



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

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**OPENING OF THE DOORS  
SERVICE AT ST. GEORGE**

# THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

1923 · EIGHTY-THREE YEARS OF MINISTRY · 2006

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

April 2006

[www.HolyTrinityPgh.org](http://www.HolyTrinityPgh.org)

Volume 14 – Issue 4

Come receive  
the light from  
the unwaning light  
and glorify  
Christ,  
Who is risen  
from the dead!



## Father John's Message

### THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

Parish Newsletter of  
Holy Trinity  
Greek Orthodox Church  
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#### Publication Schedule

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This issue of  
The Herald  
is sponsored by  
Gus and Vicky  
Bellios  
in memory of  
their parents  
George and Maria  
Toumba  
May their memory  
be eternal!



"Lift up your heads, O gates! and  
be lifted up, O ancient doors! that  
the King of glory may come in."

(Psalm 24.7)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

When I was a child, one of the most memorable experiences I had was the opening of the doors of what was at that time the new Holy Trinity Cathedral in Camp Hill, my home parish. I remember the pounding on the door with the episcopal staff and the proclamation from Psalms quoted above. It was both dramatic and spiritually awe-inspiring.

One does not often get to experience that event, since it is only done once in the life of a church building, but here at Holy Trinity Church, we have that opportunity on April 24, Bright Monday and the Feast of Saint George. It will be the official "Opening of the Doors" of our new Saint George Chapel, and it marks the culmination of a number of "openings" that must be taking place both in the community and in our hearts if we are to fully appreciate and be blessed by them:

§ **The Opening of Spring** .. and the beauty of God's creation awakening to shine forth his glorious artwork of nature. They are a constant reminder of His magnificent power and creative love: "at the works of Your hands I sing for joy. How great are thy works, O Lord!" (Psalm 92.4).

§ **The Opening of the Tomb** .. as we celebrate the victorious, divine and eternal life-giving Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. In doing so, we rejoice the gift of the "eternal spring" in the Kingdom of Heaven.

§ **The Opening of a New Era** .. in the life of the Holy Trinity community as we grow into the greater life of being a parish with two Churches. This is not just about buildings; it is about opening wide the doors of this community of faith for all and growing into the fullness of the life to which we have been called as an Orthodox Christian community of faith.

... and, perhaps the key to all of the above ...

§ **The Opening of Our Hearts** .. in thanksgiving to the gifts that our loving Lord has brought to this community and to the calling He has placed on each of us to be an important part of continuing to grow in brightness and zeal as a light of Christ in this Pittsburgh area.

May our Risen Lord make of worthy of them all!  
Christ is risen! Truly He is risen!

## News & Events

### EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES

#### No Church School Palm Sun., Pascha . . . April 16, 23

Please remember that there is no Church School class on the great feasts of Palm Sunday (April 16) and Pascha (April 23), but that is so all our children can attend the complete celebration of the feasts with their families. We look forward to seeing all our children throughout the Holy Week and Paschal services as much as possible. (Please note: Church School Mission Boxes should be returned on Palm Sunday.)

#### St. Lydia's Orthodox Women's Fellowship . . . . . April

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 the home of Jan Petredis in Wexford. New participants are always welcome! The fellowship is enjoyable and the approach is casual, but the subjects are important for today's women and families. Due to Holy Week and Pascha, there is only one meeting this month: April 6.

This year's theme is a Bible Study of Saint Paul's Epistles to the Corinthians. The study guide being used is a new publication, "First and Second Corinthians: Straight From the Heart." It approaches the study with an easy-to-understand method intended for all people. For further information on this worthwhile and informative group or for directions to the meetings, call Stacy Dickos at 412-367-0925.

#### St. Nikodemos Men's Study Fellowship . . . . . Lent

The St. Nikodemos Men's Study Fellowship is an pan-Orthodox Christian men's fellowship, study and discussion group which meets in the 4th floor Conference Room of Two Gateway Center, downtown. The group seeks to provide a regular meeting for working men to discuss issues of faith, work and family and is hosting a special Lenten study series, "Our Father: A Spiritual Journey for Men" on the Tuesdays of Lent from 12 noon to 1:00 p.m. The remaining dates are April 4 & 11.

### HOLY WEEK & PASCHAL EVENTS

#### Back To Our Orthodox Roots Retreat . . . . . April 14

The Greek Orthodox parishes of the Greater Pittsburgh area are sponsoring the annual "Back to Our Orthodox Roots" Retreat for teens this year on Friday, April 14 (Western Good Friday), 11:00 a.m. through 3:00 p.m., at The Holy Nativity of the Theotokos Monastery, 121 Saint Elias Lane in Saxonburg, PA. The theme for

the event is "Miracles and Icons of the Theotokos from Throughout the World."

The event will feature a prayer service, a scripture walk, and light lenten meal and time with Gherontissa Theophano and Father Demetrios Carellas. Flyers have been mailed directly to our GOYAns. There is no charge for the event, but reservations are requested at [Office@AllSaintsCbg.org](mailto:Office@AllSaintsCbg.org) by Monday, April 10.

#### Saturday of Lazarus . . . . . April 15

The families and children of our Church School will once again attend the Saturday of Lazarus Divine Liturgy on April 15 and prepare the Palm Crosses and cup candles for Holy Week afterwards. Parents, please plan on bringing them and giving them an opportunity to participate. Holy Confession will also be available after the Liturgy for the children first and then adults as well.

*Note:* Since this is Western Easter weekend, most activities such as sports and other practices are not being held, so please make it a priority to use the time for helping your Church prepare for Holy Week ... and doing so for yourself as well by being there as a family!

