



THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

1923 · EIGHTY YEARS OF MINISTRY · 2003

Our Mission: To proclaim and live the Orthodox Christian Faith in its fullness as faithful members of the Body of Christ

November 2003

www.HolyTrinityPgh.org

Volume 11 – Issue 11

Saints Kosmas and Damian the Holy Wonderworkers - Feast Day: November 1

Monthly Parish Newsletter
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Fr. John Touloumes, Ekonomos

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...plus more!

REMINDER:

DIVINE LITURGY STARTS
AT 10:00 AM STARTING
NOVEMBER 1



These beloved saints were from Asia Minor. After the death of their father, their Christ-loving mother Theodota reared them in piety and had them instructed in the sciences, especially that of medicine. This became their vocation, and they went about practicing medicine in the name of Christ without taking any pay; because of this, they are called "Unmercenaries" and were blessed with wonderworking grace both in their lifetime and since their peaceful repose. They are patron saints of the medical profession.

Father John's Message

THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

Parish Newsletter of
Holy Trinity
Greek Orthodox Church
302 W. North Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15212
Phone 412-321-9282
Fax 412-321-7272

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Editor

Father John Touloumes, Ekonomos
Church: 412-321-9282
Home: 412-831-3574
E-mail: ijt@HolyTrinityPgh.org

Production

Josephine Stofko, Parish Secretary
Church: 412-321-9282
E-mail: office@HolyTrinityPgh.org

The Cultural Side

Michael Kritiotis Voula Hareras
Maria Kranioiu Vickie Bellios

Publication Schedule

The Herald is published monthly.
The information deadline is the 15th of each
month. If you would like to assist with mailing
the Herald, please contact the church secretary
at 412-321-9282 to volunteer your help.

This issue of
The Herald
is sponsored
in memory of
Jimmy Regakis
by his mother,
Olga
May his memory
be eternal!



"How shall we repay the Lord for all He has given us?
God lived among men for our sake. The Logos became
flesh for our corrupted nature and dwelt among us. To the
ungrateful, He is a benefactor; to those in captivity, He is
a liberator; to those who sat in darkness, He is the sun of
righteousness. Upon the Cross, He is impassive; in hades,
He is light; in death He is life. He is the Resurrection of the
fallen. To Him, we cry out: Glory to You, our God"

(From the Orthros of the Resurrection, 7th Tone)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The above hymn is one of my favorites from the Orthros
service, and it speak well to the subject of Thanksgiving, which we are about to cel-
ebrate as Americans.

One of the laments of those who study manners is the loss of the art of the thank
you letter or note. In earlier times, when correspondence was the standard means
of communications, it was an unquestionable responsibility of someone who had
received something—a gift, a favor or some other nice thing—to write an acknowl-
edgement and expression of appreciation. Although sometimes dismissed today as
an unnecessarily formal act of obligation, anyone who has ever received a thank you
letter for something must recognize and be touched by the fact that the sender of the
note was moved by the gift and cared enough to sit down and put that gratitude into
words. But words convey meaning and feeling ... and so does the lack of them.

Translating those thoughts to a higher plane, the holy hymnography of the Church
from the Orthros service looks at them in a compellingly comprehensive manner:
in an instant, a survey of our entire life and humanity is made, along with a listed
recognition of the things God has done for us in the divine person of Jesus Christ.
Interestingly enough, *He didn't have to do any of it out of obligation: He did it all out
of His self-sacrificing "agape" love.* It's one thing to sit down and write a thank you
for a birthday present which came on your birthday from someone you expected. It's
another thing to try to distill the overwhelming emotions of thanks when someone
who really didn't need to do something for you steps way out of his or her way to
really make a difference. That and more is what the hymnographer tried to capture:
in whatever condition of need, weakness or oppression, Jesus Christ is our Savior,
the One Who has gone out of His way to bring to us a way out of our sinfulness and a
way into salvation. How can we possibly thank Him?

If we cannot thank Him enough with words, what can we do? We must follow His
example and put love into action, and many of those actions can and should be things
that we *don't have to do*. Remember, in Matthew 5.46-47, Jesus teaches, "If you love
those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the
same? And if you salute only your brethren, what more are you doing than others?
Do not even the Gentiles do the same?" Thanksgiving of a godly sort must give birth
to *agape*, which in turn is known through action. That is why perhaps the best act of
thanksgiving we will be offering this season at Holy Trinity is once again opening our
doors to the homeless and hungry to feed them on November 15. Please lend a hand
or offer a donation. This is love in action. This is the work of the Gospel.

