ARCHDIOCESAN CATHEDRAL OF THE HOLY TRINITY
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Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity

His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios
Geron of America

Rev. Fr. John Vlahos, Dean of Cathedral

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Salvation: God’s Way of Rescuing Us, Restoring Us and Reconnecting Us

So often we hear the question, “Are you saved?” What exactly does that mean? Well, we know that the Lord Jesus came on a “Seek and Save” mission, not a “Seek and Destroy” mission. He came to save us because we are infinitely valuable to Him and we were lost. How valuable are we to Him? Well, how do you determine something’s value? Real simple…How much is someone willing to pay for it. How much are you worth? Look at the Cross. Jesus was willing to pay for you with His life! Here are three aspects of what salvation is…

God Rescues Me

Nothing happens until I say, “There has got to be a better way of living. God help me. I am tired of the pressure, the pain, the disappointments. Truth is, I don’t like who I am.” We are not going to be saved until we are fed up. We must get hungry for a new life in God. We must get fed up with our disconnection with God and must say, “It’s time for me to go home!”

So salvation rescues me from myself. Many times I find I am my biggest problem and my worst enemy. If I have had five car accidents or five failed relationships or five failed businesses, who’s to blame? Well, there is a common denominator: me! All too often we mistakenly fall into the accuse and excuse mode, where we accuse others and excuse ourselves!

Jesus specializes in turning failures into victories. We need Him to transform and transfigure our thoughts and wants from merely pleasurable, self-satisfying objectives to more wholistic, therapeutic and salvific initiatives. We will get the same results until something changes in us. Our fears, anxieties and misconceptions about what we believe about God, and life must change. We need a Savior to rescue us and save us from ourselves.

Listen to what one Confederate soldier had wrote. It was found on his person when he had died on the battle field. He wrote: I asked God for strength, that I might achieve, I was made weak, that I might learn to humbly obey.
I asked for health, that I might do greater things, I was given infirmity, that I might do better things.
I asked for riches, that I might be happy, I was given poverty, that I might be wise.
I asked for power that I might have the praise of men, I was given weakness, that I might feel the need for God.
I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life, I was given life, that I might enjoy all things.
I got nothing that I asked for—but everything that I had hoped for.
Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.
I am among all men, most richly blessed.

Some may say I don’t need rescuing. But the fact of the matter is that we all have problems and hang-ups and hurts that we cannot solve or fix on our own. Some problems are not solved by trying, they are solved by trusting. He can do things that we cannot do. In Psalm 50:15 we read, “Trust me in your times of trouble; I will rescue you and you will give me glory.”

God Restores My Potential
A $100 bill will pass through thousands of hands. If it’s lost, it can’t make an impact. Lost is not worthless, it’s just lost its potential. Worth is wasted. Only God your Creator knows what you are capable of. You can’t be what God wants you to be if you lose your direction, if you lose your way.

The Lord says: “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light” (Matthew 11:28-30).

The Lord is saying to all of us who are weighed down from carrying too much, that we must learn to trust and we will recover our life.

What have you lost that you’d like to recover? Your strength? Your joy? Your dreams? Your hope? Your innocents? Your reputation? Your confidence?

Jesus came not only to rescue us from ourselves but to recover what was lost. A $100 bill doesn’t know that it’s lost. And it can’t save itself. Same goes for us.

Joel 2:25: “I will give you back what you have lost when the locusts ate all of your crops.” What is eating you up? What is eating away at your peace? At your plans? Your dreams? Your hopes? Who is going to restore that? You can’t do it alone. Only God can do this in us and that is a part of salvation. “I will give you back what you have lost when the locusts ate all of your crops.”

God Reconnects Me

Jesus reconnects humanity with God the Father. What did it take for you and I to get reconnected to God the Father? It took the eternal Son of God, by whom all things were made, to condescend from eternal glory to put on flesh and become a human being. And while here, He was mistreated, disrespected and rejected. He dies the most shameful death, crucified outside the city walls of Jerusalem. And yet, through the Cross, joy has come to all the world because He loved us till the end. He rescued us, He restored us and He reconnects us.
The children of the Sunday School have been very busy in the month of December and January. We celebrated Christmas with a spectacular Christmas Pageant. The children enjoyed cutting the traditional Vasilopita in the month of January. All the children had wonderful stories to tell everyone how they spent New Year’s Day cutting their Vasilopita’s.