#### Holy Week Schedule of Services

This issue of *The Herald* contains a complete schedule of service for Holy Week. Please post it in a conspicuous place in your home. Circle the services you are able to attend and place them on your schedule. Talk about them and make plans with your family. As the hymn from the Book of Psalms tells us during the Great Compline service, "God is with us." Holy Week provides us a special time to be with Him. See you there!

#### Make Plans for the Anastasi Dinner . . . . . April 22

Don't forget to make plans to attend the Resurrection Liturgy and Dinner at Holy Trinity Church, Saturday evening, April 22/Sunday, April 23. Following the liturgical celebration of the Resurrection, join your family, friends and other members of Holy Trinity to break the fast and celebrate the feast in our church hall. We will be serving lamb, "avgolemono" soup, bread, cheese and olives and "paximadia." Free-will offerings will be accepted to help cover the costs of the meal.

#### Agape Vespers & Paschal Candy Hunt . . . . . April 23

The Church School ministry is again sponsoring the annual Paschal Candy Hunt on the lawn of the church (weather permitting) on Pascha following the Agape Vespers Service at 1:00 p.m. All the children are invited to come for this beautiful and bright service. It is an especially good way for those with small children who are not able to attend the midnight service to share in a

## News & Events

special celebration of Pascha with their little ones.

### Saint George Chapel "Opening of the Doors" Apr. 24

Please see the enclosed flyer and the information on the back page of this issue for important information on the official "Opening of the Doors" Service for our new chapel to be held on the Feast Day of Saint George at the Saint George Chapel at Holy Trinity Cemetery. Please note that reservations for the luncheon are requested by Friday, April 21 to Nikki Marsh at 724-625-2729.

### COMMUNITY LIFE

### Lenten Soup & Sauces Sales . . . Weekly During Lent

The GOYA is once again offering its very popular Lenten soups and sauces during the Sundays of Lent. Among the many good reasons to buy some to take home are that they are strict Lenten recipes, they provide fund-raising support for our GOYA ministry ... and they taste great! Don't forget to stock up for Holy Week!

### FUNERALS AND MEMORIALS

#### Vellis

The servant of God, Helen Vellis, fell asleep in the Lord on March 17. The Funeral was held at Holy Trinity Church on March 22, followed by interment at the Saint George Chapel at Holy Trinity Cemetery. A 40 day Memorial is scheduled for May 14. May her memory be eternal! (Note: This was the first interment at the new Saint George Chapel.)

#### Kourakos

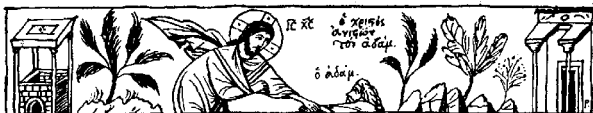
The servant of God, Peter Kourakos, fell asleep in the Lord on March 17, followed within a day by the repose of his mother, Mary Kourakos, who fell asleep in the Lord on March 18. Their double-funeral was held at the Saint George Chapel at Holy Trinity Cemetery on March 23, followed by interment at Holy Trinity Cemetery. A 40 day Memorial is scheduled for May 7. May their memory be eternal! (Note: This was the first ever double funeral in the life of Holy Trinity Church and the first Funeral Service at the Saint George Chapel.)

### Upcoming Memorials

**April 9:** His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos (1 year)

**May 7:** Mary and Peter Kourakos (40 days); Sarah Scopelitis (1 year)

**May 14:** Helen Vellis (40 days)



# SUMMER CAMP 2006 INFO!

## ATTENTION SUMMER CAMP PARENTS: THIS IS REALLY IMPORTANT INFORMATION!

Summer Camp 2006 is not that far away! As always, our Metropolis has requested each parish to support this important ministry. At Holy Trinity, this takes the form of parish grants offered to the campers of our parish, thanks to the generous support of the Philoptochos, the Parish Council and other donors (see below). This program resulted in tremendous Summer Camp attendance last year, with 32 children attending from Holy Trinity (one of the highest parishes in the Metropolis!).

**Important:** In order to qualify for the largest discount, parents of children who participate in our Church School ministry and JOY/GOYA ministries must submit a copy of their mailed child(ren)'s camp application(s) to the Church Office by April 18 to indicate that their child(ren) will be attending. (Only the application page, not the medical form). Late applications will not qualify for the Holy Trinity discount. (Please note: our "Holy Trinity" weeks this year are Week I for JOY and Week IV for GOYA.)

The original application(s), payment & medical form(s) must be mailed directly to the Metropolis postmarked by April 18 for the best discount. Enclose a check for the "Net fee" amount listed below and check the "Parish Scholarship" box in the financial section of the form to indicate that balance of payment from Holy Trinity is to follow. Once again, here is the list of "discounts" and deadlines (it will really pay to meet the April 18 deadline!):

### Postmarked by April 18:

Initial Fee .....	\$300.00
Less Metropolis early reg. discount.....	-\$25.00
Less Holy Trinity grant .....	-\$100.00
<b>Net fee</b> if postmarked <b>by April 18</b> .....	<b>\$175.00</b>

### Postmarked after May 18:

Initial Fee .....	\$325.00
No Metropolis discount .....	\$-0.00
No Holy Trinity grant .....	-\$0.00
<b>Net fee</b> if postmarked <b>after May 18</b> .....	<b>\$325.00</b>

*Attention donors: If you would like to make a contribution toward helping our parish's children attend this important experience, please contact Fr. John.*



## Gheronda's Corner

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



**Father John  
Androutsopoulos**

### Christ Was Crucified! Truly Was Crucified!

My beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today we are going to take a fantastic journey to Calvary. Calvary—Golgotha—which means "The Place of the Skull." It is:

- *The Place* where the Lamb of God was slain and where the Son of God gave up His life for you and me...
- *The Place* where all the sin of the world was laid on the One who had no sin...
- *The Place* where He was wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities...
- *The Place* where God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.

