

Reflections

Holy Mother of God Greek Orthodox Church

"The Small Parish with a Big Heart"

April/May 2008 ♦ 1645 Phillips Road, Tallahassee, Florida 32308 ♦ (850) 878-0747 ♦ <http://www.hmog.org>

KEEP IT OFF MY WAVE

This month, you're presented with a new monthly piece: "Cool Converts." The purpose is to remind our children and young adults that you can be faithful—and cool! To remind us all that even when we think someone has it all, we don't really have anything until we have Him in our lives. Seems simple enough, but these truths are even simpler to take for granted ... and even forget.

So with this month's cool convert in mind, Chris Cornell, it is only appropriate to invoke one of his creations—"My Wave," a hard-driving, heavy and invigorating song from Soundgarden's 1994 album, "Superunknown." Chris uses the image of his own personal "wave" to be his momentum in life: his spirituality, his attitude, his relationships, his world. And the warning to those who might interfere is forceful: "Hate, if you want to hate, if it keeps you safe, if it makes you brave. Don't come over here ... Save it. Just keep it off my wave." In the end, there is negativity and there are damaging forces—even people—that can creep into our lives and wreak havoc. There are things that distract and derail us, so we've got to be protective of what's vital, precious and close to our hearts.

We cannot be hostages to hate, anger, fear, or any purveyors of such.

On the other hand, you and I are challenged by Christ to be loving, open and forgiving. As Christians, we need to give people—and ourselves—second, third, fourth and even more chances. We believe in transformation, forgiveness, endless hope, change, personal epiphanies. We must be risk-takers to the end, just like our Lord. We are believers in God and all that He made.

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Upcoming Events...

Saturday of Lazarus Retreat



Sat., April 19th



Chris onstage!

(Fr. Alex's message, cont'd)

But we also must safe-guard our spiritual lives. In fact, in order to be loving, forgiving and risk-taking, we need a safe place deep inside; we need to maintain our “isihia,” the peace of God within us. It doesn’t mean that we’re not open and that we think we’re better than anyone else, only that we know, very deeply, that our hearts must stay focused on Christ, that we must constantly guard against distraction. In a sense, we must feed ourselves before we are capable of feeding others. If we are destroyed inside, our neighbors will not see Christ in our eyes or in our works.

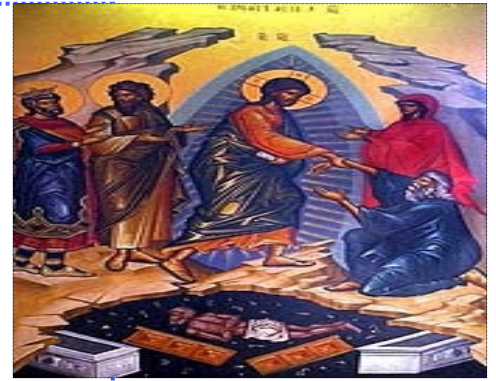
This is a balancing act and it will mean something different to everyone. Maybe, as we approach Holy and Great Pascha, this means less of that mind-numbing TV for you. Maybe it means you need to put more effort into conversations, steering them from a negative to positive direction. Maybe, on the same level, it means you need to choose your conversations wisely, and take yourself out of interactions that are not uplifting. Maybe it means you need to make more time for Church than your friends might—and this can be awkward and challenging. Maybe it means it’s finally time to release an old grudge you’ve been nursing—maybe it means you’re ready to take charge of, and responsibility for, your own happiness. Maybe it means you’re not comfortable with some of your habits, that you’re determined to change them, and you’re challenging those in your life to give you room to change.

Again, this will mean something different to everyone. Only you, and God, know your secret heart and innermost needs.

In the end, your personal spirituality, your commitment to Christ, and your hopeful attitude constitute a powerful wave—driven on by our Lord. It’s not to be tampered with. It must be respected. It must be guarded, for your own good and ultimately for the good of those in your life. And you’re responsible for it.