During the month of February, March and April we will concentrate on Lent and Easter. We will study the significant meanings of our many traditions and religious studies. There will be a “SATURDAY OF LAZARUS RETREAT”, on Saturday, April 20, 2019. The children will be participating in a procession during Palm Sunday’s service. On Good Friday, the children will attend the Apokathelosis service at 3:30 pm, and participate by placing flowers upon the Epitaphio. On Good Friday evening services, the myrrhbearer’s girls, all dressed in white will be participating going around the Epitaphio. The girls will spread flowers on the Epitaphio and receive a special blessing from Archbishop Demetrios. The Myrrh-bearer girls are invited by his Eminence Archbishop Demetrios to accompany the procession around the church. There are many upcoming events that the children will volunteer their time to help with folding of the palms to dying the red Easter eggs. We hope everyone will join us!

We thank all the children with their help and participation. We thank the parents for bringing the children to church and to Sunday School. I also would like to thank our wonderful volunteer Sunday School teachers that teach the children every Sunday. We would like to remind parents that Sunday School is available for all children, starting from 40 day old children thru 18 years of age. We encourage all parents to bring their children to Sunday School to help our community grow. We look forward to seeing you!
THE CATHEDRAL CHOIR IN CONCERT
The renowned Cathedral Choir presented its annual Christmas Concert, entitled “Salvation is Created” in the beautiful sanctuary of the Holy Trinity Cathedral this past December.
The highly successful and well attended concert featured pieces from all over the music spectrum, featuring the choir accompanied by the Archdiocesan Cathedral Orchestra.

CHOIR MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: DAWN HELENE
In addition to chanting during the weekly services, Dawn Helene is a dedicated member of the alto section in the Cathedral Choir. A versatile musician, she has also accompanied the choir playing the organ on several occasions—and most recently, the choir performed her new arrangement of the Apolytikion of Pentecost, with more musical settings from the Divine Liturgy coming soon.
Stay tuned!

To listen to the Cathedral Choir visit YouTube and search “Archdiocesan Cathedral Choir”.
You can also find us on Facebook or by visiting www.archcathedralchoir.com
Thank You

With the beginning of each new year, it has become customary to reflect on what we have accomplished, to appreciate the people in our lives and things we are thankful for, and to set goals for what we want to achieve in the twelve months ahead.

The Cathedral is no different, and this year in particular, carries with it a little more significance for me. I began attending the Cathedral in 2009. Stefanie and I got married here a year later, and we were blessed to have two beautiful daughters who were baptized here. From my grandparents to my parents, and now with my wife and me as we raise our girls, the church has always been an extension of our home and our family, and the Cathedral became exactly that for us.

Moreover, in 2010, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Geron of America, appointed me to the Cathedral’s Board of Trustees. I had served on the Parish Council in my previous parish in Westfield, New Jersey for 14 years, had been appointed to serve on Boards of Directors of several national ministries and not-for-profit organizations, and it was an honor to be asked to serve the Cathedral. Diving into fiduciary issues of legal, financial, and operational significance, I became quickly educated and heavily involved in the life and function of the Cathedral.

For the past nine years, I have been privileged to represent the Cathedral within the community and in my interactions throughout the Archdiocese as a member of its Board of Trustees. I have also been particularly honored to serve as President of the Cathedral Board of Trustees and community for the past two years. In that time, working together with some incredible, dedicated people, we have accomplished a number of things:

- We have navigated the turnover of the entire staff of the Cathedral, at times with vacancies, and with multiple changes in certain leadership positions such as our Dean, Director of Operations, and Head of School, but enter 2019 with an incredible team led by Fr. John Vlahos, Gregory Panagos, and George Papayiannis.