So, to answer the question above, in the words of St. John Chrysostom, "Bearing
these things in mind, let us also fulfill all our duties to our neighbor, and to God let
us give thanks continually...For it is too monstrous, enjoying as we do His bounty in
deed every day, not so much as in word to acknowledge the favor...Since He needs
not, be sure, anything of ours: but we stand in need of all things
from Him. Thus, thanksgiving itself adds nothing to Him, but
causes us to be nearer to Him" (Homily 25 on Matthew).

News & Events

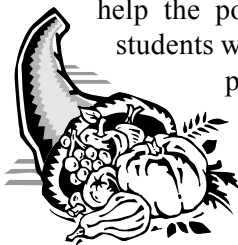
EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES

Church School Open House Thanks

Thank you to all the Church School Staff, students and parents for making the October 19 Church School "Trading Places" such a resounding success for those who attended. Parents were treated to a special introduction and lesson, as well as an opportunity to meet their children's teacher(s) and other parents in their class. Thanks also go to all the students from Father John for their enthusiastic participation in their special interactive lesson in the church while the parents were in class. It is through efforts such as this that our parents can remain well-connected to this important ministry and that the ministry itself can be renewed.



Church School Food Drive..... November



In keeping with the command of the Lord to help the poor and needy, our Church School students will be collecting food for a local food pantry and homeless shelter during the month of November. Look for the bags which will be provided to the children during Church School class and start filling them as soon as possible. The food will be given to a local shelter which serves people of this area with a proven financial need. Thank you for your generosity and for helping your children understand the importance of meeting this challenge and call.

St. Lydia's Women's Fellowship . . November 13, 20

The St. Lydia Women's Study Fellowship is a ministry for women to share in fellowship and to study scripture, the Orthodox Faith and family life in today's world. The meetings take place every other week on Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m at a home in the North Hills. New participants are always welcome! The fellowship is enjoyable and the approach is casual, but the subjects are important for today's families. For further information on this worthwhile and informative group or for directions to the meetings, call Stacy Dickos at 412-367-0925. A complete schedule of dates and topics can be found on our web site at www.HolyTrinityPgh.org. For November the topics are as follows:

Nov. 13: On Scripture; How to read the Bible

Nov. 20: "No One Comes to the Father but by Me"

St. Nikodemos Men's Fellowship Nov. 11, 25

The St. Nikodemos Men's Study Fellowship is an Orthodox men's fellowship, study and discussion group which meets **on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at from 12:15 to 12:50 p.m.** at the office of TriadUSA, Suite 460, Two Gateway Center, downtown. The group seeks to provide a regular meeting for working men to discuss issues of faith, work and family. It is open to all interested men and has been centrally located downtown to accommodate easy access for the lunchtime meetings. Each second Tuesday of the month the discussion is focused on a different issue of contemporary life and faith; each fourth Tuesday of the month the men are studying the New Testament Epistles of St. John. For directions, call Gus Georgiadis at 412-880-4999. A complete schedule of dates and topics can be found on our web site at www.HolyTrinityPgh.org.



YOUTH MINISTRY

GOYA Fellowship November 3

The GOYA will hold its monthly fellowship night for November at the home of George and Andrew Athanasiou on Monday, November 3 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. These casual meetings provide an opportunity for discussion, time with friends, questions for Fr. John and other GOYA matters as needed. For information, contact George Athanasiou at 412-322-6002. (Pictured below is the October meeting.)



News & Events

COMMUNITY NEWS

Fall Community Homeless Outreach. Nov. 15

Holy Trinity Church has been blessed once again with the opportunity to host the "Feed the Homeless" Outreach event. You may remember the last event in the spring, when our parish, which so often asks for the support of the community around us for the Festival, Wednesday Lunch, etc., instead offered our facilities to the Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood and opened its doors to the poor and needy the Lord commands us to serve in His name.