**"If you are God's Son,  
come down from the Cross."  
(Matthew 27:40)**

The jeers of the passers-by unwittingly touch on the depths of the mystery of the Cross. How could one who was undergoing such a horrible death be the Son of God? How could God made flesh in our midst be ending his life among us in such a way?

The prayers of Jesus in the Garden Of Gethsemane and from the Cross (Jesus spoke seven times from the Cross) give us an insight into this mystery. In the garden, Jesus prayed in great agony, yet He prayed to God as His "ABBA," His loving Father (Mark 14:36).

From the Cross (the fourth saying), Jesus cried out in prayer, "ELI, ELI, LAMA SABACHTHANI," which means, "My God, My God, Why Hast Thou Forsaken Me?" (Matthew 27:46). This cry of Jesus was not a cry of make-believe anguish; Jesus was not simply pretending to be forsaken by His Father. Yet this cry was also paradoxically a prayer of confidence in God, an expres-

sion of Jesus' complete *faith* and *trust* in His Father.

These words of Jesus are the opening of Psalm 22 (in King James/Psalm 21 in the Greek version). Some verses of this Psalm apply prophetically to the crucifixion of Jesus ("They divided my garments among them"), but its meaning for the Crucifixion is more than prophetic. By praying its first words Jesus invoked the whole psalm. Psalm 22 is both a cry to God in anguish beseeching His help, and a hymn of praise to God in thanksgiving for His triumphant victory. It ends with the affirmation, "My soul will live for Him" (verse 30). It is a Psalm of *anguish*, but also a Psalm of *faith*. The Crucifixion was a real and horrible death for Jesus, but also His triumph over death in the power of His Father.

From the cry (*prayer*) of Jesus on the Cross, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken me," many Christians of different denominations believe and teach that Jesus

was forsaken on the Cross by God because you and I have sinned. He bore our sins on the Cross. Some teach that God could not look upon that sin, so He forsook His Son. God turned His back upon Him. Our Orthodox Church does *not* agree with the above explanations.

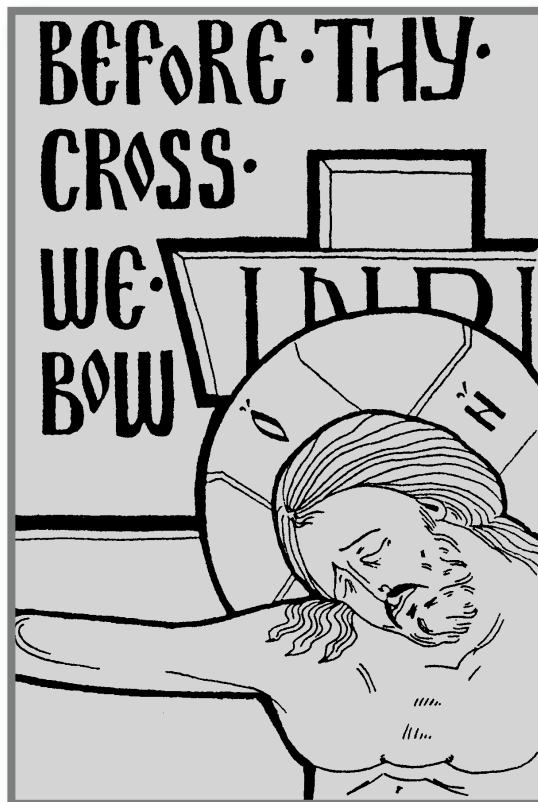
Beloved, slowly reread the Gospel of Matthew, chapters 27, verses 39 to 50. Then turn to Messianic Psalm 22 and read it slowly. Read it as a prayer, as Jesus' prayer to His Father from the Cross. Meditate on the mystery of the Son of God praying this prayer as He died on the Cross for us.

### Christ Is Risen! Truly He Is Risen!

"I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20). The apparent defeat of the Cross ends with the triumph of the Resurrection. We worship a risen Jesus Christ, who not only died for

us but rose from the dead. We are invited to follow Him even to the Cross, so that we might rise to eternal life with Him.

The events of that first Easter morning also have their dimensions of mystery. The women came to the tomb in sorrow, prepared only to anoint Jesus' body. According to Mark's Gospel, they were (continued next page...)



## Holy Trinity Stewardship Pledges Update

*Thank you to the following faithful stewards who have submitted their pledge cards for the 2006 pledge year during the past month. Please join them in their support for the ministries of Holy Trinity and submit your pledge card today! Remember, a current, signed pledge card is required each year as part of maintaining your membership in good standing at Holy Trinity Church.*

Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Andriotis  
Mrs. Christy Andromalos  
Rev. Fr. & Pres. John Androutsopoulos  
Mr & Mrs Harry Athanasiou  
Mr & Mrs Van Backeris  
Dr & Mrs Christ A. Balouris  
Mrs. Katherine Balouris  
Miss Penny Cocheres  
Mr & Mrs Andrew Countouris  
Mr. & Mrs. George Dickos  
Mr. & Mrs. Christian Farmakis  
Mr & Mrs John Fekos  
Mrs Anna Festas  
Mr & Mrs Constantine Fiffas