Take a note from Chris, and sing it loud and sing it clear if someone tampers with your journey toward the Kingdom: “KEEP IT OFF MY WAVE!”

Anticipating His Glorious Resurrection,



...Bulletin Bloopers
Real Bloopers
from Real Church
Bulletins!

"For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs."

TO BRING YOU A SMILE!



Chris Cornell with wife, Vicky Karayiannis

Sometimes we look at the lives of celebrities, actors and professional musicians and really want what they have. Money, influence, power, talent, recognition. But even with all of these things, a life without faith is empty and hopeless. You’d be surprised to know how many “cool converts” there are to our Orthodox Faith. They didn’t really have it all, until they had Him in their lives! Each month, we’ll see a different story of life and faith—share these with your children, grandchildren and godchildren. **Let them know they can be faithful and still cool!**

This Month: Chris Cornell, formerly of Soundgarden and Audioslave!

In the 90s Chris Cornell’s distinctive voice was a major force in the Seattle “Grunge Movement,” which reconfigured and redefined the world of rock on a national and international level. Things were taken to a new level with the “supergroup” Audioslave from 2001-07. Today, he continues to populate the airwaves with his intense yet melodic music and lyrics through various solo projects—and also spends much of his time in Paris at his new restaurant, co-founded with his brother-in-law Nicholas: Black Calavados. He also makes time to support a host of different charities and benefit projects close to his heart, such as “Live Earth” and “MusiCares.” Chris has two little girls, Lillian Jean and Toni, and a son, Christopher. He married Vicky Karayiannis in 2003 and came to Orthodoxy through Chrismation shortly thereafter.

COOL CONVERTS!!!

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES



Parish Checkbook

February 2008

Parish Council Meetings:

April 14th and May 12th, 6:00 p.m.

Executive Committee will meet at 5:30 p.m.
on both nights.

Kali Anastasi!

Fr. Alex, our Parish Council and all of our ministry leaders wish you a blessed, life-changing Holy Week and Pascha (Easter). Thanks to all those who will be working hard this month to make our services beautiful, our pews clean and icons adorned with flowers. Your efforts are appreciated. Remember, the divine services and our ministry programs offer us the nourishment of the Kingdom.

Please make the life of our parish a priority in your household!

	<u>February</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
Stewardship	\$5,972.00	\$18,757.00	\$18,322.00
Total Income	\$13,644.45	\$34,454.93	\$26,660.00
Total Expenses	\$25,701.00	\$51,647.37	\$38,686.00
Net Income	-\$12,056.91	-\$17,192.44	-\$12,026.00

Spaghetti Dinners Income/Expenses

	<u>Jan 1 - Mar 18, 2008</u>	<u>Jan 1 - Mar 18, 2007 (PY)</u>
Income		
Spaghetti Dinners	\$14,587.00	\$9,960.59
Total Income	\$14,587.00	\$9,960.59
Expenses		
Spaghetti Dinner Expenses	\$5,783.48	\$3,808.69
Net Income	\$8,803.52	\$6,151.90

Announcements & Updates

Please plan to attend the **GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING** – **Sunday, April 6th** immediately following the Divine Liturgy in the Hellenic Center.

Palm Sunday April 20th: Luncheon following Liturgy – Broiled Fish plus all the trimmings. **Adults \$8.00; Children 10 and under \$5.00.**

Easter Glendi April 27th: Luncheon following the Agape Service – Grilled Lamb with all the trimmings (Baked Chicken will be available). **Adults \$10.00; Children 10 and under \$5.00.**

The Parish Council will host these two luncheons and supervise the cooking and buying.

