Saint Basil the Great

His writings are replete with wisdom and erudition, and rich are these gifts he set forth the doctrines concerning the mysteries both of the creation (see his Hexaemeron) and of the Holy Trinity (see On the Holy Spirit). Because of the majesty and keenness of his eloquence, he is honoured as “the revealer of heavenly things” and “the Great.”

Saint Basil is also celebrated on January 30th with Saint Gregory the Theologian and Saint John Chrysostom.

Cathedral Church

Visit our website: www.cathedralschoolnyc.org

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Jacob Amato, Trustee
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HOPE (4-6 yrs old):
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Little Angels (0-3 yrs old):
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His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios of America
Rev. Fr. John Vlahos, Dean of Cathedral
Rev. Dr. Robert Stephanopoulos, Dean Emeritus
Facing the New Year 
with a Firm Hold of God’s Hand

REV. FR. JOHN VLAHOS, Cathedral Dean

At the beginning of World War II, King George VI spoke these words in his message to the British Nation,

“I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year, ‘Give me a light that I may walk safely into the unknown.’ And he replied, ‘Go out into the darkness and put your hand in the Hand of God—that shall be better for you than light and safer than a known path.’”

As we embark on this New Year of the Lord 2016, we too are walking “into the unknown.” Will it be a good year or a bad year? Will we have triumph or failure? Will we have health or sickness?

As I ponder these questions, I think you would agree that we really do not control all that much. There are unforeseen circumstances, actions, conditions and events that are beyond our control. We may not be able to determine all that will be coming at us this year, but we can surely control how we will deal with them.

As Orthodox Christians, our main New Year’s resolution should be to place our hand in the powerful and always extended Hand of God. How can we actualize this reality in our lives? It is through our faith in Him, through our prayers, through the obeying of His commandments and teachings, through our worship and partaking of the Sacraments. It is through these and additional means that we are healed, guided and transformed by God.

Through our connection and commitment to Christ and His Holy Church, we are well equipped to face the “unknown” as members of God’s family. We need the Lord and one another during this crucial time in human history, where the capacity of human beings to love one another and respect each others’ freedom is tested to the max and where threats to peace and justice grow insidiously. In the face of war, terror, poverty, disease, environmental degradation, and other threats to the peace of God, we are called to exercise especially heightened vigilance dictated by love.

May 2016 be a year worthy of God, worthy of our Christian calling to be the “salt of the earth” (Matt. 5:13) and the “light of the world” (Matt. 5:14). By placing our hands in the Hands of God, may we continue to mature “to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” (Eph 4:13) by joining all of our efforts with God’s transforming power, love and grace.

As Orthodox Christians, our main New Year’s resolution should be to place our hand in the powerful and always extended Hand of God.
Presidents and Members of the Parish Councils of the Greek Orthodox Communities, the Distinguished Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Day, Afternoon, and Church Schools, the Philoptochos Sisterhoods, the Youth, the Hellenic Organizations, and the entire Greek Orthodox Family in America

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On this blessed Feast of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, I greet you in the grace, joy and peace that accompany this unique event. We celebrate our Lord’s holy Incarnation as a miraculous revelation of God’s grace, and through faith we see the path to redemption, restoration, and life without end. Our hearts are filled with joy, for our hope is renewed in the fulfillment of His divine promise to save us and be with us. We also experience the peace of God, which passes all understanding (Philippians 4:7), as our hearts and minds are filled with the transforming presence of Christ.

He has come to us as the Prince of Peace, offering a divine peace that is much greater than any comfort or security offered in this world. It is a peace that is available to all humanity, regardless of current challenges, threats, living conditions or stage of life. It is a peace that cannot be disturbed by the violence and insecurities of this broken world, for its origin is the God of peace, and it is sustained by His abundant grace.

In our celebration of the Feast of the Nativity, we acknowledge the power of the peace of God in several ways. In our Great Vespers service we read the prophecies of Isaiah regarding the Incarnation of Christ, affirming the biblical revelation that His peace restores a created order that has been burdened by sin, violence and death. The Prophet states that He comes with wisdom, understanding, and righteousness, bringing a peace by which the wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them (Isaiah 11:6). These images reveal that the presence and peace of our Lord restores the relationships of creation to what God intended them to be. Through the power of the Incarnation, we are given a glimpse of life to come and how it will be...
when the earth is full of the knowledge of the Lord (Isaiah 11:9).

