

The Mountain of Silence
Author: Lyrics C. Markides
Book Review by Haregu Bereketeab

The Mountain of Silence is a book rich in Orthodox teaching. It covers widely and broadly the methods and practices that unite us with God.

I came to understand that unless it flows from a deep desire of the heart and mind there is no way to know God, His intimacy or to have unity with Him. If we activate our desire to know Him with a pure heart and mind, He will be there... alive within us.

The author Kyriacos C. Markides traveled to Mount Athos where Father Maximos the monk taught him about the issues separating us from God: money, pleasures, egotism, and clinging to worldly things before God. Following this, the writer, summarized Father Maximos' teaching into three-fold process of the Soul's Journey to God:

- the First stage is purification (catharsis) from egoistical passions
- the Second stage is enlightenment (fotisis) a gift from the Holy Spirit and
- the third is union with God (theosis) as the final destination and ultimate home of the human soul.

The book is an excellent guide for spiritual growth and a great help to acquire a deeper knowledge of God's Glory that in the human soul.

Lord have mercy.

Tea Leaves and Dreams

Written and reviewed by Bess Stamatakas

Tea Leaves and Dreams is a love story about a young, Greek peasant girl named Eleni and a Turkish lad, Veli, a Janissary in the service of the Sultan of the Ottoman Empire. Caught in the middle of the Greek Revolution against the Ottoman Empire in 1821, the couple's fate is inexorably interwoven with vicious battles, fluctuating politics, and evil intrigues. The tale also includes Eleni's three brothers, Kosma, Pano and Georgaki and her mother, Kyria Vasiliki, who live in a small village in the province of Arkadia in the Peloponnese in Greece. The war pits brother against brother, brother against sister, peasant against politician, man against man and rips apart the members of the once loving family forever. Rich in customs, and beliefs, and superstitions of the Greeks and Turks of the first half of the 19th century, the story also tells of the important role that religion plays in both Greek and Turkish life.

For more info: www.tealeavesanddreams.com



THE PASCHA EGG AND ITS TRADITIONS

From *The Greek Star*

One of the most widely accepted Pascha traditions of the Orthodox people is the “cracking” or “breaking” of colored eggs. Each housewife makes many and varied preparations for the Easter table; and rightfully so because the Resurrection of our Lord is the greatest event in the world and after the formal blessing of the Church through the magnificent Midnight Easter Liturgy, the great Fast is broken and Pascha festivities commence.

Amongst these preparations is the dyeing of the traditional Easter eggs. Some people dye the eggs in different colors and, of course, various interpretations can be given. But the most popular color is red, for it symbolizes the Blood shed by our Lord Jesus upon the Cross as well as the great joy that Pascha brings.

We dye the eggs and give them to our relatives and friends, then we proceed in cracking them, only because this is what we learned from our most tender years.

I think that if we knew or realized the deeper meaning attached to this tradition, the “cracking” of the eggs would have a greater significance.

We know that even in the history of pre-Christian people, the egg was considered as a symbol of life and immortality. This conclusion was commonplace because from the egg, life springs forth. However, in the Christian era, the egg becomes another symbol of Resurrection. The egg represents the sealed Tomb that held the Body of our Crucified Lord. The shell of the egg is considered the wall of the Tomb, which held within it the “Life.”

For this reason the Church blesses the eggs and

distributes them to the Faithful for the Midnight Liturgy in order that they may figuratively partake at the festive Pascha table. The faithful then proceed to “crack” one another’s eggs giving the salutation of the day: “Christ is Risen!” and hearing the response: “Truly, He is Risen!”

With this practice of cracking the eggs we are reminded that the seal of the Tomb was broken and that Christ came forth to give a new life to the world.

Christos Anesti! — Christ is Risen!

Holy Week books (\$20) are available for purchase at the Pangari stand or in the bookstore.

Finally, Fr. Jim, Parish Council President George Stamas, and your Parish Council extend to *all* our best wishes and prayers as we draw 2008 Lent to a close. We celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord in raising our voices in chanting “Χριστος Ανεστι!”/“Christ is Risen” at midnight on Pascha.

In special honor of
GEORGE & KATINA NICHOLAS’

GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY,
this bulletin is dedicated,
with pride and heartfelt love,
by their daughter, Maria,
and their son,
Sam and family.

Happy 50th Wedding Anniversary!!

Χρόνια Πολλά!