- In looking at every aspect of the Cathedral’s business and operations, we have:
  - resolved labor, immigration, and personnel matters;
  - established new hiring and evaluation procedures;
  - reconciled issues related to our corporate status, tax, and banking relationships;
  - restored our property tax exemption;
  - developed new financial controls and procedures;
  - completed annual audits by an independent accounting firm;
  - reviewed and updated all of our insurance policies;
  - rebuilt a non-existent stewardship program to consistent levels of $375,000 in annual giving;
  - supported the financial and operational stability of the Cathedral School;
  - promoted the unique excellence of our Cathedral choir and music ministry;
  - cleared historical arrears while fully meeting our ongoing annual commitments to the Archdiocese and its national ministries;
addressed legal concerns with our garage tenant that resulted in evicting the operator, navigating its filing for bankruptcy, and negotiating a lease with a new tenant;

negotiated ongoing matters with the Forum apartment complex to develop a more respected and cooperative relationship;

welcomed rental arrangements from within and outside of our community to broaden our reach and to provide supplemental revenue;

trained all Cathedral and Cathedral School personnel in new security and safety measures, and received a $75,000 federal grant to upgrade security with the installation of new door locks, security cameras, and a central control/communication system; and

attended to various issues related to an aging facility, including the replacement of our boiler with upgrades to the boiler room, repairs to the dome and various roofs in the complex, and remediation of mold and other water-related emergencies.

With attention to the community’s interests and needs, we have:

established an ushering schedule for each service to ensure adequate coverage for our members and special events throughout the year;

held Town Hall meetings and Heads of Ministries meetings twice each year to ensure that the membership remains informed and engaged; and

continued to develop and collaborate successful ministries for all ages with cultural, educational, social, and spiritual opportunities for our growing Cathedral membership and greater philanthropic impact in the surrounding community, including but not limited to our Little Angels, JOY, HOPE, GOYA, Cathedral Connect, Primetimers, Greek dancing classes, Greek language classes, a basketball team, a Midnight Run Feed the Homeless program, and of course, our Ladies Philoptochos!

Looking ahead, we launched our stewardship campaign for 2019 in November (which has already realized 50 new members and $150,000 collected!) and established a budget for the new year based upon projected sources of revenue and priorities for continued service to the Cathedral’s membership, investment in its ministries and outreach, commitment to the Archdiocese, and care for its operations and facilities. Of note:

The 2019 budget has a projected surplus of over $200,000, which realizes efficiencies in operations, preserves corporate accountability, and prioritizes stewardship, fundraising, the continued growth of our ministries, and the needs and enhancement of our facilities;

With restricted pledges of $2 million ($1.3 million of which has been collected), we should be able to break ground in 2019 on restoration of the Cathedral’s dome and roofs and a comprehensive renovation of the function and aesthetic of Chiotes Hall;

Stephen Cherpelis, who sets the example for us by humbly serving not only our Cathedral but practically every level of the Archdiocese for decades in more ways than we can imagine, will be this year’s honoree at the 84th annual Cathedral Gala on March 8, 2019; and

2019 will usher in the first of what should be an annual Faithful Steward Award, which is intended to recognize someone from our Cathedral community who gives selflessly in ways that we may not regularly appreciate but which have an impact that benefits us all.
The bittersweet aspect to this new year is that our family has moved. Settling into Manhasset has brought a lot of excitement, as well as new challenges to school schedules, after school activities, work and board commitments, and yes – church. In recent months, we were welcomed into a thriving Archangel Michael community in Port Washington and have balanced our relationships and responsibilities at the Cathedral with developing relationships and engagement in a new parish community.

With this logistical change, I sat with His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, His Grace Bishop Andonios of Phasianе, and Fr. John in December and explained that my responsibilities to my family warranted stepping away from the Cathedral Board of Trustees at this time. I will remain in service to the Archdiocese as a member of the Archdiocesan Council and a steward of the Cathedral, and I am sure Stefanie and I will find plenty of ways to get involved with our girls and new parish!

The Cathedral has now introduced its new Board of Trustees for 2019. Stella Pantelidis was announced as the new President, and six new, talented members of the Cathedral were added to replace the members who are stepping away. Personally and on behalf of the community, I thank Justin Bozonelis, Peter Doukas, Harry Gaveras, John Paterakis, and John Thomas for their years of dedicated service to the Cathedral. I also wish Stella and the new Board of Trustees the very best.