As the Prince of Peace our Lord also brings to us peace through justice. In the same passage from Isaiah we read with righteousness He shall judge the poor, and reprove with equity the meek of the earth (Isaiah 11:4). Those who struggle without security—the poor, the hungry, the oppressed, the refugee, the orphan, the sick—they can find peace in the midst of their challenges and afflictions. In Christ, we have peace through justice and justice through peace, as He offers salvation to all. His Incarnation is the seal of that promise.

Justice and righteousness as a foundation of divine and enduring peace shows a clear distinction between the spiritual peace granted by God and the temporal peace we often experience. In the world around us, peace is maintained through the use of force or the ability to use it when necessary. The priority of the rule of law is affirmed, with an emphasis on punishment or consequences for disrupting public order. Peace is also linked to economic stability and thwarting the chaos that could ensue if systems failed. All of these concepts of peace are important in our lives, but they are very limited. The peace of God that is revealed by Christ is a peace that we can have no matter the conditions of life, society, or level of security. It is a peace that comes through faith as we trust in the promises of God. As we see in Christ and in the lives of many Saints, it is a peace that stands in the face of great adversity, that is not dependent on any temporal security of life, status or property, but is strengthened by the hope we have in the grace of God.

As we celebrate this Feast of the Nativity in the presence of our Incarnate Lord, and we reflect on the significance of His birth and the revelation of God’s grace, may your hearts and minds be filled with His peace. Let this peace surround us as we deepen our faith in Christ, seek transformation by His grace, and commit all of our life to Him. In addition, as we proclaim “Christ is born, Glorify Him,” may we offer a witness of the peace that comes from above, revealing the love of God through our Lord’s Incarnation to all the world.

With paternal love in Christ,
† DEMETRIOS
Archbishop of America

THE PAREA CLUB

On November 30th, the Parea Club, which consists primarily of married couples, met at Gallagher’s Steakhouse to toast the holiday season. We welcomed four new couples from our community and enjoyed an array of delicious food.

The Parea Club is Father John’s vision of bringing couples together socially from our community to get to know each other and thus grow the community. We welcome anyone who is interested, and would love to hear from you about any ideas of where to host future events. Send us your emails if you would like to be included in any future gatherings. Our next event will be towards the end of January. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Parea Club Chairs:
Stella & James Pantelidis
cmnpan@aol.com

Dr. John Thomas & Deana Balahtsis
dbalahtsis@hotmail.com
On Friday December 18th, the Cathedral Choir performed its annual Christmas Concert to a packed cathedral full of dignitaries, parishioners, and members from all around the community. This year’s concert, entitled “Glorious Christmas – An Everlasting Legacy”, featured the choir and soloists from within the group, which was accompanied by orchestra and conducted by Evey Simon, making her Cathedral Choir concert debut after being appointed Director Of Music in March. The choir performed Antonio Vivaldi’s Gloria, choral arrangements of traditional carols and Christmas works by three prominent liturgical composers who passed in 2015: Anna Gallos, Demetrios Pappas, and George Raptis. Family members of the composers were in attendance and were presented awards and gifts in recognition of each composers achievements. His Eminence Geron Archbishop Demetrios was in attendance and remarked at the beauty of the music of the concert, the Cathedral Choir, and of the respective composers who were honored.
Cathedral Sunday School
Christmas Pageant

On Sunday, December 20th, following the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, the Cathedral Sunday School presented its annual Christmas Pageant in the presence of His Grace, Bishop Sebastian of Zela, Fr. John Vlahos, and other honored guests. The pageant included Christmas hymns and carols, as well as a reenactment of the Nativity. The older children, dressed as Joseph, the Virgin Mary, and Archangel Gabriel were surrounded by the younger children dressed as shepherds, wise men, sheep and angels. Following the pageant, the Sunday School hosted a community breakfast in the hall, including a special guest appearance by Santa Claus.