March 11th Parish Council updates:

- Repair to the Hellenic Center's Men's Bathroom: fixed leak.
- Repair gutter on Hellenic Center and repair wood rot and drywall.
- Change locks
- Move coffee to Hellenic Center. Will address moving back to the Patmos Hall when Sunday school ends.
- Parish Council will participate in the April Presidents' Workshop in Atlanta.
- General Assembly April 6th.
- Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday Luncheon will be hosted by the Parish Council.
- Festival October 17th and 18th; Greek band deposit will be made. All depends on General Assembly (April 6th) voting on whether or not to have a festival this year.
- Valentine dinner/dance 2009 committee will be set up at the Council's next meeting.



Blessed are you, O Lord, teach me your commandments. Give rest, O God, to your servants and place them in Paradise, where the choirs of the saints and the just, O Lord, shine like stars. Give rest to your servants who have fallen asleep, overlooking all of their transgressions.



Fr. Alex's office normal office hours:

Monday through Thursday, 10:00 a.m. til 4:00 p.m.

Sometimes, during office hours, Father may be in Liturgy, called away for emergencies, or otherwise engaged with off-site parish business. In addition, please note that he tries to plan visits to home-bound parishioners on Thursdays—so he may not be readily available for phone calls on these days.

If an emergency arises, please call Fr. Alex directly on his cell phone: 850-491-7390, day or night.

Memory Eternal...

On March 9th a 40-day memorial was sung in memory of Francis (Soteria) Penn, beloved mother of Alex Penn Williams and wonderful "Yiayia" of Lora Penn Williams. Our parish's ongoing love and prayers are with the Penn-Williams family. *May her memory be eternal!*

On March 30th, a memorial was sung in memory of Joseph Sima's parents, Anna and Andrew Sima. *May their memory be eternal.*

SAVE THE DATE:

Lenten "Becoming Orthodox—Again!" program will continue throughout April until Holy Week. This Lent's general program was initiated with a moving Compline service on "Clean Monday" (thanks to our Philoptochos ladies for the fine refreshments). A Sunday homily series on "Our Merciful, Un-mercenary, and Healer Saints" and reflection/book study sessions on Fr. Peter Gillquist's *Becoming Orthodox* will be featured this year, in addition to our vital schedule of divine services and youth programs. Please consult this *Reflections* and www.hmog.org for full details.

Lenten reflection sessions each Wednesday night of Lent, following Presanctified Liturgies, 7:30 – 8:15 p.m. Join Fr. Alex for worship (beginning at 6:00 p.m.) and informing, thought-provoking reflection sessions on Fr. Gillquist's challenging book *Becoming Orthodox*. Our goal, in keeping with our general parish theme for Lent, will be to "become Orthodox again," to reinvigorate our spiritual lives, see our faith with new, more appreciative eyes, and recommit our lives to Christ. **Our last Wednesday night meeting will be after Liturgy on April 16th.**

Youth & Diakonia Committee meeting on April 7th, 6:30 p.m., Patmos Hall Conference Rm. Our focus will be solidifying our plans for Godparents' Sunday/Graduation Sunday on May 4th. Please contact Cindy Geeker for details. Snacks will be happily received and Fr. Alex will provide coffee and other drinks.

Outreach Project meeting: We'll break for April and will meet again on Sunday, May 4th, Patmos Hall Conference Room, immediately following Liturgy. Please join us for Lenten wrap-up discussion and planning for the future.

Good Samaritans will not meet in April but will come together again on Sunday, May 11th, following the Divine Liturgy. Please meet Fr. Alex in the Church following Liturgy.



MAY
2008

Prosforo Schedule
5/04 – Angie Poulos
5/18 – Margarita Joanos

- Calendar Symbol Key:**
- ⊠ = Strict Fast
 - ☼ = Wine and Oil Allowed
 - S = Fish Allowed
 - 🥛 = Dairy, Eggs & Fish Allowed
 - ☐ = Father Away