Mr. John Fries  
Mr & Mrs Markos Gambieris  
Mr Harry Geanopulos  
Mr & Mrs Nicholas Geanopulos  
Mr Troy Geanopulos  
Mr & Mrs Nicholas Gelis  
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Georgiadis  
Mr. & Mrs. Guy Guimond  
Mr. Paul Hareras  
Mrs Voula Hareras  
Mr & Mrs Raymond Jack  
Mrs Kelly Karavolos  
Mr Steve Kish  
Mrs Penelope Komninos

Presvytera Louella Kostopoulos  
Mrs. Fanny Kostos  
Dr & Mrs Dimitris Kraniou  
Mrs Despina Ladakos  
Mrs Maria Motta  
Mr & Mrs John Nychis  
Mr & Mrs John H. Phillips  
Mrs. Sophia Regas  
Mr. & Mrs. Evan Rigas  
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Sarandou  
Mr & Mrs Archie Selevos  
Mr. & Mrs. Alex Trilivas  
Dr & Mrs Antonios Zikos

(...continued) preoccupied with a very practical worry: who would roll away the stone for them, so that they could gain entrance to the tomb? They were hardly ready for what greeted them: an earthquake, an angel of the Lord, a message that Jesus was risen from the dead. They were told to not be afraid when they had every reason to be in fear and awe. When Jesus appeared to them He told them the same thing: "Do not be afraid." And He later told His followers why they could be without fear, no matter the circumstances: "I am with you always." The death and resurrection and ascension of Jesus do not mark His departure from the world but His presence to His followers in a new manner. Death, too, has been transformed by Jesus; His death was victory over death. We need not fear even death itself, because Jesus has crossed that frontier ahead of us and now is at our side.

Beloved, we may praise and glorify our Lord Jesus Christ for His victory over death. Thank Him for accepting the Cross for our sake, so that we might rise and give us *eternal life*.

*Kalo Pascha — Happy Easter  
Christ is Risen!*

*With the Love of the Risen Lord,  
Rev. Fr. John K. Androutsopoulos*

Metropolis of Pittsburgh -  
**You've shown us the future.**  
Keep up the great work!



Hellenic College and Holy Cross can provide more of your shining stars with a small private educational experience that is surprisingly affordable, thanks to generous scholarships.

The only fully accredited Orthodox Christian college in America, Hellenic College serves liberal/conservative students with an undergraduate curriculum of professional preparation in areas that include Elementary Education, Human Development, Management & Leadership, Classics and Religious Studies. Our affiliation with Boston College and Newbury College now gives our students even more options for expanding their horizons. Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology provides graduate students with the foundation they'll need to be future clergy and lay leaders for the Greek Orthodox Church.

So keep up the good work, Pittsburgh. We'll keep on working harder than ever to provide your future stars a great private educational experience, all in an environment that is secure and familylike (just like they've used to back home).

For more information, or to apply, log on to our website: [www.hcyc.edu](http://www.hcyc.edu)  
or call toll-free 1-866-424-2338

**Hellenic College  
& HOLY CROSS**  
Greek Orthodox School of Theology

50 Goddard Avenue, Brookline, MA 02445

## Mouse Tales: The St. Spyridon Church School Library Update

Hello my precious little ones! It's I, Spero!

Happy Easter! This is the month where God shows his love for us in a very special way. During it, we see the story of how He sent his most precious son, Jesus, to die for us so that our sins may be forgiven and we can have eternal life with Him in heaven. I love hearing about it, so I spend a lot of time in church during Holy Week. Unless I can sneak up into the choir loft, please watch out for a little mouse and underfoot take care not to squish me!

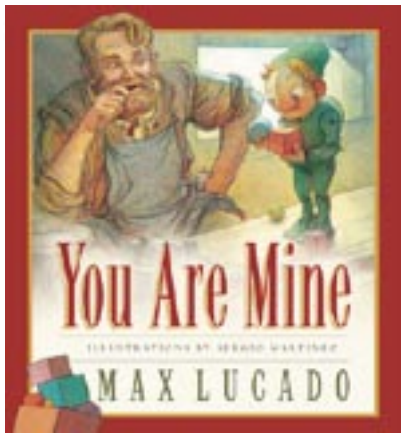
One of my favorite stories is the one in the Old Testament book of Daniel. In this story, three holy children—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—were told that they must obey the laws and worship idols or be thrown into the fire. When the King ordered them to bow down to the idols and when they refused for their disobedience they were thrown into the fiery furnace but the Heavenly King sent an angel to protect them. Not even a hair on their head was touched! At the site of this even the mean King Nebuchadnezzar believed in the miracle and changed his law. We should always obey the law but never turn our backs on God. This story is told on Holy Saturday morning, so come and listen to it with me!

We have another Max Lucado DVD from the best selling book, "You Are Mine." It is a story about contentment. Punchinello never felt that he measured up to the other Wemmicks but the other Wemmicks also felt that they never quite measured up to each other. Every one goes crazy over boxes and balls. They believe a good Wemmick has a lot but a better Wemmick has the most. Therefore, Punchinello sells his home to go and buy more boxes and balls so that he will be accepted by the better Wemmicks. But, only after falling into the hands of his loving creator, Eli, does Punchinello realize that he messed up big time. Eli tells him some one made you just the way that you are and some thinks that you are a star. When you feel lonely and think that no one cares just remember that some one made you and thinks that you are cool. So, he tells him, just be yourself. Some one knows what you need because they love you and sometimes what you think you need you really do not need at all. But most of all, you are still special to me because, "YOU ARE MINE!" I love you and do not forget. Punchinello responds that he does not have many real friends. Eli continues to tell him not to worry and that he may be surprised. Punchinello discovers that true friends will always be there for him and are willing to forgive him. Punchinello happily sings, "I used to think that no one cared and there would be a day no one was there for me, I would be feeling lonely and wouldn't know what to do but, that is before I knew the truth. You think I'm special because you made me. I am special because I belong to you. But, most of all you love me just the way I am. I am precious in your eyes."