To the entire Cathedral family, I leave you with this sentiment of appreciation. Stewardship calls us to be grateful for the gifts that God has given. Not only are we called to be grateful to God, but we should also be grateful to one another. Thank you - to each of you who allowed our family to be a part of this community for the past decade and generously offered your interest in and support of my daughters, my wife and me, and through my service to the Cathedral and community with the Board of Trustees. Please continue to take ownership and responsibility for this special place, hold it accountable to the high standard it merits, recognize how blessed we all have been to be a part of its history, and contribute what you can to leave the Cathedral better and with greater impact than we have received it. I look forward to witnessing its continued success!
HOPE/JOY GOYA

JANUARY - APRIL MEETING SCHEDULE:

JANUARY 11TH @ 6PM
JANUARY 25TH @ 6PM
FEBRUARY 15TH @ 6PM
MARCH 2ND - GOYA SKI TRIP
MARCH 15TH @ 6PM
MARCH 29TH @ 6PM
APRIL 12TH @ 6PM
APRIL 20TH - SAT OF LAZARUS RETREAT

Meetings will take place in the Auditorium of the Cathedral School
319 E 74th St. New York, NY, 10021
The Cathedral School continues to celebrate and showcase its strength in academics. This year, The Cathedral School’s Demetra Chudley and Olia Pritchard won The Cathedral School Spelling Bee to advance to the Archdiocesan competition held at the Greek Archdiocese of America located on East 79th Street. Competing against many other schools within the Archdiocese, Demetra Chudley earned the top spot, advancing to the City-Wide competition later this spring.

In addition to academic competitions, students at The Cathedral School have also garnered awards within the artistic community. Sponsored by the Greek television station ANT1, the Children Draw Christmas contest is in its 11th year. Cathedral School’s 5th grader Stella Pyrovolakis won the North America competition with her interpretation of the holiday season.

Through small class sizes and individual attention, students at The Cathedral School are given every opportunity to learn and succeed. The Cathedral School prides itself not only on its rigorous academics and advanced curriculum, but most importantly on the talents and strengths of every individual student.

Follow us on Facebook & Instagram!
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/CathedralSchoolny
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/cathedralschoolny
Thank you to the 124 families and individuals who have submitted pledges of financial support for our Cathedral in 2019. We encourage all of our Cathedral members and friends to become active stewards.

Sponsors of One Day or More

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2019 STEWARDSHIP AS OF JANUARY 30TH
The 65th Annual **Chrysanthemum Ball** took place on Friday, November 16, 2018, at the Metropolitan Club in New York City. This year’s honoree was our spiritual leader, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Geron of America, honored for his relentless dedication to the Greek Orthodox Church. It was a fun and very well attended event. The flower arrangements complimented the elegant ballroom. The food was delicious and the music invited everyone to the dance floor. We would like to thank all who supported the Chrysanthemum Ball, our main fundraiser.

Many of our board members attended the Direct Archdiocesan District Philoptochos 4th Biennial **Agape Luncheon** on Saturday, November 17, 2018, at the Crest Hollow Country Club. The event raised $50,000 to benefit the expansion of St. Michael’s Home for the aged.

On December 5, 2018, Philoptochos hosted the annual **Christmas Angel Tree** event along with a **General Meeting** at the Chiotes Family Cathedral Hall. As every year, we supported the program **TOYS FOR TOTS**. Everyone selected a star from our Angel Tree and bought a much-needed item to make a child’s Christmas a little merrier. The speaker at the General Meeting was Cara Hartman, CPT. Cara spoke about healing back pain without drugs or surgery and demonstrated helpful exercises. She also presented her book, “The 7 Minute Back Pain Solution”, that she co-wrote with Gerald J. Girasole, M.D. We all felt very motivated to rise up and join Cara in doing the exercises. We concluded our meeting with refreshments, treats, and holiday cheer.

Once again this year, during the Christmas season we supported **NEW YORK CARES** by collecting coats donated by our parishioners to help a fellow New Yorker keep warm this winter. Thank you to all who donated.

