patients in area nursing homes & those who are confined to their residences.

**For a unique Christmas gift** purchase our Philoptochos cookbook, **Treasured Recipes from Our Greek Kouzines** on sale for \$25. To purchase please inquire on Sundays at the Church Narthex or call the Church Office.

**Greek Pastry Sale** Sunday, December 16, 2018

**Vasilopita Celebration** Sunday, January 13, 2019

**Membership** - 2019 notices will be mailed to current members in January. If you are not a member, we invite you to join us. It is our hope that the work that has been done in the past & the incredible opportunities that we have going forward will inspire all of us! You may call the church office for more information [978.458.8092].

**Winter Appeal for House of Hope** January - February 2019 [more information to follow in Sunday Bulletins]

**Spaghetti Luncheon to Benefit Philoptochos Scholarships for 2019 High School Grads** Meat Fare Sunday, March 3, 2019 [more information to follow]

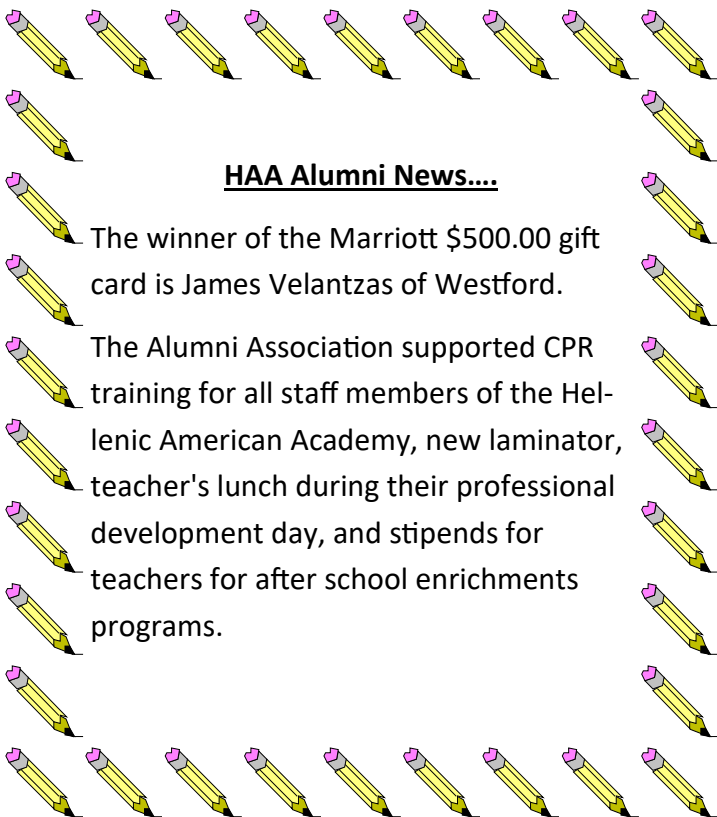
**Philoptochos Benefit Spring Tea**

[more information to follow]



**Best Wishes for a Blessed Christmas  
and  
Health & Happiness in 2019**

**ΚΑΛΑ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΑ ΚΑΙ ΕΥΤΥΧΕΣ ΤΟ  
ΝΕΟ ΕΤΟΣ**



**HAA Alumni News....**

The winner of the Marriott \$500.00 gift card is James Velantzas of Westford.

The Alumni Association supported CPR training for all staff members of the Hellenic American Academy, new laminator, teacher's lunch during their professional development day, and stipends for teachers for after school enrichment programs.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**

- ◆ The Sunday school will have our annual Pancake and craft breakfast on December 22nd, @ HAA Cultural Center. We will also be showing a wonderful Christmas movie called THE STAR. The Star is an animated movie about the nativity from the animals point of view.
- ◆ December 23rd the Sunday school will perform the Nativity Pageant immediately after Liturgy.
- ◆ Everyone is welcome! Have a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!. *Joan Metropolis and staff.*



# OUR NEW COMMUNICATOR

In order to improve our Communication to our Holy Trinity Parishioners, our Parish Council has initiated actions to significantly enhance our Holy Trinity Web-site. Once this upgrade is completed in early 2019, all church related information will be updated regularly to provide more “real-time” communication to our Parishioners. Since all our Parishioners may not have access to our church website, we will continue to mail out (every 2 months) this abbreviated Communicator containing key information, calendar events and dates.

## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

I want to wish everyone a very Blessed Christmas and Happy and Healthy New Year. As we are winding down year 2018, I want to thank everyone for making this past years Holy Trinity activities successful. Our new elevator was completed and we are almost finished with our Church Hall Renovation Project. As you can see in the photo's below, the last of our Holy Trinity renovation projects are beautiful and will serve our community well. This past year, in addition to our yearly Church and Folk Festivals, we held several new events (Glendi Dinner Dance, Bingo Night and AHEPA Fund Raiser). Also planning is underway for 2019 additional events (Taverna Night, and Holy Trinity Golf Tournament at Indian Ridge). All these events provide financial support to our church/HAA Community but more importantly they bring our Parishioners, Friends, and Families together. We seek and welcome anyone wishing to volunteer in these events to be held throughout the year. Blessing to everyone, George Kontos



Elevator Project Committee Chairman, Lew Demetroulakos pictured with Jim and Pauline Miamis as they tour the elevator and Church Hall Renovations on December 2, 2018.



## THANKING THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO OUR BEAUTIFUL CHURCH ADDITION AND ELEVATOR PROJECT

**MAJOR BENEFACTORS**  
 JIM AND PAULINE MIAMIS  
 IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
 THEIR PARENTS  
 GEORGE & PANAGIOTA MIAMIS  
 JAMES & CATHERINE ROUVALIS

**MAJOR BENEFACTOR**  
 JAMES S. DOULAMES  
 IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
 HIS PARENTS  
 GEORGE & VIRGINIA  
 DOULAMES

**MAJOR BENEFACTORS**  
 DIANA (DEMOULAS) AND  
 PETER MERRIAM  
 IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
 HER PARENTS  
 EVANTHEA AND GEORGE  
 DEMOULAS

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE MANY  
 PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS OF  
 OUR HOLY TRINITY CHURCH  
 COMMUNITY, WHO ALONG WITH  
 THE MAJOR BENEFACTORS,  
 DONATED FOR SEVERAL YEARS  
 TO HELP MAKE THIS BEAUTIFUL  
 ELEVATOR PROJECT A REALITY



# DECEMBER 2018—JANUARY 2019



## IN MEMORIAM

Sophie Leimonitis – September 11, 2018  
Vivian Gianoukos – September 17, 2018  
James Sycovaris – September 30, 2018  
Charles Sarantos – October 1, 2018  
William Koumantzelis – October 23, 2018  
James Kouloheras – October 24, 2018  
Anna Sophia Aslanian – October 30, 2018  
Gail Pamela Tsaffaras – November 2, 2018  
Maria Polychronopoulos – November 3, 2018  
Tilemahos Litopoulos – November 9, 2018  
Claire Banakos – November 12, 2018  
Anna G. Neofotistos – November 16, 2018

## WEDDINGS

September 8, 2018  
Demetrios Papoulias & Sarah Sheehy  
Sponsor: Nicholas Petrakos

October 20, 2018  
Matthew Braun & Sarah-Beth Zoto  
Sponsor: Nicole Zoto Censani

## BAPTISMS

September 23, 2018  
Petra Kristina Cocalis  
Daughter of Konstantinos & Georgia (Nicolopoulos) Cocalis  
Godparents: Penny & Jimmy Meletlidis

September 29, 2018  
Stephen Richard Robey  
Son of Stephen & Tanya (Kaminski) Robey  
Godparent: Isabella Baddour

September 30, 2018  
Tilemahos Litopoulos  
Son of Elias & Polyxeni (Tsata) Litopoulos  
Godparents: Maria Kakoutsis & Grigorios Paraschos

October 28, 2018  
Aristotle John Zaharoolis  
Son of Michael Zaharoolis & Gabrielle Bisesti  
Godparent: Joanna Skowronek

November 10, 2018  
Soterios William Hantzis  
Son of Jason & Megan (Hill) Hantzis  
Godparent: James Yanas



## SERVICES DECEMBER 2018—JANUARY 2019



### DECEMBER 2018 CHURCH SERVICES

**Thursday, December 6**, St. Nicholas the Wonderworker  
**Wednesday, December 12**, St. Spyridon the Wonderworker  
**Monday, December 24**, Vespers Divine Liturgy – 6:00 pm  
**Tuesday, December 25**, Holy Nativity – Orthros 9:00 am; Divine Liturgy 10:00 am



### JANUARY 2018 CHURCH SERVICES

**Tuesday, January 1**, St. Basil the Great; Circumcision of Christ –  
Orthros 9:00 am; Divine Liturgy 10:00 am  
**Sunday, January 6**, Holy Theophany-Orthros 9:00 am; Divine Liturgy 10:00 am  
**Monday, January 7**, St. John The Baptist, Orthros 9:00 am, Divine Liturgy 10:00am  
**Sunday, January 13**, Vasilopita -Orthros 9:00 am; Divine Liturgy 10:00 am  
**Wednesday, January 30**, The Three Hierarchs