So, when you are feeling that no one likes you or cannot accept you for the way that you are, my precious little ones, just take a look around you. In the eyes of God and your parents, you mean everything! They created you. You are special and they know what you need and are there everyday to provide that for you. This includes the basics such as food, clothing, and shelter but also the most important thing: "love."



I can't wait to hold my candle and sing  
"Christ is risen!"



With love in the Risen Christ  
Spero



# Community Life Photo Journal: Couples Night

Highlights from an exciting new event for couples sponsored by Holy Trinity and All Saints Churches



On Feb. 12, both Holy Trinity and All Saints Churches combined to provide a special opportunity for an evening dedicated to the health and growth of our couple's marriages and, of course—as can be seen in these photos—fun!

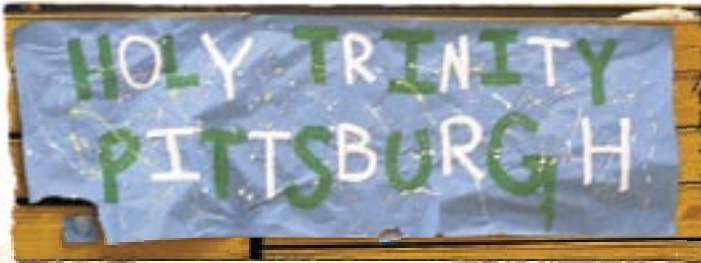
Mark Gungor is a nationally-known pastor and speaker on marriage. Through the work of a full-time ministry, "Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage," he brings a light-hearted and even hilarious approach to the very serious issue of marital relationships and stability. Our parish was blessed to be able to bring a member of his staff to Pittsburgh for the first time with a new large-screen DVD presentation featuring a part of his standard overnight retreat. The topic for the evening was, "A Tale of Two Brains," and it presented some enlightening observations and memorable hints on how to deal with the difference between the way men and women think. We hope to bring more such couples events to the area for the well-being of all our couples and families.





## Community Life Photo Journal: GOYA Volleyball

Highlights from the games of the GOYA Volleyball Tournament at Oakmont, Saturday, March 18, 2006



## The Cultural Side • Η Πολιτιστική Πλευρά



Voula Hareras

### Τό Πρώτο Καριοφίλι Τού Όδυσσέα Άνδρούτσου

Μοναχή της μεγάλωνε τὸ μοναχογιό της ἡ Ἀκριβή, ἡ γυναίκα τοῦ καπετάν Ἀνδρούτσου. Ὁ καπετάνιος φρόντισε νὰ τοὺς μεταφέρει γιὰ ἀσφάλεια στὴν Ἰθάκη, μακριὰ ἀπὸ τὰ ἀντίποινα τῶν

Τούρκων,

ἐνῶ ὁ ἴδιος πολεμοῦσε πότε στὴ στεριά καί πότε στὴ θάλασσα, μαζί μὲ τὸ δοξασμένο θαλασσόλυκο, τὸν Λάμπρο Κατσώνη.

Σὲ κάποιο σύντομο ταξίδι τοῦ στὴν Ἰθάκη ἐγίναν καὶ τὰ βαφτίσια τοῦ παιδιοῦ. Νουνός τοῦ ἦταν ὁ Κατσώνης, ἀλλὰ τοῦ ἔδωσαν τὸ ὄνομα Όδυσσέας, γιὰ νὰ τιμήσουν τὸν ὁμηρικὸ βασιλιά πού τοὺς φιλοξενούσε στὸ νησί του.

Ὁ Όδυσσέας δὲν πρόφθασε νὰ γνωρίσει τὸν πατέρα του. Οἱ Βενετοὶ τὸν συνέλαβαν ὑπούλα καὶ τὸν παρέδωσαν στοὺς Τούρκους, πού τὸν φυλάκισαν στὴν Κωνσταντινούπολη καὶ τέλος τὸν σκότωσαν. Ἡ Ἀκριβὴ πήρε τὸ γιό της καὶ ἐπέστρεψε στὸ πατρικὸ της σπιτί, στὴν Πρέβεζα, ὅπου αἰσθανόταν περισσότερο ἀσφαλισμένη. Φρόντισε νὰ στείλει τὸν Όδυσσέα της σ' ἓναν καλὸ δάσκαλο, νὰ μάθει γράμματα. Ἐπιθυμία τῆς πονεμένης καπετάνισσας ἦταν νὰ μὴν ἀκολουθήσει τὸ παιδί τὸ δρόμο τοῦ πατέρα του.

Προτιμοῦσε νὰ ἀσχοληθεῖ μὲ τὰ γράμματα νὰ μάθει Ἱταλικά καὶ νὰ πάει στὴ Δύση, μακριὰ ἀπὸ τοὺς Τούρκους. Ἀς βοηθοῦσε τὴν πατρίδα του μὲ ἄλλο τρόπο, λιγότερο ἐπικίνδυνο γιὰ τὴ ζωὴ του.