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Pangari/Coffee(c) Schedule for May 2008 5/04 – Njoanos/Kalfas/Geeker(c) 5/11 – Perrigan/Wernke/Hovsopian(c) 5/18 – Penn-Williams/EJoanos/NJoanos(c) 5/25 – Geeker/Kalfas/Manias(c) 06/01 – Njoanos/Perrigan/Penn-Williams(c)				1 Fast Free	2 Fast Free <i>Spaghetti Dinner</i> <i>11 a.m. – 7 p.m.</i> <i>Church Tours</i> <i>5-7:00 p.m.</i>	3 Fast Free
4 Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Altar Team 2 Sunday School Graduation Godparent's Sunday ECHO Sunday Outreach Project Mtg.	5	6 <i>Confessions</i> <i>4-6 p.m.</i> <i>Choir Practice</i> <i>6:30 p.m.</i>	7 ⊠	8	9 ⊠	10
11 Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Altar Team 1 Mother's Day Good Samaritans	12 Executive Council Mtg. 5:30 p.m. Parish Council Mtg. 6 p.m.	13 <i>Confessions</i> <i>4-6 p.m.</i> <i>Choir Practice</i> <i>6:30 p.m.</i>	14 ⊠	15	16 ⊠	17
18 Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Altar Team 2	19	20 <i>Confessions</i> <i>4-6 p.m.</i>	21 ☼ Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. For Sts. Constantine & Helen	22	23 ⊠	24
25 Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Altar Team 1	26 Memorial Day Office Closed	27 <i>Confessions</i> <i>4-6 p.m.</i>	28 ⊠	<i>Please contact Fr. Alex for further guidelines on fasting, prayer life, Confession and weekly preparation for Holy Communion.</i>		



Schedule of Services for Holy Week and Easter

April 20 - Palm Sunday: Orthros and Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Luncheon to follow.

Palm Sunday Evening: 7:00 p.m.

April 21 – Holy & Great Monday: Pre-Sanctified Liturgy, 9:30 a.m.; Evening Service 7:00 p.m.

April 22 – Holy & Great Tuesday: Pre-Sanctified Liturgy, 9:30 a.m.; Evening Service 7:00 p.m.

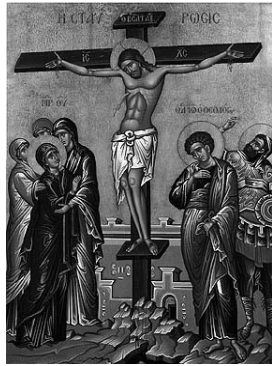
April 23 – Holy & Great Wednesday: Pre-Sanctified Liturgy, 9:30 a.m.;
Sacrament of the Holy Oil, 3:00 p.m. (special for long-distance & young families), and 7:00 p.m.

April 24 – Holy and Great Thursday: Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil the Great, 9:30 a.m.;
Holy Passion of Our Lord, 7:00 p.m.

April 25 – Holy and Great Friday: Royal Hours, 9:30 a.m.; Great Vespers of the
Deposition, 3:00 p.m.; Holy and Great Friday Evening, 7:00 p.m.

April 26 – Holy and Great Saturday: Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil the Great, 9:30 a.m.;
Vigil and Resurrectional Service, 11:00 p.m.