The Archdiocesan Cathedral Philoptochos members joined the community in decorating the Chiotes Family Cathedral Hall in preparation for the Christmas festivities. Additionally, we organized the Candlelit Reception following the Cathedral Christmas Concert.

On December 19, 2018, the Archdiocesan Cathedral Philoptochos sponsored a day outing for the children of **St. Basil Academy**. The day started with a great lunch at Gallagher’s Steakhouse, offered by Dean Poll. Then the children and their escorts watched the Christmas Spectacular Show at Radio City Music Hall. It was a beautiful day enjoyed by all and the children were very grateful for the experience and the visit to Manhattan. They look forward to this annual outing every year.
After the Divine Liturgy, on New Year’s Day, our community joined the Cathedral Philoptochos for the annual cutting of the Vasilopita by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Geron of America, at the Chiotes Family Cathedral Hall.

We are current in fulfilling our National obligations:
- National Sisterhood of Presvyteres
- UNICEF
- General Medical Fund
- Vasilopita
- Social Services Cancer & Other Major Illnesses Fund
- Autism Assistance Fund
- Saint Photios Shrine

The Archdiocesan Cathedral Philoptochos Society continues to sponsor the coffee hour every Sunday after the Divine Liturgy.

In conjunction with Jan Hus Church, we continue the Feed the Homeless Program and provide a meal every Tuesday for approximately 160 homeless and low-income individuals. The Archdiocesan Cathedral Philoptochos started the “Feed the Homeless Program” in 1979. We also continue to support our social welfare cases, helping individuals and families in crisis.

We hope you received our Cathedral Philoptochos Brochure and Stewardship Form for 2019 in the mail. You can also become a member by visiting our website www.ac-philoptochos.com, going to the Membership page and downloading the Stewardship Form. We look forward to your continued support and generosity throughout the year. Without your help we would not be able to achieve our goals.

SAVE THE DATE
- January 30, 2019 at 6:30pm – His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios will give a lecture on the Three Heirarchs
- Friday, March 15, 2019 – Lenten Supper following the First Salutations to the Theotokos
- May 15, 2019 – Spring Luncheon at the Loeb Central Park Boathouse
- May 29, 2019 – Elections for the new Board of Directors of the Archdiocesan Cathedral Philoptochos 2019-2021

The Archdiocesan Cathedral Philoptochos Society cordially invites you to join us for the annual

Lenten Supper
immediately following the 1st Salutations to the Theotokos
Friday, March 15, 2019
The Chiotes Family Cathedral Hall
Salutations - 6:00 p.m.
Followed by the Lenten Supper
Suggested Donation: $20.00

337 East 74th Street, New York, NY 10021
For more information, please contact
Mary Stavridis (212) 755-3414 or mstavrides@tbs.com
Rallios Stavridis (917) 811-4256 or rallios@gmail.com

AR C H D I O C E S A N  C A T H E D R A L  O F  T H E  H O L Y  T R I N I T Y

HAPPY GREAT LENT! ΚΑΛΗ ΣΑΡΑΚΟΣΤΗ!

Please visit our website, www.ac-philoptochos.com, for the latest news!
Chrysanthemum Ball 2019

Photo credit: Chrysanthemum Ball, D&D Agape Luncheon, Vassilopita images by Dimitris Panagos.
Updates!

On December 8th, in conjunction with Annunciation and the Greek Orthodox Church of our Savior in Rye, Cathedral Connect assisted over 200 families by providing them with hygiene kits. We partnered with FOCUS North America, an Orthodox charity based in Carnegie PA.
On Friday, March 8, 2019, we will be hosting the 84th Cathedral Gala, which is the biggest fundraiser for our Cathedral. This year we are proud to honor Mr. Stephen Cherpelis, one of our own parishioners and board members. Mr. Cherpelis is an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, a long standing member of Leadership 100, a recipient of the Archangel Michael Award by St. Michael’s Home, a philanthropist and business entrepreneur. We would love to see everyone attend the Gala and show your support.
Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity Gala

GALA CHAIRS
Dr. George and Nicole Liakas

SPONSORSHIP CHAIR
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