Now, returning to that blessing, on Saturday, November 15, the Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood will again sponsor a sit-down lunch for the homeless here at Holy Trinity Social Hall from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. This philanthropic outreach will be sponsored by various Orthodox parishes in the area, who will bring food and provide volunteers to set up, clean up and serve. In addition to offering the use of our hall, it is important that the Holy Trinity community steps forward to serve. If you would like to help by cooking, serving or donating, please contact Julie or Mike Kritiotis at 412-766-5001.

Canned or packaged food donations are also being collected for the Pittsburgh Community Food Bank and may be brought to the church any time before or on November 15. During the Fast of the Nativity season when we are called to prayer, fasting and almsgiving, this is truly a wonderful way to fulfill the commandment of Jesus Christ: "As you did it to these, the least of my brethren, you did it to Me" (Mt. 25.40).

Philoptochos Holiday Bake Sale

The Philoptochos is currently taking orders for its annual Holiday Bake Sale. An order form is included in this issue of *The Herald*. The deadline for placing order is November 12; orders may be picked up December 14 or 17. Thank you for supporting the philanthropic work of the Philoptochos ministry!

Christmas Card/Poinsettia Forms Due Dec. 6

Sponsor forms for both the Holy Trinity Community Christmas Card and the Christmas Poinsettias have been included in the current issue of *The Herald*. Please note that the deadline for submitting the forms, along with your donation, is December 6.

LITURGICAL LIFE

Weekday Services. November

Please take note of the following weekday Liturgies

for the feast days in the month of October. Starting November 1, is at 9:00 a.m., followed by Divine Liturgy at 10:00.

Entrance of the Theotokos Fri. Nov. 21

St. Katherine the Great Martyr Tue. Nov. 25

10:00 Winter Hours Begin November 1

As previously announced, Winter Hours will take effect from November 1 through March 31. During this time, Orthros will be held at 9:00 a.m., followed by Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

REGIONAL EVENTS

Orthodox Speaker/Teen Event November 7/8

The Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood of Greater Pittsburgh is sponsoring a weekend event with well-known Orthodox Christian author Frankie Schaeffer and Orthodox contemporary musician Jon Peter Gilquist. On Friday evening at 7:00, Mr. Schaeffer will speak and sign copies of his new book, *Keeping Faith*. On Saturday morning, there will be Divine Liturgy at 9:00 a.m., followed by a day of talks, activities and music. A flyer with a detailed schedule is enclosed.

SACRAMENTAL REGISTRY

Baptisms

The servant of God, Massimo Ferrari, son of Matthew and Melissa (Manesiotis) Ferrari, was received into the Holy Orthodox Christian Faith through the Holy Mystery of Baptism on October 5. The Godparent was Anastasia Martin. May God grant him many years!

Weddings

The servants of God, Gregory Pefferman and Kelly Karavolos, were united and crowned in the Holy Sacrament of Marriage on October 12, 2003, with His Eminence Metropolitan Maximos presiding. The Koumbaro was George Kostos. May God grant them many years!

Funerals

The servant of God, Chris Kosmakos, fell asleep in the Lord on October 2. The Funeral was held at Holy Trinity Church on October 6, followed by interment at Holy Trinity Cemetery.

The Funeral Service for the servant of God, Steve Stavros, who recently fell asleep in Florida on October 13, was held at Holy Trinity Church on October 18, followed by interment at Holy Trinity Cemetery.

May their memory be eternal!

Mouse Tales: The St. Spyridon Church School Library Update

Hi! It's me Spero! Here to wish you a happy, happy November. A house full of relatives and a house full of cheer can only mean that Thanksgiving is here! It is a day to recognize all of the good things or blessings that we have in our lives and to offer prayers of thanks for those blessings. Did you know that the first Thanksgiving was celebrated in the year 1621? A group of people called pilgrims had left their homes in England to come to this new world we now call America. They learned to survive with the help of the Indians. The Indians taught them how to plant and harvest crops, fish, and hunt for food. The year ended with a great harvest and they decided to invite the Indians to the feast to show appreciation for their help.



Today many people celebrate by doing special things on this day. Some people start the preparation days in advance by cooking and baking special foods like pumpkin or apple pies, along with this comes Yiayia's great stories and the great smells that radiate throughout the home! Some start with a school pageant the day before. Then, on the day of Thanksgiving comes the turkey, stuffing, potatoes, salads, etc. including the relatives, like fun loving cousins Theo and Thitsa. Then there is the Turkey Bowl, and we know that some of you know what that is! After dinner there is the forever turkey snooze! After everything is cleaned up and the relatives are gone we then have time to ponder the days events and really thank God for bringing us to this great county we call America and for our families and friends.