Ἀλλὰ ὁ Όδυσσέας δὲ συμφωνοῦσε μὲ τὰ σχέδια τῆς μητέρας του. Ἐκεῖνος ἤθελε νὰ ἀγωνιστεῖ γιὰ τὴ λευτεριά τῆς πατρίδας του ὅπως ὁ Ἀνδρούτσος καὶ ὁ Κατσώνης. Ἡ μορφή τοῦ ἥρωα πατέρα του, πού περισσότερο τὴ γνώριζε ἀπὸ τίς περιγραφές τῶν ἄλλων, δὲν ἐφευγε ἀπὸ τὴ σκέψη του. Ἀντὶ γιὰ

τὰ βιβλία προτιμοῦσε νὰ καμαρώνει τὰ ὅπλα τοῦ καπετάνιου, πού τὰ φύλαγαν σ' ἓνα δωμάτιο τοῦ σπιτιοῦ, σὰν ἱερὰ κειμήλια. Ὀνειρευόταν τὴν ἡμέρα πού θὰ κρατοῦσε στὰ χέρια του τὸ δικό του ὅπλο, καὶ θὰ μάθαινε σημάδι μ' αὐτὸ καὶ ὄχι μὲ τίς πέτρες, ὅπως μέχρι τώρα.

Τὸ παιδικὸ ὄνειρο πραγματοποιήθηκε πολὺ σύντομα καὶ μ' ἓναν ἀπρόσμενο τρόπο.

Ὁ Όδυσσέας, δωδεκάχρονος πιὰ, ξεχώριζε ἀνάμεσα στὰ συνομήλικά του παιδιὰ γιὰ τὴ δύναμη καὶ τὴν ἀξιοσύνη του. Ἐκεῖ ὅμως πού κανένας δὲν μπορούσε νὰ τὸν συναγωνιστεῖ ἦταν τὸ τρέξιμο. Καμαρώνοντας συνήθιζε νὰ λέει ὅτι μπορούσε νὰ νικήσει στὸ τρέξιμο κι ἓνα ἄλογο.

Τὰ καυχησιάρικα λόγια τοῦ παιδιοῦ ἔφτασαν στ' αὐτιά κάποιου Τούρκου μπέη, πού σκέφτηκε νὰ δώσει ἓνα μάθημα στὸ μικρὸ γκισούρη. Εἶπε ὅτι διαθέτει τὸ δυνατό καὶ γρήγορο ἄλογό του, νὰ συναγωνιστεῖ μὲ τὸν Όδυσσέα. Καί, βέβαιος γιὰ τὸ ἀποτέλεσμα, ὑποσχέθηκε πῶς, ἀν νικήσει ὁ μικρός, θὰ τοῦ χαρίσει ἓνα καριοφίλι.

Ὁ πρωτότυπος ἀγώνας δρόμου ἐγίνε ἐξω ἀπὸ τὴν Πρέβεζα, σὲ μιὰ ἀνηφορία τοῦ Παλιόκαστρου (τῆς ἀρχαίας Νικοπόλεως). Τὸ καημένο τὸ ἄλογο δὲν ἀντέξε μέχρι τὸ τέλος καὶ ὁ Όδυσσέας γύρισε περήφανος ὄχι τόσο γιὰ τὴ νίκη, ὅσο γιὰ τὸ ἐπαθλο. Ὁ μπέης φάνηκε συνεπὴς στὴν ὑπόσχεσή του καὶ τοῦ χάρισε ἓνα ὠραῖο καριοφίλι.

Μετὰ ἀπὸ αὐτὸ ὁ Όδυσσέας ἐκλείσε ὀριστικά τὰ βιβλία, ἀφοῦ καὶ ὁ ἴδιος ὁ δάσκαλος τὸ παραδέχτηκε ὅτι σὲ ἄλλα μαθήματα ἀρίστευε ὁ

μαθητὴς του καὶ τοῦ εἶπε ἐπαινετικά:

Εὐγε, Όδυσσεῦ! Πηδὰς ὡς ἐλάφος, τρέχεις ὡς ἵππος καὶ ἱππεύεις ὡς κένταυρος.

Μ' αὐτὸ τὸ καριοφίλι ἐπαθλο θέλει ἡ παράδοση νὰ μαθαίνει σκοποβολή ὁ Όδυσσέας Ἀνδρούτσος, ὁ μεγάλος ὀπλارχηγὸς τοῦ '21. Μέχρι πού ἦλθε ὁ καιρὸς νὰ φορέσει τὰ τιμημένα ἄρματα τοῦ πατέρα του καὶ νὰ γίνε ὁ ἀρχιστράτηγος τῆς Ρούμελης, ὁ θρύλος τῆς Γραβιάς.

*Μακρίνα*

### Μόχθος

Γεύεσαι τοὺς γλυκοὺς καρπούς,  
θωρεῖς τὰ δένδρα, τοὺς ἀνθούς,  
χαρὰ γιὰ Σένα!

Εἶναι ὁ μόχθος τοῦ καλοῦ,  
εἶναι τὰ χέρια τοῦ Γεωργοῦ  
τὰ εὐλογημένα.

Ὁ μόχθος κάνει τοὺς καρπούς  
ὁ ἰδρώτας ξεπετάει ἀνθούς  
μέσ' ἀπτὰ βράχια!  
καὶ τί φροντίδα περισσὴ  
νὰ γίνουν θάλασσα χρυσὴ  
τούτα τὰ στάχυα!

Δὲν εἶναι θάμα ἀληθινό,  
ν' ἀνέβει ὡς τὸν οὐρανὸ  
λαμπρὸ παλάτι,  
ρίξε στὰ ὕψη μιὰ ματιὰ  
εἰν' ἀπτὸ μόχθο τοῦ σκαφτιά  
καὶ τοῦ ἐργάτη

Εἶναι οἱ ἄνθρωποι, οἱ ἄπλοι,  
πού βγάζουν τίμια τὸ ψωμί,  
μὲ περηφάνια.  
Ζωὴς ἀστείρευτη πηγὴ  
πού γεφυρώσανε τὴ γῆ  
μὲ τὰ οὐράνια.