SPEE (SPIRO) D. SELLAS MEMORIAL TRUST AND AHEPA SCHOLARSHIPS

High School Students graduating in the year 2007 are eligible to apply for a **Spee Sellas Scholarship** Award. Please call Tom Gorant at 676-2499 to obtain an application form. To be considered for a scholarship, completed applications are to be returned on or before June 30, 2007.

The deadline for High School seniors and for the 1st time College applicants to apply for the **AHEPA scholarship** is May 1. Please pick up your application in the church office. *May 1 is the last date for AHEPA to RECEIVE your scholarship!*

SUMMER CAMP

PLEASE NOTE: Staff and Camper Applications are here for Metropolis of Detroit Summer Camp. If you are interested, please pick one up in the church office.

Also: If you are interested in Ionian Village, please go to their website: www.ionianvillage.org

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

IMPORTANT COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULES:

- ⇒ Palm Sunday: Philoptochos will be hosting this coffee hour. *Please bring Lenten items.* The board will be serving and handling set-up and clean-up. Any and all help will be appreciated! Thank you.
- ⇒ Mark your calendar. The final Philoptochos meeting of the year is scheduled for Thursday, May 15 at 7:00 pm. The charities committee will present their recommendations for this year’s charitable contributions. See you there!
- ⇒ The **National Philoptochos Convention** and **Clergy Laity Congress** are scheduled for July 12-17, 2008 in Washington, DC. If a member in good standing would like to represent Holy Trinity at the Convention/Congress, please see Ginger Lange (Philoptochos) or George Stamas (PC Pres.) for details.
- ⇒ We have many upcoming Sundays without a coffee host. Please consider signing up on the fellowship hall door schedule to serve. If you have already participated, please consider another Sunday and ask a non-Philoptochos member to help. You can instruct them, give them confidence, and then they will be able to do it on their own another time. *“The Lord Loves a Cheerful Giver”*. Make it simple! Tsourekia are available in the freezer for any and all to use.

ATTENTION CAMPERS! Philoptochos is now accepting written requests for Ionian Village or Rose City Scholarships. Please submit requests to Ginger Lange by April 29.

HOLY TRINITY PARISH COUNCIL

Our Parish Council extends their good wishes as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord.

Christos Anesti — Christ is Risen

A good Pascha to all

George Stamas, President
Sam Nicholas, Vice President
Lexie Gray, Secretary
Jim Gorant, Treasurer

Katie Afendoulis
John Couretas
Angelo Dimitriou
Doug Everse
Jim Koukios
Stephen Missler
Dan Mol
Sam Nicholas

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CORNER

Mission Coin boxes were given out to all Religious Ed Students in March. The funds the children collect will help needy families across the world.

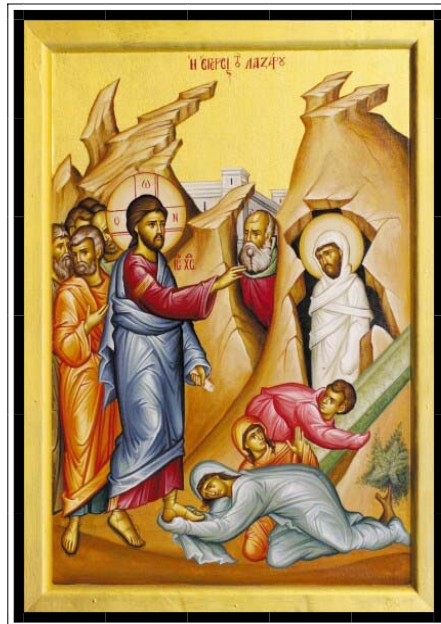
Please have your child return their coin box on Palm Sunday (April 20).

Thank you.

BLESSED PALM BRANCHES

Do you still have your Palm branches from Palm Sunday? If so, this is what you should do with them:

You can cut them up into small pieces and sprinkle them in your garden or you can burn them in your fireplace. Please do not just throw them away.



HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Sat	April 19	9:00 am	LAZARUS SATURDAY LITURGY BREAKFAST CHILDREN TO MAKE PALM CROSSES EASTER EGG HUNT
Sun	April 20	10:00 am 6:00 pm	PALM SUNDAY DIVINE LITURGY BRIDEGROOM MATINS
Mon	April 21	6:00 pm	HOLY MONDAY: BRIDEGROOM MATINS
Tue	April 22	6:00 pm	HOLY TUESDAY: BRIDEGROOM MATINS HYMN OF KASSIANE
Wed	April 23	4:00 pm	HOLY WEDNESDAY: HOLY UNCTION <i>ADMINISTERING OF SACRAMENT WILL CONTINUE UNTIL 6:00</i>
Thurs	April 24	9:00 am 6:00 pm	HOLY THURSDAY: VESPER LITURGY OF ST. BASIL TWELVE GOSPELS AND THE CRUCIFIXION
Fri	April 25	10:00 am 2:00 pm 3:00 pm 7:30 pm	HOLY FRIDAY: DECORATION OF THE KOUVOUKLION (BIER) YOUTH RETREAT "JOURNEY TO PASCHA" VESPERS OF APOKATHELOSIS ("TAKING DOWN" FROM THE CROSS) LAMENTATION SERVICE
Sat	April 26	9:00 am	HOLY SATURDAY VESPER LITURGY OF ST. BASIL
Sat	April 26	11:00 pm	MATINS & RESURRECTION DIVINE LITURGY OF PASCHA
Sun	April 27	11:00 am	PASCHA: AGAPE SERVICE

ACTIVITIES AND DATES TO NOTE

Sun., April 20: Palm Sunday, there will be a second tray for the flowers for the Epitaphion.

Sat., May 3: District Oratorical Festival at **Holy Cross Church in Farmington Hills, MI**

Sun., May 11 — 7:00 pm: Reading Group to meet in the AHEPA room. The book that we will be discussing is Three Prayers by Olivier Clement. This book looks at the Lord's Prayer, O Heavenly King, and the Prayer of St. Ephrem. We welcome anyone who is interested to join us. If you would like to purchase this book, please talk to Jane Patsakos

Sat., May 17: Metropolis Oratorical Festival at Holy Trinity/St. Nicholas Church in Cincinnati OH.

Sat., May 31 — 9-5: 17th Annual Monastery Work Day at the Dormition Orthodox Monastery. Please see bulletin board for further information

June 2—8: Please mark your calendars for Souvlaki preparation and FESTIVAL. More information to come as the date draws near.

June 6-8: National Oratorical Festival in Boston, MA

Please note ~ Preparations are being made for:

A TASTE OF GREECE

Community Dinner

Thursday, May 8, 2008

Take Out ONLY ~ 4:30—7:30

Seasoned Pork Tenderloin, seasoned chicken breast, Spanikopita, rice,
Greek salad, sweet bread, & baklava — \$12.00 donation

Your Parish Council asks you mark May 8 on your calendar.
and plan to give of your time and talent that day for a such a worthy event.

Note: This year there will be Drive-Thru only, which means there will be no set-up in the dining room. There will be 2 convenient pick-up stations where there will be additional items for sale.. Regarding tickets: you are asked to give your money due and any unsold tickets directly to Pres. Joan Bogdan. If you need additional tickets, please see her during coffee hour. Thank you!

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Pledges paid: March, 2007: \$62,908

March, 2008: \$64,493

2008 Goal: \$240,000 (\$20,000/month)

He will meet the needs of His stewards: "God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work." (II Corinthians 9:8)

On behalf of the Parish Council and the Stewardship Committee, I would like to thank all stewards for their ongoing support that allows our church to serve our expanding community and to sustain the financial strength of our parish.

Stewardship Chairperson
Sam Nicholas

LAZARUS SATURDAY ACTIVITIES

April 19, 2008

Liturgy ~ 9:00 a.m.

*The children will be chanting the Liturgy,
so please have them in the AHEPA
Room by 8:45*

Followed by:

Pancake Breakfast
Making of Palm Crosses
Easter Egg Hunt

(Adults) Grounds Clean-up
Come in your work clothes to Liturgy —
enjoy pancakes and coffee following the Liturgy —
then head out to begin the grounds clean-up at 10:00

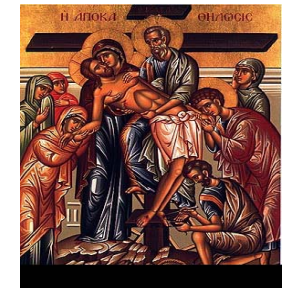
JOURNEY TO PASCHA Retreat

Holy Friday, April 25, 2008

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

2:00 pm: A Holy Friday Retreat for All Children
(Pre-school—High School)

3:00 pm: Vesper Apokathelosis Service
(taking Christ down from the Cross)



All Sunday School children and parents are encouraged to attend. (Pre-school children must be accompanied by a parent.)