For more information about our Sunday School, or for any questions regarding registration, please contact our Sunday School Director, Effie Doscas-Butler at edoscas@ziffservices.com.
The Second Greek Orthodox Church in America

In the fall of 1891 there were about 500 male Greeks and perhaps 20 Greek women in New York. Pantelis Fakiris, who at the time managed the Rallis Bros. operations in this city, called a meeting to organize the first Greek association in this hemisphere. It was called the Athena Brotherhood and in Greek the Athena Adelfotis. It elected as its president Solon J. Vlastos, who three years later founded the Atlantis as a weekly newspaper and which subsequently became a daily. For 78 years it influenced greatly the evolution and development of Greek-America affairs. The Athena Brotherhood was created solely for the purpose of establishing a church. Even though there were so few of them, the Greeks of New York were absolutely lost and devastated without a Greek Orthodox church, if not perhaps for a place to pray in but certainly for a gathering to meet and socialize in.

It is significant to note that the same pattern of church organization emerged in city after city. The initial stage was to establish an association of some kind, name it after a classical hero and then solicit members and pledges. In New York it was the Athena Brotherhood. In Chicago it was the Lycurgus Society and in Boston it was the Society of Platon. Though canonically the Americas jurisdictionally belonged to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Athena Brotherhood through its president Solon J. Vlastos and its founder Pantelis Fakiris petitioned the Holy Synod of the Church of Greece to send it a priest for the church that was about to be established. To its everlasting credit, a very capable priest, the Rev. Paisios Ferentinos, was sent and he arrived in January 1892. He was a native of Patmos and had been a monk in its scenically located Monastery of St. John at the highest point in that beautiful island. The Athena Brotherhood leased a small part of an evangelical church at 240 West 53rd Street, near Ninth Avenue, at a rental of $50.00 per month. The church was named the Holy Trinity and it became the second Greek Orthodox church in the Americas.
As always the fall season proves to be our busiest of the year preparing for our major fundraiser the Chrysanthemum Ball. This event raises approximately 75% of our total contributions, which amounts to $100,000 annually. The Chrysanthemum Ball took place on Friday, November 20, 2015, at The Mandarin Oriental, New York. This year’s honoree was Mrs. Andri Anastasiadis, the First Lady of the Republic of Cyprus, known for her philanthropic work. The event was a huge success! This year we supported the Independent Social Support Body with a $10,000 contribution. The Young Professionals for the second year in a row supported their own charity, Feed the Children.

On the occasion of the Ninth Annual New York City Greek Film Festival, the Archdiocesan Cathedral Philoptochos Society held their usual “Lunch and a Movie” combined with their second General Meeting of the year on Sunday, October 25, 2015. A delicious lunch was served at Café Fiorello before the viewing of the movie Lovestruck. The meeting was very well attended.

The special tray for Saints Cosmas and Damianos, the patron Saints of our Philoptochos, was passed on November 8, 2015, during the Divine Liturgy. The moneys collected will go toward our philanthropic endeavors.

As we do every year our Cathedral Philoptochos invited a group
of sixteen children from Saint Basil Academy to attend the Christmas Spectacular at the Radio City Music Hall on December 8, 2015, preceded by lunch at Gallaghers Steakhouse. Each child received a monetary Christmas gift.

On Sunday, December 13, 2015, after the Divine Liturgy all were invited to begin our Christmas shopping at the Holiday Boutiques in the Cathedral Center! This year 10% of the proceeds were donated to Feeding the Homeless.

For our annual Christmas Angel Tree we collected brand new gloves, scarves, socks, hats, and t-shirts. These items were distributed to the recipients of the Feeding the Hungry program. This program was established earlier in the year by National Philoptochos. It feeds one-hundred homeless people on the last Tuesday of every month.

If you are interested in learning more about this program or to offer assistance, please visit http://www.philoptochos.org/outreach/projects/feeding-the-hungry-250000-meals.