I have a new book "Thanksgiving Day at Our House" by Nancy White Curlstom. This is for my precious little 3-6 year olds. This book offers a peek into one families holiday celebration. Whether for rhyming or singing or simply saying grace, these warm cozy poems show that there are lots of ways to give thanks and so many things to be thankful for! Ending the celebration with the poem "The Good-night Prayer!"

I also have a new special series of books on order for the older children. The name of the series is called Teachable Moments Cookbooks. There are four in the series and they will help you to learn important values as well as fun recipes. Look for more information to follow.

So, be thankful for what God has given you. Sometimes it may not be easy, because we take what we have for granted ... and we take the persons around us for granted as well. What matters most is to be thankful for what you have and to not worry about to what you wish you had. There are others with so much less! Recognize what others do for you and all that you have been given and express your thanks often!

In Christ
Love Spero

Parish Council Update - September 2003

This abbreviated review of the Parish Council minutes is provided as a way of keeping our Holy Trinity parishioners informed of the active work of the Parish Council. Want to get involved? Contact any Parish Council member. Thank you to our Parish Council secretary, Maria Kraniou, for provided these condensed minutes for the Herald.

Call to Order

The regular monthly meeting of the Parish Council of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church was held on Tuesday, September 22, 2003, at the Church Library, pursuant to notice duly given to all members. A quorum being present, the meeting was opened with a prayer by Father John Touloumes.

President's Welcome and Correspondence

Dr. Balouris reviewed the correspondence, including a letter from the Diocesan Stewardship Committee describing our assessment for the year.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the meeting from the June, 2003, meeting. Unanimously approved.

Father John's Report

Several ministries such as JOY, GOYA, St. Lydia and St. Nicodemus groups are off to a good start. Spiro's Library will be moving to the social hall. The Diocese Clergy-Laity Assembly and the Metropolitan's 25th anniversary of his enthronement in our Diocese will be held on October 30-31. The starting time for Liturgy was discussed and community input to Father John and Parish Council members was reviewed. It was agreed that effective immediately, Divine Liturgy would follow the following schedule: 10:00 a.m. from November through March and 9:30 a.m. from April through October.

Financial Update

Mike Kritiotis presented the P & L Previous Year Comparison from January through July 2003.

Committee Reports:

Social: The church's 80th Anniversary Dance made a net profit of \$1200.20. Taki & the Grecian Keys are tentatively booked for New Year's Eve. Heinz Field is not an option this year, so the committee is looking at other venues.

Maintenance: 130 chair cushions have been replaced, with 333 more to be replaced. Allegheny Refrigeration has completed the new freezer project.

Vision Committee: George Dickos informed us that the Roosevelt Road property has been taken off the market, as the owner will develop it himself. The committee is researching two other properties on Reis Run Road.

Catering Committee: Evan Kaparakos submitted information that he has several events lined up, and he is projecting good revenues for the remainder of this year and next year.

Festival Committee: A financial statement will be prepared for the General Assembly. Harry Athanasiou stepped down as Festival chairman for next year, and Maria Kraniou stepped down from the Festival Ad Book.

Church Secretary Compensation

A motion was made to increase secretary's salary. Vote taken and motion passed. The increase will be retroactive to July 1.

Old Business/New Business

The new Holy Trinity Photo Directories have been received and will be distributed. The next General Assembly will be on November 9. An item will be put on the agenda to raise the limit that the PC can spend without General Assembly approval to \$10,000. A nominating committee will be set up for the upcoming elections. The Parish Council Seminar will be on Wednesday, November 19 at Canonsburg.

The next meeting date was set for Tuesday, October 14, 2003 at 7:00. A motion was made to adjourn. The meeting adjourned with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria Kraniou, Secretary

Gheronda's Corner

Part of a regular series of contributions by our resident "Gheronda" (respected elder clergy), Father John Androutsopoulos



**Father John
Androutsopoulos**

A Modern Day Parable for Parents

Once upon a time there was a young man who, after completing his college education, went into his chosen profession. He was the pride of his folks. Then, one day, he announced to his parents an important decision he has

come to. He had decided to drop the Faith that he had been raised in. He had embraced a new religion, a more important one, demanding more time and sacrifice and money and dedication. But he was willing to give each of these because this new-found religion gave him a fulfillment which was indescribable.