April 27 – Holy and Great Pascha/Easter. Agape Service, 11:00 a.m.
Luncheon and Easter Egg Hunt to follow.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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<p><i>Please contact Fr. Alex for further guidelines on fasting, prayer life, Confession and weekly preparation for Holy Communion.</i></p>		<p>1 ✠</p> <p>Choir Practice 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>2 ✠</p> <p>Confessions 4-5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>"Becoming Orthodox - Again" 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>3 ✠</p>	<p>4 ✠</p> <p>Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Salutations Service 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>5 ☼</p> <p>Regional Oratorical Festival Jacksonville, FL</p>
<p>6 ☼</p> <p>Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Altar Team 1 Sunday School 11:45 a.m.</p> <p>ECHO Sunday General Assembly 12:45 p.m.</p>	<p>7 ✠</p> <p>Youth & Diakonia Mtg. 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>8 ✠</p> <p>Philoctochos Mtg. 5:00 pm</p> <p>Choir Practice 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>"Crowns of Glory" Marriage Seminar 6:30 pm.</p>	<p>9 ✠</p> <p>Confessions 4-5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Pre-Sanctified "teaching" Liturgy 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>"Family Night" Lenten Dinner</p>	<p>10 ✠</p>	<p>11 ✠</p> <p>Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Akathist Hymn 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>12 ☼</p>
<p>13 ☼</p> <p>Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Altar Team 2 Sunday School 11:45 a.m.</p> <p>Altar Boy Palm Cutting Trip!</p>	<p>14 ✠</p> <p>Executive Council Mtg. 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Parish Council Mtg. 6 p.m.</p>	<p>15 ✠</p> <p>Choir Practice 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>16 ✠</p> <p>Confessions 4-5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>"Becoming Orthodox - Again" 7:30 p.m. (final session)</p>	<p>17 ✠</p> <p>Choir Practice 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>18 ✠</p> <p>Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 9:30 a.m.</p>	<p>19 ☼</p> <p>Orthros 8 a.m. Saturday of Lazarus Communion Breakfast Palm-folding & Youth Retreat</p>
<p>20 ☼</p> <p>Palm Sunday Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. Altar Team 1 Sunday School 11:45 a.m.</p> <p>Luncheon Palm Sunday Evening 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>21 ✠</p> <p>Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Holy & Great Monday Evening 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>22 ✠</p> <p>Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Holy & Great Tuesday Evening 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>23 ✠</p> <p>Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Holy & Great Wednesday Evening & the Sacrament of Holy Oil 3:00 p.m. (special for our younger families) & 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>24 ✠</p> <p>Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil the Great 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Holy & Great Thursday Evening: The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>25 ✠</p> <p>The Imperial Hours 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Great Vespers of the Deposition: Descent from the Cross 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>Holy & Great Friday Evening 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>26 ✠</p> <p>Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil the Great 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Vigil & Service for the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ 11:00 p.m.</p>
<p>27 ☼</p> <p>Holy and Great Pascha Agape Service 11:00 a.m.</p> <p>Altar Team 2 Luncheon to follow</p>	<p>28 ☼</p> <p>St. George the Great Martyr Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>Pangari/Coffee(c) Schedule for April 2008</p> <p>04/08 - Manias/Hovsapian/Wernke(c) 04/13 - Njoanos/Penn-Williams/Perrigan(c) 04/20 - Penn-Williams/Hovsapian/Kalfas(c) 04/27 - Wernke/NJoanos/EJoanos(c)</p>		

April 2008

Prosforo Schedule

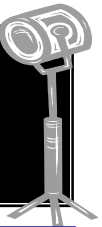
4/6 - Youla Lountos
4/13 - Katie Mathes
4/20 - Irene Milatos

- Calendar Symbol Key:**
- ✠ = Strict Fast
 - ☼ = Wine and Oil Allowed
 - S = Fish Allowed
 - ☺ = Dairy, Eggs & Fish Allowed
 - ☐ = Father Away



Lights...Camera...YOUTH!

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity."
1 Timothy 4: 12



YOUTH EVENTS

LENTEN DINNER FAMILY NIGHT

Wed., April 9th, 6 p.m.

This evening will offer a Pre-Sanctified "Teaching" Liturgy.

Psalm Readers are needed for this service. Please contact Joseph Sima to make arrangements.

(Choir-sponsored Lenten Dinner immediately to follow the service.)

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Myrrh Bearing Girls Needed!



All elementary school young ladies (through 6th grade) are encouraged to participate in our Good Friday service. Contact Athena Gill for more information.

* * * * *

Saturday of Lazarus Youth Retreat

Sat., April 19th

Orthros at 8:00 a.m., followed by Divine Liturgy.

After Liturgy, we'll enjoy a pancake breakfast, palm folding, youth confessions and other activities...

