



# 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

May-June 2006

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

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

## Inside This Issue

- 2 Father John's Message
- 3 News & Events
- 5 Gheronda's Corner
- 6 Mouse Tales: The Saint  
Spyridon Children's Library
- 7-14 Expanded Edition of the  
Community Life Photo Journal:
  - GOYA Monastery Event
  - Lent & Holy Week at HT
  - St. George Chapel Opening
- 15 The Cultural Side  
Η Πολιτιστική Πλευρά
- 16 Our Worship - Part 11
- 17 2006 Parish Administration  
& Ministries Directory

## Special Inserts

May/June Parish Calendar  
2006 Pittsburgh Greek Festivals Guide  
Social Committee Events Flyer  
Holy Trinity Festival Ad Book Form  
Saturday of Souls Names Form  
Project Mexico Donation Form  
.... plus lots more!

*We worship Your Passion, O Christ...*



*Show us also Your Holy Resurrection!*

## Father John's Message

### THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

Parish Newsletter of  
Holy Trinity  
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#### 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.

Sponsor an issue of  
**The Herald**  
in memory of or in  
honor of a beloved one  
or a special occasion.

See the inside back  
cover for the sponsor  
form.



“Christ is risen and life reigns!”

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Risen Christ,

It is one of the universal practices of Orthodox Christianity that the homily offered at the Pascha Liturgy is not offered out of the individual person of the priest, but out of the collective heart and voice of the Church from throughout the ages. It is best embodied in the Paschal Homily of St. John Chrysostom from the fourth century. As we continue the bright and beautiful celebration, please allow me to simply

offer it to you here once again, not in the depths of the night of the Resurrection service, but in your homes, studies, offices, kitchens and wherever you might pick this up as you live your life. It is there that this needs to be real.

Christ is risen! Truly He is risen!

“If anyone is devout and a lover of God, let him enjoy this beautiful and radiant festival. If anyone is a wise servant, let him, rejoicing, enter into the joy of his Lord. If anyone has wearied himself in fasting, let him now receive his recompense. If anyone has labored from the first hour, let him today receive his just reward. If anyone has come at the third hour, with thanksgiving let him keep the feast. If anyone has arrived at the sixth hour, let him have no misgivings; for he shall suffer no loss. If anyone has delayed until the ninth hour, let him draw near without hesitation. If anyone has arrived even at the eleventh hour, let him not fear on account of his delay. For the Master is gracious and receives the last, even as the first; he gives rest to him that comes at the eleventh hour, just as to him who has labored from the first. He has mercy upon the last and cares for the first; to the one he gives, and to the other he is gracious. He both honors the work and praises the intention.

Enter all of you, therefore, into the joy of our Lord, and, whether first or last, receive your reward. O rich and poor, one with another, dance for joy! O you ascetics and you negligent, celebrate the day! You that have fasted and you that have disregarded the fast, rejoice today! The table is rich-laden; feast royally, all of you! The calf is fatted; let no one go forth hungry!

Let all partake of the feast of faith. Let all receive the riches of goodness. Let no one lament his poverty, for the universal kingdom has been revealed. Let no one mourn his transgressions, for pardon has dawned from the grave. Let no one fear death, for the Saviour's death has set us free.

He that was taken by death has annihilated it! He descended into hades and took hades captive! He embittered it when it tasted his flesh! And anticipating this Isaiah exclaimed, “Hades was embittered when it encountered thee in the lower regions.” It was embittered, for it was abolished! It was embittered, for it was mocked! It was embittered, for it was purged! It was embittered, for it was despoiled! It was embittered, for it was bound in chains! It took a body and, face to face, met God! It took earth and encountered heaven! It took what it saw but crumbled before what it had not seen! “O death, where is thy sting? O hades, where is thy victory?”

Christ is risen, and you are overthrown! Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen! Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice! Christ is risen, and life reigns! Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in a tomb! For Christ, being raised from the dead, has become the First-fruits of them that slept.”

To Him be glory and might unto ages of ages. Amen.

*Saint John Chrysostom, 4th century*

## News & Events

### EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES

#### Church School Graduation . . . . . May 21

Holy Trinity Church School will conclude the 2005/2006 year with graduation on Sunday, May 21. All students and staff are asked to attend Divine Liturgy together and remain for the ceremony.

### WORSHIP LIFE

#### Upcoming Liturgical Dates . . . . . June

Please take note of the following upcoming liturgical dates. Unless otherwise indicated, Orthros starts at 8:30 a.m., followed by Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m..