We would like to thank all the members of the Archdiocesan Cathedral Philoptochos Society who participated in the fund raising drive for The Saint Nicholas National Shrine at Ground Zero.
This year’s honoree was Mrs. Andri Anastasiadis, the First Lady of the Republic of Cyprus, known for her philanthropic work.
The Chrysanthemum Ball raises approximately 75% of our total contributions, which amounts to $100,000 annually.
We have fulfilled our National Obligations:
- Ecumenical Patriarchate
- The National Sisterhood of Presvyteres
- United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF)
- General Medical Fund

We have also fulfilled our Direct Archdiocesan District obligation:
- St. Michael’s Home

The Feed the Homeless Program together with Jan Hus Church continues every Tuesday to provide a meal for about 100 homeless and low-income individuals.

We also continue to support our social welfare cases, helping individuals and families in crisis.

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

SAVE THE DATE

January 1, 2016:
Vassilopita Cutting with His Eminence Geron Archbishop Demetrios
sponsored by our Philoptochos

July 3-8, 2016:
The 43rd Biennial Clergy – Laity Congress in Nashville, TN

Thank you for your continued support and generosity throughout the year. Without your help we would not be able to achieve our goals!

Merry Christmas! Καλα Χριστογεννα!
With sadness we would like to announce the falling asleep of our beloved Philoptochos sister, Lily Fichopoulos, on November 2, 2015, in her home surrounded by her two adoring nieces, Lillian and Irene.

Lily's professional life took a decisive turn in the 11th grade when she helped design costumes for a school play, which became one of her passions and led her to a career in fashion. After graduating from St. John's University, she went on to graduate from the Traphagen School of Fashion Design. Over the years she successfully designed everything from elaborate christening dresses to women’s ball gowns for family and friends.

Along with her sister, the late Mary Johnson, she was an active member of the Archdiocesan Cathedral Philoptochos Society and a devoted member of the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity for over thirty-five years. She will be deeply missed. May her memory be eternal!

Uniquity's Ice Skating

Uniquity, the Cathedral’s ministry for single, widowed and divorced members of our congregation, recently continued our mission of strengthening social and spiritual bonds in the Cathedral community with an Ice Skating Day.

On Saturday, November 7, members gathered at the Bryant Park Winter Village for ice skating – the rink was open, despite unseasonable warmth – and browsing among the dozens of holiday shops. One member even juggled. Following these activities, our group took over the bar at Ammos Estiatorio (next to Grand Central Station) for happy hour drinks and snacks.

At Coffee Hour on Sunday, December 6, Uniquity also held its first raffle, featuring a gift certificate generously donated by William Poll Gourmet Foods, to raise funds for its first Lenten Service Project. (We hope to assemble emergency clean-up kits for Church World Service, an ambitious plan which will involve considerable fund-raising and the marshalling of donations in kind.) The raffle was successful, earning Uniquity the first tranche of funds it will need for this project.

Uniquity invites you to join us for any of our events. For further information, please stop by our table at Coffee Hour most Sundays, or contact us at uniqcity@thecathedralnyc.org.

Uniquity needs volunteers to help with its events and projects!

For information, stop by our table at Coffee Hour or contact us at uniqcity@thecathedralnyc.org.

Or come to our next Planning Meeting, Tuesday, January 19, at 7 p.m. in the Boardroom.
2015 Stewardship as of December 31, 2015

As of December 31st, we have received 325 pledges in the amount of $350,784.41. Thank you to the following stewards who have sent in their pledges. If any names have been mistakenly omitted from this list, please notify the church office and we will make corrections in our next newsletter.