Just for parents... When it comes to staying connected to your teen, the experts agree: don't ask broad, general questions that are easily dismissed. Time to get specific! Following up on our March "Reflections," here's a few more suggestions, this time focusing on academics...**Replace your usual, ho hum "How's school?" with specific questions based on knowing the details of his academic life. Find out about the courses he's taking, which ones interest him and which ones bore him. Ask who his favorite and most disliked teachers are and why they hold these distinctions. Keep up with his homework assignments, term papers and tests. Look at his textbooks so that you can talk with him about what he's studying. Ask questions like, "How's your research coming along on your Viet Nam term paper for World History? Do you think your English Lit test this Friday will be multiple choice or essays?"**

Excerpt from "Knowing Your Teen," by Carleton Kendrick, Ed.M, LCSW. Posted at the website "Family Education": www.familyeducation.com

Kids as stewards! In March, a Lenten youth ministry mailing was sent to your home. One of the flyers included was a children's stewardship form, which was composed with sensitivity and thoughtfulness by members of our Youth & Diakonia Committee. The goal is to help our children—very early on—understand the importance of their role in our parish. They too have "time, talent and treasure" to offer the Church of Christ. Please encourage their participation in this simple effort, and reinforce with them, whenever possible, how vital it is to be a "giver" in life—be it at home, Church, school or with their friends. Thanks to all of our parents for working with our youth ministers!

April/May Youth Stewardship Idea: Offer to help your Sunday School teacher clean up after class this Sunday!

Oratorical Festival:

Congratulations to our St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival participants: **Phoebe Chetsas, Magnolia Parmer, Maria Parmer and Lora Williams.** The ladies delivered beautiful tributes to our faith, and Lora will continue to the regional competition in Jacksonville to represent Holy Mother of God on April 5th. Way to go, Lora!



Altar Updates:

Each week, our captains who have Orthros duty are asked to arrive at Orthros no later than 10:00 a.m.; captains are also responsible for leading clean-up after Liturgy (takes about 15 minutes each Sunday). All servers should be in the Altar by 10:20 a.m., so they can have time to get settled and vest before Liturgy begins. Parents are encouraged to contact David Purpura with questions and ideas: purpura@psy.fsu.edu. **Coming on Sunday, April 13th, we have another very special event: palm-cutting with Richard Allen!** After Liturgy, our available parents, captains and boys will carpool to Richard Allen's property—about 30 miles outside town—to cut real palms for the Saturday of Lazarus Retreat and especially Palm Sunday! This is a rare opportunity not to be missed. **Please confirm with Fr. Alex A.S.A.P. Parents are needed to help lead, chaperone and drive. Thanks to Richard for offering this truly blessed Lenten event to our youth!**

PLEASE NOTE: All available Altar Boys are welcome to serve from Holy Sunday evening thru the Agape Service on Holy and Great Pascha.

Team 1

Captains: Nic Gavalas and Chris Perrigan

CJ Barkas
James Perrigan
Nicholas Gavalas
Brannon Salter

Team 2

Captain: George Joanos and Nick Griner

Jimmy Branch
William Perrigan
Thomas Geeker

April 6th, Team 1 (Orthros and Clean-up Duty: Nic Gavalas)
April 13th, Team 2 (Orthros and Clean-up Duty: Nick Griner)
April 20th, Team 1 (Orthros and Clean-up Duty: Chris Perrigan)
April 27th, Team 2 (Orthros and Clean-up Duty: George Joanos)

May 4th, Team 1 (Orthros and Clean-up Duty: Nic Gavalas)
May 11th, Team 2 (Orthros and Clean-up Duty: Nick Griner)
May 18th, Team 1 (Orthros and Clean-up Duty: Chris Perrigan)
May 25th, Team 2 (Orthros and Clean-up Duty: George Joanos)

Saintly Lives: St. Germanos, Patriarch of Constantinople **Commemorated May 12th**

Apolotyktion

Let us the faithful duly praise the most wondrous and sacred pair of hierarchs, even Germanus together with the godly Epiphanius; for these righteous Saints of God burned the tongues of the godless with the sacred teachings which they most wisely expounded to all those who in Orthodox belief do ever hymn the great mystery of piety.