**The Ascension of the Lord.....Thu. June 1**

#### Feast Day Weekend . . . . . June 10-12

Please note the schedule of services for the Feast Day Weekend of our parish, June 10-12. First is the annual Saturday of Souls Liturgy at the St. George Chapel at Holy Trinity Cemetery. Pentecost Sunday features the Divine Liturgy, Kneeling Service and the Feast Day Picnic at Bellevue Park. Monday will, of course, celebrate the Feast Day Liturgy of our Church. Here is the complete schedule:



**Saturday, June 10 - 8:30 am Orthros/9:30 am Liturgy:** Saturday of the Souls Liturgy at St. George Chapel at Holy Trinity Cemetery. Experience the timelessness of Orthodoxy with your family, while honoring and remembering all of those who have preceded us. *This will be the first Pentecost Saturday of the Souls at the St. George Chapel.*

**Pentecost Sunday, June 11 - 8:30 am Orthros/9:30 am Liturgy:** Pentecost Sunday Liturgy, followed by the Kneeling Vespers of the Holy Spirit. Head out to Bellevue Park for the the Feast Day Picnic after services.

**Monday, June 12 - 8:30 am Orthros/9:30 am Liturgy:** Monday of the Holy Spirit/Official Feast Day of our Church.

#### 9:30 Regular Divine Liturgy Hours . . . Now in Effect

Don't forget, regular 9:30 Divine Liturgy hours have resumed. Orthros is held at 8:30 a.m. and Divine Liturgy starts at 9:30 a.m. for both Sunday and weekday services through October. Please set your clocks and your personal schedules to be there on time.

### FUNERALS AND MEMORIALS

#### Haniotakis

The servant of God, Katherine Haniotakis, fell asleep in the Lord on April 21. The Funeral was held at Holy Trinity Church on April 15, followed by interment at the Saint George Chapel at Holy Trinity Cemetery. May her memory be eternal!

#### Grivas

The servant of God, Sophia Grivas, fell asleep in the Lord on March 17. The Funeral was held at Holy Trinity Church on April 15, followed by interment at the Saint George Chapel at Holy Trinity Cemetery. A 40-day Memorial has been scheduled for May 21. May her memory be eternal!

#### Upcoming Memorials

- May 7:** Mary and Peter Kourakos (40 days); Sarah Scopelitis (1 year)
- May 14:** Helen Vellis (40 days)
- May 21:** Sophia Grivas (40 days)
- June 5:** James Paras (5 years)

#### A Note About Scheduling Memorials

In order to have Memorial or Trisagion services listed in the *Herald* or the Sunday Bulletin, it is necessary to contact Father John well ahead of time. Because of the *Herald* publication schedule, advance notice of at least **8 weeks** may be needed for information to be listed there. Lists of names and years commemorated should be submitted in writing to help eliminate errors. Sunday Bulletin listings will include a notice on the week before and the week of the service if advance notice of at least **3 weeks** is provided. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

### COMMUNITY LIFE

#### Mother's Day Luncheon . . . . . May 14

Our very active Social Committee is pleased to announce the return of the Mother's Day Luncheon this year. On Sunday, May 14, all families are invited to remain after Divine Liturgy for a Mother's Day Luncheon in the Social Hall. The donation for the chicken meal will be \$7 for adults and \$4 for children, and all Mothers of the parish receive a complementary meal! See the enclosed flyer for details.

#### Feast Day Picnic . . . . . June 11

The Social Committee also announces the return of the old-fashioned Holy Trinity Feast Day Picnic on Pentecost Sunday, June 11. Following Divine Liturgy

## News & Events

at Holy Trinity Church, everyone is invited to Bellevue Park for a fun-filled day of games, food and friends. Admission donation is only \$6 for adults and \$3 for children, which includes a hamburger/hot dog meal. Don't miss it! Purchase your tickets during Coffee Hour or contact Nikki Marsh at 724-625-2729 or Jim Balouris at 724-934-4850. See the enclosed flyer.

### Holy Trinity Day at the Pirate Game..... July 16

Rounding out the Social Committee's "Summer Triple-Header" is Holy Trinity Family Day at the Pirates, Sunday, July 16 at 1:30 pm. This day will start with Divine Liturgy at 9:30 am, followed by a Holy Trinity Pirate Tailgate in the church parking lot and lawn, with hot dogs for only \$1. The game will then start at 1:30, and you can even walk there from the church and save on parking! Tickets are only \$9.00 per person. Purchase your tickets during Coffee Hour or contact Nikki Marsh at 724-625-2729 or Jim Balouris at 724-934-4850. See the enclosed flyer.

### Festival Dates ..... August 30-September 3

Don't forget to keep August 30-September 3 free to work at, eat at, bring your friends to and enjoy the Holy Trinity Greek Festival. Please don't wait until the last minute to help: please show up for cooking now and sign up to help at the Festival as soon as the sign-up

boards appear at Coffee hour.