The parents were shocked to hear these words from their son for whom they had worked hard to raise. They were average parents, no richer, and no poorer than others. And yet, here was their pride and joy renouncing the Faith in which they had raised him. "Why are you doing this to us?" they asked.

"Surely it can't be as serious as all that?" the son retorted. "You sound as though I am doing something disgraceful and disrespectful, that I am somehow letting you down. If what I am doing is so serious, why didn't you tell me about your church when I was a child? If it is so important now, why wasn't it important when I was a child?"

"I can only recall being dropped off on Sunday morning to attend Sunday School. You never attended Church services on Sundays, unless it was a special holiday like Christmas and Easter, or a Memorial Service for someone in the family or someone you knew. Then too, there was the Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals. I suppose those should be counted too."

"But I do not remember even attending the Divine Liturgy with you, together as a family. In fact, I can remember quite vividly both of you saving you had to rest on Sunday; that it was the only day you had to catch up on your sleep; that you didn't care to go and sit in the pew with all those hypocrites pretending to be good Christians."

"If your Church was so important as you now say it is, why did you and Mom complain so much that the Church was always asking for money? Didn't you say

what you gave was enough and that nobody was going to tell you how to support the Church and when to support it?"

"You always said, 'Let the big shots and the people with lots of money do the work.' This new and exciting religion I joined asks for equal sacrifice and dedication from everyone!. They practice tolerance and understanding. You always taught me never to trust anyone – including the Church!"

"I am confident you will understand why I have come to this decision."

Anonymous



"Know that the Lord he is God: it is He that has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, and bless His name. For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endures to all generations" (Psalm 100:3-5).



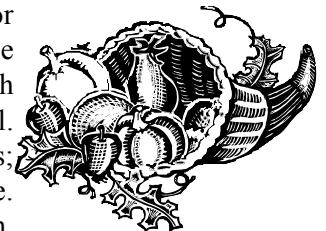
"In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

Our offerings show the degree of thankfulness in our hearts. If we love much, we give much, If we are truly thankful, we will show it by our cheerful giving.

Pilgrims had much for which to be thankful. The Spaniards came here for gold, but the Pilgrims came for God. We also have much for which to be thankful. Count your many blessings; name them one by one. Ingratitude is a hurting sin.

Learn to say thank you easily. Be gracious, always. "Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving" (Psalm 95:2).

Christian, be kind, humble, meek, patient, forbearing, forgiving, and loving. Receive peace from God, be at peace with men, and be thankful. (Colossians 3:15).



*With His love and blessings,
Rev. Fr. John K. Androutsopoulos*

The Cultural Side • Η Πολιτιστική Πλευρά

A Greek language offering of prose and prayer in celebration of the Feast of Saint Gerasimos of Cephalonia, October



Voula Hareras

Ο Άγιος Γερασιμος εν Κεφαλληνία

Ο Άγιος Γερασιμος
εγεννηθη στα Τρικκαλα
Πελοποννησου.

Οι Γονεις του ητο πολυ
ευσεβης. Ο Πατερας του
Δημητριος Νοταρας και η

Μητερα του Καλη. Εδωσαν Χριστιανικη ανατροφη
στον νεαρο Γερασιμο ηταν οικογενια πλουσια και
ευγενικησκαταγωνης.

Ο Νεαρος ομως Γερασιμος απαρνηθηκε ολα τα
αγαθα και περιοδευε διδασκον και διδασκομενος τα
ιερα Γραμματα. Πρωτα πηγε στην Ζακηνθο, κατοπιν
εις Θεσσαλια, απο εκει στον ευξινον ποντο, μετα στο
Βυζαντιο, προτοντιδα, και Χαλκηδονα, ερχεται στο
Αγιον Ορος, για αρκετο διαστημα προσευχομενος.
Κατοπιν περιοδευσε τους Αγιους Τοπους της
Ιερουσαλημ κατοπιν το Σιναιον, Αντιοχειαν,
Αλεξανδρεια, Δαμασκο, και ολοκληρον Αιγυπτο και
Λιβυην.