*Ντίνα Χατζηνικολάου*



## The Cultural Side • Η Πολιτιστική Πλευρά



Vickie Bellios

### Ο ΣΤΑΥΡΟΣ ΜΑΣ

Κάποιος κουρασμένος, αποκαμωμένος από το βαρύ Σταυρό (δοκιμασία) που κουβαλούσε, είπε στον Κύριο.

«Κύριε, ελεησόν με. Πάρε μου αυτό το βαρύ Σταυρό, τον οποίο δεν μπορώ να σηκώσω.»

Τότε ο Κύριος τον σπλαχνίσθηκε. Τον πήγε σε μία μεγάλη αίσθουσα γεμάτη Σταυρούς. Μικρούς, μέτριους, μεγάλους. Και τού λέγει:

«Αφησε εδώ τον Σταυρό σου και διάλεξε όποιον θέλεις.» Αυτός χαρούμενος άρχισε να ψάχνει. Κάποιοι Σταυροί ήταν πολύ ελαφρείς, κάποιοι ασήκωτοι. Αφού έψαξε πολλή ώρα, βρήκε ένα Σταυρό, στα μέτρα του, που μπορούσε να σηκώσει.

Λέει τότε στον Χριστό: «Κύριε, βρήκα έναν Σταυρό στα μέτρα μου», και τότε του απαντά ο Χριστός: «Στο καλό, παιδί μου. Να ξέρεις όμως ότι ο Σταυρός που βρήκες είναι αυτός που άφησες όταν μπήκες στην αίθουσα.»

Το ανέκδοτο μας λέει απλα. Υποταγή στο θέλημα του Θεού. Ας δεσχθούμε υπομονετικά τον Σταυρό μας, που ίσως κάποιες στιγμές γονατίζουμε από το βάρος του. Ο Κύριος γνωρίζει τις αντοχές μας, δεν θα μας αφήσει. (Αvonήμου)

Χαρά σ'αυτούς που είναι έτοιμοι και διανυχτερεύουν και με ανοιχτή την αγκαλιά τον Κύριο γυρεύουν.

Το φως που τον ακολουθεί όλους θα μας τυλίξει. Θα φέρη την Ανάσταση σε μας μα και στη φύση.

Ελάτε να γιορτάσουμε όλοι τον ερχομό του και να δοξάσουμε μαζί όλοι την είσοδο του.

Ας του ζητήσωμε σκυφτά τον κόσμο του να σώση να τον καλοσορίσωμε κι' όλους να μας λυτρώση.

Vickie Bellios

## National Young Adult League Conference - July 14-17, 2006



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## Our Worship - Part 10 (The Holy Mysteries)

*Part of a special series of educational features designed to provide "continuing education" to our parishioners. Taken from the publication, "Our Worship," which examines and explains the main elements of worship in the Orthodox Christian Church.*

### THE HOLY MYSTERIES

The sacraments are "Holy Mysteries" that are to be experienced more than to be explained.

- The Mysteries cannot be reduced to a set number of ritual actions, though they are rites of the Church
- The Mysteries cannot be reduced to channels of supernatural power, though they are means of the work of the Holy Spirit
- The Mysteries cannot be reduced to doctrine, though they express the Church's teachings.

The Holy Mysteries are nothing less than the realization in this time and place of the eternal Kingdom of Christ.

By "realization" we mean:

- **Manifestation**, since in the Mysteries, the reality of the Kingdom of God is revealed to us; and
- **Transformation**, since in the Mysteries the healing, saving, and uniting work of the Kingdom of God is made real in and among us.

In general the Holy Mysteries involve...

- a **physical means**, such as water, bread and wine, or oil;
- and also **spiritual power**, a divine blessing of the Kingdom.

However, in the Holy Mysteries, the "physical" and the "spiritual" are **not separated**, but joined together.

In the Mysteries, what is physical and visible is **not destroyed** ...

... **but restored** to its proper and original function: the function of relating us to the spiritual and invisible.

In the Holy Mysteries:

- water cleanses,
- words recover power to declare the truth,
- the union of a man and a woman makes "one flesh,"
- bread feeds body and soul, and
- oil soothes.



All the Holy Mysteries are rooted in the ministry of Jesus who proclaimed in word and action that the Kingdom of God had "come near" (Mark 1:14):

1. **Baptism** — by His Baptism, Jesus "sanctified" the waters of the earth so that once again they are cleansing and life-giving.
2. **Chrismation** — by promising the descent of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, Jesus showed that all human persons could become vessels of the divine Spirit.
3. **Repentance** — by declaring again and again "Your sins are forgiven," Jesus recovered the power of words to restore us to God and to reconcile us to one another.
4. **The Eucharist** — at the Mystical Supper on the night He "gave himself up for the life of the world," Jesus promised that bread and wine would be changed in the Eucharist to become His very Body, the Bread of Life, and His very Blood, poured out for the world..
5. **Holy Unction** — by healing physical illnesses as well as casting out demons, Jesus showed that the healing and saving power of God applies to our bodies as well as our souls
6. **Ordination** — by calling disciples, Jesus demonstrated that the Holy Spirit would work through those set apart to serve the Church
7. **Marriage** — Jesus affirmed that the marriage of a man and a woman could be "holy" and a sign of Life in the Kingdom.