Also, please take flyers (including the annual Pittsburgh Summer Greek Festivals Guide) to your friends, family and places of work. They are available on our web site, [www.HolyTrinityPgh.org/festival](http://www.HolyTrinityPgh.org/festival). Don't forget, word-of-mouth is the most powerful form of advertisement, so get the word out today!

### Festival Cooking ..... June, July, August

A complete, consolidated schedule for Festival Cooking is enclosed in this issue of *The Herald*. Please note the dates on your schedule and step up to your place as a Holy Trinity steward. Everyone is invited and asked to help. Bring a friend and pack a snack. Call Joyce Athanasiou (412-322-6002), Paula Valliant (412-487-3977) or Kay Balouris (412-766-1263) for information on specific dates. Most importantly, keep in mind that each of us has an important part in this very large labor of love. Please don't wait for a phone call: consider yourself invited!



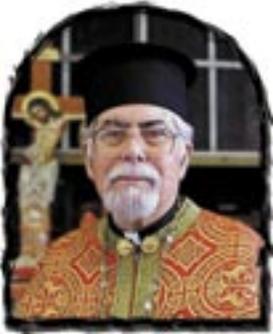
## Olympic Dancers Participate in New York Parade



The Metropolis of Pittsburgh Olympic Dancers, including various Holy Trinity parishioners, recently travelled to New York to participate in the annual Greek Independence Day Parade. They are pictured to the left in their traditional Greek costumes with their director, Dimitri Pantzoulas. This was a big event, as evidenced by the photo of New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, with our own Katie Sarandou looking on.

## Gheronda's Corner

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



**Father John  
Androutsopoulos**

### Riches In Christ Jesus The Joy Of Our Salvation And The Hope

*Christ is Risen!  
Truly He is Risen!*

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who according to His great mercy has begotten us again unto a living hope by the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1 Peter 1:3).

Everything we need for living a happy, useful, and triumphant life we find in Christ Jesus. He added enjoyment to a happy occasion in Cana of Galilee by the miracle He performed at a marriage feast. When Jesus dined with Zacchaeus, understanding developed to such an extent that the tax gatherer was saved from a life of selfishness and greed.

It was in the home of a Pharisee that Jesus reclaimed a sinner, and all the guests became conscious of His power. It was in the breaking of bread that the *Risen Lord* was able to restore in fearful disciples the spirit of triumph.

No person and no home is ever the same after the Son of God has entered. His presence proves to be a saving power from all manner of mistakes and sins. More than that, the riches of Jesus Christ become our possessions ever increasing and more precious with each passing day.

The Lord of life, Who did identify Himself with flesh and blood, is pleased to continue His dwelling place among us. Our hearts and our homes can be sanctified by His presence and enriched by our constant fellowship with Him, the Lord and our Savior Jesus Christ. *eternal life* is foremost among the riches we have in our *Risen Lord*.

### The Second Sunday In May: Mother's Day

One of the sweetest memories that anyone can have is the memory of a good mother. "When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple standing by, whom He loved, He said to His mother, 'Woman behold thy son!' Then He said to the disciple, 'Behold, thy mother!' And from that hour the disciple took Her unto his own home" ( John 19:26-27). This is one of the sidebars on the life of the Son of Man which prompts every person to a deeper appreciation of his own mother.

Beloved, the following story is an example of a thoughtful, kind, considerate, and above all, a loving mother: A teacher put this problem to little Johnny. "Suppose that your mother made an apple pie, and there were eight of you at the table, your mother and father and six children. What part of the pie would each get?" Johnny answered, "A seventh." "No , Johnny," said the teacher, "that's not right. Now listen carefully." She repeated the problem again, "There are eight people at

the table. If the pie is cut into equal pieces, how much would each one of you get?" Again Johnny answered, "One-seventh." Then the teacher said, "Johnny ,you don't know your fractions," Then Johnny replied, "Yes, teacher, I know my fractions, but I know my mother, too. She would say that she didn't want

### What is a Mother?

It takes a Mother's love to make a house a home  
a place to be remembered, no matter where we roam.  
It takes a Mother's patience to bring a child right  
and her courage and cheerfulness to make a dark day bright.  
It takes a Mother's thoughtfulness to mend the heart's deep "hurts"  
and her skill and endurance to mend the socks and shirts.  
It takes a Mother's kindness to forgive us when we err,  
to sympathize in trouble and to bow her head in prayer.  
It takes a Mother's wisdom to recognize our needs,  
and to give us reassurance by her loving words and deeds.  
It takes a Mother's endless faith, her confidence and trust,  
to guide us through the pitfalls of selfishness and lust.  
And that is why in all the world there could not be another,  
who could fulfill God's purpose as completely as a MOTHER.

any pie, so that we could have bigger pieces."