Εις τα Ιεροσολυμα Χειροτονειται παρα του
Πατριαρχου Γερμανου, υπηρετησε 12 χρονια τον
πατριαρχη, κατοπιν εβαπτισθη στον Ιορδανην Ποταμο,
και ξεκινα για καινουργια περιοδεια.

Εφθασε στην Κρητη, και απο εκει παλι στην
Ζακηνθο, συνεχως νηστευων και προσευχομενος, απο
εκει πηγε στην Κεφαλλονια μπηκε σε ενα σπηλαιον
κοντα στο Αργοστολι με συνεχεις προσευχες,
κατοπιν πηγε στην Τοποθεσια Ομαλα που ηταν ενα
ερημοκλησακι το οποιο ανανεωσε εκ θεμελιων και
το εκαμε σιγα σιγα γυναικειον Μοναστηρι, το ονομασε
Νεα Ιερουσαλημ εκει ασκητευσε Προσευχομενος και
εργαζομενος σκληρα, νηστευοντας μονον κολοκυθακια
βραστα και οσπρια ηταν η τροφη του. Ο κοσμος αρχισε
να πηαινει για την ευλογια του. Διοτι ο Μεγαλος Θεος
εισακουοντας της προσευχες του, ελαβε την δωρεα
του Αγιου Πνευματος, για ολες τις ασθενειες, την
μεγαλη ομως χαρη την εκει να εκβαλη τα δαιμονια
απο τους βασανισμενους ανθρωπους.

Αναριθμητα ειναι τα Θαυματα του Αγιου τα οποια
συνεχιζονται μεχρι σημερα. Ο Άγιος εκοιμηθη το
ετος 1579 στις 15 Αυγουστου, επειδη ομως την ιδια
ημερα εορταζεται η Κοιμησις της Θεοτοκου γιαυτο η
μνημη του μετετεθη στις 20 Οκτωβριου. Οπου και
εορταζεται, μεγαλοπρεπως στο Νησι, και χιλιαδες
προσκυνητες καταβανουν τοτε και αρρωστοι πολλοι
παρακαλωντας τον Άγιο για την θεραπεια τους.

Ευχομαι η ευλογια του Αγιου να ειναι παντοτε μαζυ
σας.

Βουλα Χαρερα

Μια Προσευχη Στον Άγιο Γερασιμο

*Ω, Αγιε Γερασιμε, προστατη του νησιου μας,
που θεραπευεις τη ψυχη, το σωμα και το νου μας.*

*Ευλαβικα και ταπεινα, γονυπετω μπροστα σου,
και σεβομαι και προσκυνω, το Άγιο σκηνωμα σου.*

*Δεν σουχω φερει, Αγιε, λαμπαδες και λιβανι,
με τη ψυχη μου σ αγαπω, κι αυτο νομιζω φτανει.*

*Και στεκομαι γονατιστη, μπροστα στον Άγιο θρονο,
και σε θερμοπαρακαλω, να γιανεις καθε πονο.*

*Δωσε ζανα την ιαση, σε κεινους που πονανε,
και σε παρακαλανε, να παρεις το κακο.*

*Στη χηρα και στο ορφανο, δωσε χαρα στα χειλη,
και στείλε σαν καντηλι, μια λαμψη στο τυφλο.*

*Βοηθα και τους ναυτικους, μη ναυαγουν στα ξενα,
και αξιωσε τους να αρχονται, να προσκυνουν Εσενα.*

*Αυτους που λειπουν φυλαγε, και φερτους πισω
ολους,
οπου και αν ευρισκονται, στους δυο της γης τους
πολους.*

*Αυτοι που ζουνε μακρια, σε νοιωθουνε κοντα τους,
προστατη, φυλακα, αγγελο, σ αυτους και τα παιδια
τους.*



*Φυλαγε τη
Κεφαλλονια, που
τοσο αγαπουμε,
σεισμοι, λοιμοι
και συμφορες,
να μην την
ζαναβρουνε.*

*Ναι, Αγιε
Γερασιμε,
Μεγαλη σου η
Χαρη,
σ εχουμε στη
Κεφαλλονια,
τιμη μας και
καμαρι.*

Βουλα Χαρερα

The Cultural Side • Η Πολιτιστική Πλευρά



Maria Kraniou

THE STRUGGLE TO BRING BACK THE PARTHENON MARBLES

After 200 years in British captivity, it is time for the gods and heroes looted from the Parthenon to return home.