*O Christ, our God, when You raised Lazarus from the dead before the time of Your passion, You confirmed the future resurrection of all. We too, like the children of old, carry before You the symbols of Your triumph and victory and cry out to You: "Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!"*  
(Apolytikion of Palm Sunday)

*It's swimmin'!  
Don't miss it!  
Buy tickets ahead!*

# PALM SUNDAY

**Seventh Annual Community Fish Luncheon**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 2006**

**Sponsored by Holy Trinity GOYA**

Please plan on attending and celebrating this great Feast Day with your family and the Church. And this year, you're covered no matter what:



**Bringing a crowd?** Buy your tickets ahead of time and just walk right in!

**Can't stay?** Carry out is available to take home!



**Don't like fish?** Pasta dinners will be available, too!

*Thank you! This event and other GOYA fundraisers help support the activities and outreach ministries of the teens of our parish. Your support is greatly appreciated!*

## Stewardship 2006: Bearing Fruit—Witness and Service



Michael Kritiotis

### *God Will Open the Floodgates, But...*

The southern Aegean islands had another dry winter. This is bad news for the residents, as the rainy season of November through March is the gauge on how much water will be available for the rest of the year. I remember a couple of years ago

when the dams and reservoirs in Cyprus spilled over. It was the top news for days. Schools and families took trips to witness the temporary waterfalls. Vendors set up shop nearby. Churches held special services to thank God for the abundance of this most precious commodity.

It's this picture that comes to mind as I consider the text in Malachi about God and floodgates. God, the Rainmaker Supreme, ready to throw open floodgates of blessing. So much water – so much blessing – we don't know what to do with it.

Isn't that a grand vision as we consider this year's stewardship? God says: "try me out – take initiatives – step out in faith – do things in my name – dedicate your first fruits – dedicate your tithe – BELIEVE – and then don't be surprised with the blessings that come your way!" Yet, we so often hesitate to really step out! We feel we can't afford it, we don't have the money, the time, the talent or the training! We complain that things are not going our way, we back off hoping someone else will take the initiative; that He won't notice!

Funny thing is, when the floodgates won't open, we are shocked and wonder why! Are we putting conditions before Him? His is the only condition, and is simple; and non-negotiable - "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house". Then

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. "Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. I will prevent pests from destroying your crops, and your vines in your fields from being barren" says the Lord Almighty.

(Malachi 3:10, 11)

and only then He will throw open the floodgates.

Don't you find it strange that we happily sign a Visa bill or a check for hundreds of dollars for a few gifts or an evening out with our *parea*, and just as casually sign our name on God's stewardship pledge card for just \$20 or \$50 or \$100 and so on? For one full year of commitment? Is this our "whole tithe into the storehouse of God"? If that is all we are able to do, the church is grateful and God is pleased. But perhaps we are able but not yet willing to do so; in that case, we are just holding back. And the floodgates remain closed.

Don't you find it strange that the salvation of our souls is our ultimate goal, but safeguarding the temple – the vehicle for our salvation – is sometimes a last resort? And isn't it sad that, for some, the only thought when it comes to God and money is "God, I wish I had some more"? So the floodgates are still silent.

Friends, as we prepare to witness the ultimate in giving – our Lord's self-sacrifice to save our souls – I encourage you to take Stewardship seriously. We don't know how blessed we are until we lose something. Do you want it to be the growth and life of your church?

To date, our 2006 Stewardship Pledge total is back to 2004 levels. Think about it: nothing else that is worth anything in our lives remained at its 2004 level. Keeping at this pace, we will be on a direct collision course with financial difficulties and eventual crisis. You can change that. If you haven't sent in your pledge card, I urge you to prayerfully

consider the impact you are making on this community and most importantly on your own life. If you wish to re-assess your priorities and change your pledge to a deserving level, please see me or Father John - or just pick up another card.

As the prophet illustrated, the first move is ours to make. Step out in faith and you'll be abundantly blessed. God controls the floodgates. Trust Him. He can, and will provide by opening them wide to us!

*Kali Anastasi!*





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## “A THYRA..WHAT??”

**S**o what is that strange word which is being thrown around regarding the St. George Chapel lately: “Thyranoixia”? It is a compound Greek word that comes from two other Greek words: “thyra,” meaning “door,” and “anoixi,” which means “opening.” Hence, the literal translation of the name of the event: “The Opening of the Doors!” Just what is this all about, anyway? Let’s use an analogy to understand it: In the life of a newborn child, there are certain significant events and passages of life, such as the forty-day blessing, the baptism, the first nameday and birthday and so on. In the life of a “newborn church,” there are also certain major milestones that ask to be celebrated with great honor and attention as well.

In the life of our community’s new Saint George Chapel at Holy Trinity Cemetery, we have already been blessed with the Groundbreaking/Laying of the Foundation Service and the first Saturday of Souls. Now, a once-in-a-lifetime event officially welcoming the church into the life of the community is just around the corner!

In the Orthodox Church, the service of the Thyranoixia, which commences outside the new church, is highlighted by the liturgical action of the presiding hierarch, who symbolically “knocks” on the door with his staff, thus “opening” the new edifice for worship, and finally enters the church blessing its interior with Holy Water.

This issue of the Herald contains a special flyer for the “Opening of the Doors” Service, to be held on Bright Monday, April 24, 2006. By God’s grace, this also happens to be the Nameday of the Church, since it is the Feast of Saint George the Great Martyr and Trophy-bearer. (This is normally April 23, but when it falls before or on Pascha, it is transferred to Bright Monday, the day after Pascha.) His Eminence Metropolitan Maximos will be the main celebrant, assisted by Father John and other Orthodox clergy of the Pittsburgh area. This special service marks the official blessing of the now-completed building and is the next step in the life of the chapel on its way to eventual consecration.

In addition to the 8:30 a.m. Orthros and 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy and Door Opening services, the Parish Council is hosting a celebratory luncheon following the services at Magoo’s Bistro restaurant on Perry Highway. Reservations are requested by April 21, please, to Nikki Marsh at 724-625-2729. There is no charge, but a freewill offering will be accepted. Please see the flyer for more details.