Saint Germanos, who was from Constantinople, was born to a wealthy and powerful family, and was the son of Justinian the Patrician. First he became Metropolitan of Cyzicus; in 715 he was elevated to the throne of Constantinople. But because of his courageous opposition to the iconoclasts (those who wanted to destroy and “outlaw” icons), he was exiled from his throne shortly thereafter. He lived the rest of his life in privacy, and fell asleep in the Lord in about 740. He left us many writings—the most important of these deal with the Ecumenical Councils of our faith. He also wrote many hymns for our services, including some we still use today for the Entrance of Christ to the Temple.

Making it real. Sacrifice is a big word. If St. Germanos had only backed off the iconoclasts and said it was “okay” to destroy icons, everything would’ve been fine. If he had turned a blind eye to those that were denying the power and reality of Christ’s incarnation, he would have been able to keep his place in Constantinople. But St. Germanos was all about faith and truth, even when it wasn’t easy to be so. To him, it was more important to live the Gospel than to have a place of honor in the world. Talk to your children about Christian bravery. The best path isn’t always the smoothest, and they can’t learn this early enough in life. Maybe they can share examples of this from school and problems experienced with their friends. Maybe you can share examples from your own life. In the end, whatever you do, make sure to share with them and let them do the same with you, in whatever way they feel comfortable.

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Time seems to fly so quickly when you're busy taking care of all the philanthropic needs of so many individuals -- and for this reason we bring Philoptochos together every month to discuss and plan for the needy among other things. Please join us at our next meetings scheduled for April 8th and May 7th in the Conference Room in Patmos Hall, beginning at 5:00 p.m. Please contact me @ 229-226-3695 with any items you would like to discuss at the meetings so that I can place them on the agenda. Your ideas, suggestions and participation are always welcomed!

Special thanks to Debbie Wernke and Presbyteria Brandy for an outstanding job with the annual Chili Cook-Off, with all proceeds going to the Holy Cross bookstore to assist our own seminarian, Eric Strosnider, with the purchase of his books.

Thanks to all who lovingly made the Lenten meal that was served after the services on Clean Monday. Thanks to Elaine Mathewes for putting it all together.

Many thanks to all who donated towards Clergy Education during the month of March.

During this most holy time within our Church, Philoptochos wishes you a very blessed and happy Pascha. Truly He Has Risen!

Always know you can call on me if you need to discuss anything.

Christos Anesti!

Valerie

Philoptochos Meeting Change!

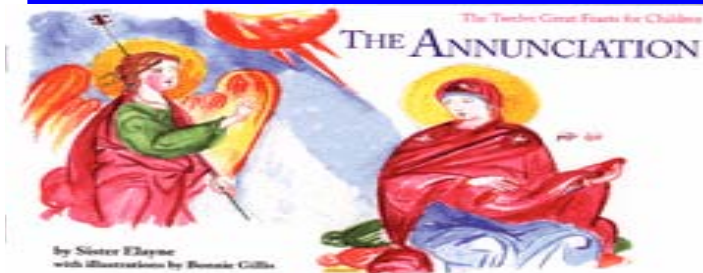
Please note that our April meeting has been changed to **Tuesday, April 8th @ 5 p.m.** in Patmos Hall.

Instead of a meeting in May, a dinner is being planned.

BOOK OF THE MONTH APRIL/MAY:

"The Annunciation," by Sister Elayne. \$5.00

This colorfully illustrated children's book is part of the popular "12 Great Feasts for Children" series, and is lovingly told in simple yet truly poetic style. This is a must for your little one this Easter! Please see Fr. Alex or look for it at the Homecoming Table.



Voices of Faith!



Our children, parents and interested parishioners are invited to read the Epistle during Divine Liturgy throughout the year. Please contact **Joseph Sima** to make arrangements (893-5789).