The dispute over whether the Seventh Earl of Elgin acted properly when he had the carved marble statues hacked off the temple “for their own protection” in 1801 has enlivened the worlds of arts and politics for decades.

Melina Mercouri’s personal crusade to return the marbles defined her term as Greek minister of culture. Both Keats and Byron were poetically moved upon viewing them. Now as Athens readies itself to host the 2004 Summer Olympics, there is a strong feeling that the Elgin Marbles should be part of the pomp.

The British Museum, which holds 247 feet of carved frieze and 17 statues, insists it will not return the marbles to Greece, even for a loan. But the Greek government is forging ahead with a \$100 million Acropolis museum to house them.

As with all things related to the marbles, the museum construction itself is causing controversy, with critics claiming that the site excavation is disturbing other archeological treasures.

But the new museum—assuming it is completed on time—should answer a chief claim of the British: that Greece cannot properly care for the marbles.

No one is saying every treasure acquired under questionable circumstances should be returned to its country of origin. If that were so, most great museums would have to dismantle their collections.

Still, some items are so iconic of a culture

that they lose meaning when displayed out of context. George Papandreou, the Greek foreign minister, has testified that, “Sure, Greece has many priceless antiquities. But we are talking about the greatest national symbol of Greece, the works attributed to the sculptor Phidias in the 5th century BC.”

At a minimum, Britain should entertain a temporary compromise. Perhaps the British Museum could loan the marbles for an agreed period, or perhaps just a selection of the statues could be released.

The British have been good stewards, but 21st-century Greece is at least as capable as was 19th-century England. We agree with the sentiments attributed to Sir Roger Casement, an Irish revolutionary about the time of the First World War:

*“Give back the marbles,
let them vigil keep.
Where art still lies,
over Phidias’ tomb, asleep.”*

The Boston Globe



PARTHENON FAST FACTS

WHEN BUILT: 447-438 B.C.

BUILT UNDER RULER: PERICLES

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: DORIC

MATERIAL: WHITE PENTELIC MARBLE

HISTORY OF USE:

438 BC: PAGAN TEMPLE

450 AD: GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

1204 AD: ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

1458 AD: TURKISH MOSQUE

1687 AD: MUNITIONS STOREHOUSE

(SEVERELY DAMAGED IN ATTACK)

The Holy Trinity Agape Fund: Offerings of Love

Holy Trinity Church Puts the Gospel into Action With New Philanthropic Ministry

What is the Agape Fund?

The Holy Trinity Agape Fund was created in obedience to the Holy Gospel's exhortation to reach out to all people in need and as part of implementing the Mission Statement unanimously adopted by the Holy Trinity Parish General Assembly on November 19, 1999, which includes "An outreach ministry which fulfills the command of Jesus Christ to reach out to the sick and needy, to serve the least of our brethren, and to spread the Gospel both locally and throughout the world."

How Did It Start?

The Holy Trinity Agape Fund was established in November, 2002, through an endowment gift from the James G. Paras Memorial Endowment Fund of \$125,000.00, offered in thanks back to the Lord in accordance with the biblical tradition of offering a "tithe" (a tenth) of our first-fruits to the Lord (Lev. 27.30).

How Does It Operate?

Administered by the Priest, reviewed regularly by an Agape Fund Committee comprised of members of the parish and audited by an independent outside auditor annually, this fund is used to assist needy families, charitable agencies, church-related institutions, parish ministries and to foster and promote forms of outreach and assistance compatible with the teachings of the Orthodox Christian faith in fulfillment of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

What are the Guidelines?

The Agape Fund Guidelines, unanimously approved by the Parish Council in February, 2003, provide procedures, regulations and safeguards to ensure the secure and accountable operation of the fund both currently and into the future. The following text provides a summary of each section of the Guidelines. The full text is available from the church office.

Section I: The Agape Fund Committee

The Agape Fund Committee consists of five members: the Priest as the permanent head of the committee, two members from the community appointed by the Priest with the approval of the Parish Council and two members from the Parish Council. Each of the appointed members serves a one-year term. The Committee meets twice annually to review the operation of the Fund, review reports (*which maintain donor and recipient confidentiality*), review requests for special disbursements and review the annual independent audit.