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Mr. & Mrs. Michael & Andreana Mirabella
We thank you all for a fruitful 2015. Please continue to support the Cathedral through your Time, Talent and Treasure so that 2016 can be just as successful!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>27</strong></td>
<td>20,000 Martyrs burned in Nicomedia</td>
<td>14,000 infants (Holy Innocents) slain by Herod in Bethlehem</td>
<td>Anysia the Virgin-martyr of Thessaloniki</td>
<td>Apodosis of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ</td>
<td>Circumcision of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ</td>
<td>Forefeast of the Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ</td>
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<td>St. Stephanos</td>
<td>8:45 am Orthos</td>
<td>10:00 am Divine Liturgy</td>
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<td>6:30 pm AA Meeting</td>
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<td><strong>28</strong></td>
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**January 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday before Epiphany</th>
<th>Eve of the Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ</th>
<th>The Apodosis of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ</th>
<th>Apodosis of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ</th>
<th>St. Basil the Great</th>
<th>George of Naxos</th>
<th>Saturday after Epiphany</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:45 am Orthos</td>
<td>7:15 am Great Hs of Theophany</td>
<td>8:00 am Orthos</td>
<td>8:00 am Orthos</td>
<td>8:45 am Orthos</td>
<td>6:00 pm HDPE/JUDY Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 am Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>9:00 am Vespers &amp; Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>9:00 am Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>9:00 am Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>10:00 am Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>6:30 pm AA Meeting</td>
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<td>7:30 pm Cathedral Connect</td>
<td>10:30 am Great Agiasmos</td>
<td>6:30 pm AA Meeting</td>
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**Sunday after Epiphany**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Their Gracious Theodosius the Cenobiarch</th>
<th>Tatiana the Martyr of Rome</th>
<th>The Holy Martyrs Hermelius and Stratonicus</th>
<th>Apodosis of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ</th>
<th>John the Hut-Dweller</th>
<th>Veneration of Apostle Peter’s Precious Chains</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:45 am Orthos</td>
<td>6:00 pm Paraklesis</td>
<td>7:00 pm Faith &amp; Fellowship</td>
<td>6:30 pm AA Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 am Divine Liturgy</td>
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**12th Sunday of Luke**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Athenasios and Cyril, Patriarchs of Alexandria</th>
<th>Macarius the Great of Egypt</th>
<th>Righteous Euthymius the Great</th>
<th>Apodosis of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ</th>
<th>Timothy the Apostle of the 70</th>
<th>The Holy Hieromartyr Clement, Bishop of Ancyra</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:45 am Orthos</td>
<td>7:00 pm Uniquity Planning Mtg</td>
<td>6:00 pm Paraklesis</td>
<td>8:00 am Orthos</td>
<td>6:00 pm AA Meeting</td>
<td>6:00 pm HDPE/JUDY Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 am Divine Liturgy</td>
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<td>7:00 pm Faith &amp; Fellowship</td>
<td>9:00 am Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>6:30 pm AA Meeting</td>
<td>6:30 pm Uniquity Museum Night</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 pm Greek Dance Troupe</td>
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**14th Sunday of Luke**

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<tr>
<th>Gregory the Theologian, Archbishop of Constantinople</th>
<th>Xenophon and his Companions</th>
<th>Removal of the Relics of John Chrysostom, Archbishop</th>
<th>Apodosis of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ</th>
<th>Removal of the Relics of Ignatius the God-bearer</th>
<th>Synaxis of The Three Hierarchs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:45 am Orthos</td>
<td>6:00 pm Paraklesis</td>
<td>7:00 pm Faith &amp; Fellowship</td>
<td>6:30 pm AA Meeting</td>
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<td>8:30 am Orthos</td>
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**15th Sunday of Luke**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trypho the Martyr</th>
<th>The Presentation of Our Lord and Savior in the Temple</th>
<th>The Synaxis of the Holy and RIGHTEOUS Symeon</th>
<th>Apodosis of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ</th>
<th>Agatha the Martyr</th>
<th>Photus the Great, Patriarch of Constantinople</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>8:45 am Orthos</td>
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<td>6:30 pm AA Meeting</td>
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<td>9:00 am Divine Liturgy</td>
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<td>12:00 pm Greek Dance Troupe</td>
<td>6:30 pm Uniquity Scavenger Hunt</td>
<td>6:30 pm Paraklesis</td>
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REQUESTING THE PLEASE OF YOUR COMPANY

HONORARY CHAIRMEN:
Peter Papanicolaou, President of the Cyprus Federation
Stephen Cherpelis, Past-President Cathedral Council

CHAIRMAN:
Richard Economou

CO-CHAIRS:
Herbert & Effie Butler
Athena Economou

COMMITTEES:
Sponsorships
Pauline Kotsilimbas
Young Professionals
Justin Bozonelis
Reservations
Effie Doscas-Butler
Favors
Antonia Rigopoulos-Argyrides
Arrangements
Athena Economou
Angela Giannopoulos
Publicity
Herbert Butler

337 East 74th Street, New York, NY 10021-3794

Photo: Dimitrios Panagos