April Readers:

April 06: David Purpura
April 13: Lora Williams
April 20: Steffie Tassos
April 27: Joseph Sima

May Readers:

May 04: TBA
May 11: Elleni Gavalas
May 18: TBA
May 25: Phoebe Chetsas

Epitaphios/

Easter Flower Donations

A tray is located in the Narthex for your donations. Please make checks out to HMOG with a notation to **"Flowers"**.

Thank you.

PARISH 2008 WISH LIST

- * more volunteers to drive home-bound parishioners to Liturgy.
- * volunteers to help home-bound parishioners with errands and shopping.
- * parents/or individual parishioners interested in leading JOY & GOYA next fall.
- * volunteers to help with occasional mailings and special projects in the office.
- * a volunteer willing to help Fr. Alex and David with special clean-ups and projects in the Altar.

Do you have a solution to one of these needs? Fr. Alex would like to talk to you about it. Any amount of help is appreciated.



Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 27th

...immediately following the Agape Service at
the Easter Glendi

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**The Nursery is open to
parents and children on a
“self-supervised” basis.**

Parents are encouraged to use
this lovingly-decorated and
outfitted facility as needed, and
are reminded to leave it as it
was found and take care of all

necessary clean-up. All this points toward the
continued availability of this space for little ones and
the good of our parish grounds. **Thanks!**

Spaghetti Dinner

Because of Great Lent, Spaghetti Dinner breaks for
April. Our next Spaghetti Dinner will take place on
Friday, May 2nd.

Please contact Nick Joanos to lend a hand.

We'll also be conducting evening Church tours.
Contact Fr. Alex if you are interested in sharing
our faith with visitors!



**Holy Mother of God
Greek Orthodox Church**

**1645 Phillips Road
Tallahassee, FL 32308**

**Office: 850-878-0747
Hall: 850-877-2501**

**Fr. Alex Emergency Cell:
850-491-7390**

***April & May Sermon Series:
Missionaries in Our Ministries***

April 6th: Special Guest Speakers Leah Chaloub and Ashley Hanania: *“Reflections on ‘Real Break’ in Constantinople: What Comes Next”*

April 13th: Special Guest Speaker Margo Kelley of OCMC: *“Why Missions?”*

April 20th: *“Triumphant and Not-So-Triumphant Reentries”*

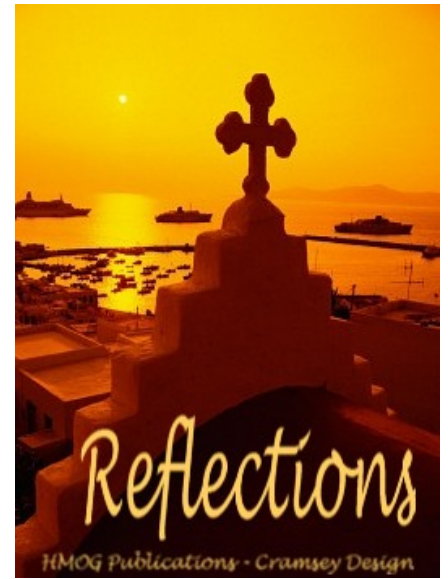
April 27th: Holy and Great Pascha. No homily.

May 4th: *“No Doubts: Time to Bring the Fire Home”*

May 11th: *“A Most Holy Calling: Great Missionary Mothers of Our Faith”*

May 18th: *“Right Here, Right Now” Part I*

May 25th: *“Right Here, Right Now” Part II*



Website:
www.hmog.org

Father Alex:
hmogfather@comcast.net

Church Secretary:
hmog@comcast.net

Secretary Hours:
Mon./Wed./Fri. 9am-2pm

Holy Mother of God Greek Orthodox Church
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Tallahassee, Florida 32308

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**“I fervently pray that the good God will make
His peace to reign in everyone’s heart”**

(St. Basil: from *On The Holy Spirit*)