Section II: Agape Fund Accounts

The Agape Fund consists of two accounts: a) the Agape Fund Endowment, managed by the Parish Council's Investments Committee and secured from direct check-writing access; and b) the Agape Fund Account,

which is used by the Priest for the deposit of donations and disbursement of funds.

Section III: Records and Reports

A detailed record of all donations received and disbursements made is kept and presented in summary form annually to the Parish Council and the Parish General Assembly. Individual recipient names are confidential.

Section IV: Procedures for Disbursement

Disbursements of up to \$500 (for individuals) or \$200 (for organizations) may be made based on need as determined by the Priest; disbursements over those amounts require approval of the Agape Fund Committee, except in cases of the distribution of funds designated by donors for a specific purpose. All disbursements are made by check. They may not be made to the Priest, his family or the Agape Fund Committee members except in cases of verified reimbursements.

Section V: Sources of Funds

One-half the annual income from the Agape Fund Endowment shall be transferred to the Agape Fund Account each year to provide operating funds. The Endowment principal may not be touched, except in a tightly-defined "catastrophic" situation. Additional contributions may be received from the Parish budget, Parish organizations and private donations of individuals or groups. The Agape Fund may also receive designated donations which are "earmarked" for specific individuals or causes and treated as "pass-through" donations.

Section VI: Priority of Disbursements

Priorities for disbursements of non-designated funds start with local needy individuals, followed by local, national and international ministries and causes.

Section VII: Audits

The Agape Fund is officially audited each year by a paid professional independent auditor with no parishioners involved with the audit to ensure confidentiality and accountability, and an annual Audit Report is prepared to verify the results of the audit.

How Can I Help?

The establishment of the Agape Fund signals a major step forward in the spiritual life and Christian responsibility of the Holy Trinity community for which our loving Lord is to be rightly glorified. You can help by remembering the commandment of Christ to serve others by sending donations to the "Holy Trinity Agape Fund" at 302 W. North Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15212, as an offering of your own thanksgiving to the Lord and your desire to share your blessings with others in a meaningful way. Also, if you or someone you know needs help, please contact Father John with a confidential request; doing so helps turn love into action!

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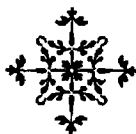
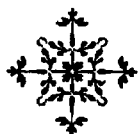
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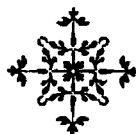
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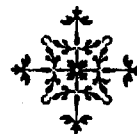


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THE CHURCH IS A SPIRITUAL PORT

Churches resemble ports in the ocean, which God has placed in cities—spiritual ports—wherein whoever of us takes refuge finds indescribable calmness of soul, made dizzy from worldly business. And precisely as a calm and waveless port offers safety to the boats docked there, so also the Church saves from the storm of earthly cares whoever hastens to it, and grants the believers to stand securely and listen to the word of God with great calmness.

The Church is the foundation of virtue and the school of spiritual life. Just cross its threshold at any time, and immediately you forget daily cares. Pass inside, and a spiritual ray will surround your soul. This stillness causes awe and teaches the Christian life. It raises up your train of thought and doesn't allow you to remember present things. It transports you from earth to Heaven. And if the gain is so great when a worship service is not even taking place, just think, when the Liturgy is performed—and the prophets teach, the Apostles preach the Gospel, Christ is among the believers, God the Father accepts the performed sacrifice, and the Holy Spirit grants His own rejoicing—what great benefit floods those who have attended church as they leave the church.



The joy of anyone who rejoices is preserved in the Church. The gladness of the embittered, the rejoicing of the saddened, the refreshment of the tortured, the comfort of the tired, all are found in the Church. Because Christ says, "Come to me, all who are tired and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28). What is more longed for than [to hear] this Voice? What sweeter than this invitation? The Lord is calling you to a Banquet when he invites you to church. He urges you to be comforted from toils and He transports you to a place of comfort from pain, because He lightens you from the burden of sins. He heals distress with spiritual enjoyment, and sadness with joy.

Saint John Chrysostom, 4th Century A.D.

(Translated by Fr. Nicholas Palis)