Remember, many mothers today in this country and all over the world, are doing exactly what that mother did ... but not with an apple pie, but with food, so that their children will not go to bed with an empty stomach.

To all the living mothers, old and young, enjoy with your children and grandchildren the "day which the Lord has made for you." Let us also not forget our sweet memories of our faithful mothers who are resting in eternity. Eternal Be Their Memory!

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

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

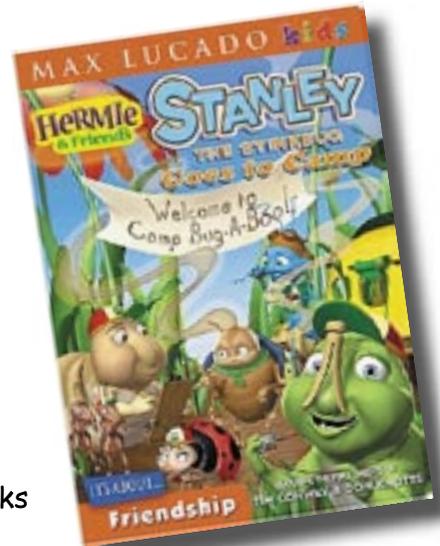
Hello my precious little ones! It's I, Spero!

Christ is risen!

Have you ever known someone who is hard to get along with? You know the type: there is just something about him or her that makes being a friend a little difficult. It can be any number of things: the way they act, talk, chew their food, etc.

Well, I have a DVD called, "Stanley the Stink Bug Goes to Camp," by Max Lucado. In it, everyone is excited about the new camper at Camp Boo-Boo named Stanley. But Stanley has one problem: body odor ... he is STINKY! Everyone tries their best to put up with the unusual smell but things do not go well. When everything else fails, for the little bug, Hermie turns to his Heavenly Father and prays about this problem. He tells God that Stanley is really stinky and asks if He can fix this problem. Well do you know what? Hermie felt God answer the prayer: Maybe Stanley is not the problem. Just stop and

think: why does he smell? God gives bad smells to some animals to protect themselves when they are afraid ... so maybe Stanley is just afraid! Maybe he is afraid of what all the other campers think about him, and then he starts to get stinky and it makes things worse! How about accepting Stanley for who he is, and maybe his fear ... and the awful smell ... will just go away. Wouldn't you know, when the garden friends start appreciating Stanley, that's just what happens and everyone learns a precious lesson. Remember, our Heavenly Father created each of us for a special reason. And as it says in Proverbs 17.17, "A friend loves you all the time. A brother is always there to help you."



And now, something special for the Mommies. The other day, I heard one of the Church School teachers tell a story about a mother's great love for her child. I'd like to share that story with

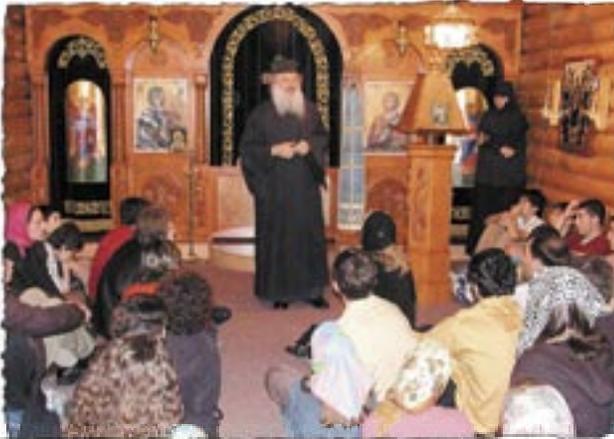
you today for Mother's Day. A little girl sat on her mother's lap and looked up into her mother's beautiful and kind face. "Mommy," she said, "your face is so..o..o beautiful, but your arms are kind of ugly. Why is that so?" Lovingly but painfully, the mother responded, "My precious child, when you were just a baby, the house caught on fire, so I ran into the bedroom to pick you up out of your crib. My arms were badly burned, but you were not harmed." When the daughter heard this, tears began to run down her face, and thinking about it again, she said, "Mommy, you may have the sweetest face in the world, but now I can see that your arms and hands are the most beautiful parts of all." During this season of the Resurrection, when Jesus walked the earth with His body marked up from the nails and the spear, this is how Thomas must have felt when he saw Jesus with His hands and His side all scarred up. When he realized that those wounds saved him, I'll bet they were beautiful for him, too!



With love in the Risen Christ  
Spero

# Community Life Photo Journal: GOYA “Orthodox Roots” Event

Highlights from the annual teen event, held this year at the Nativity of the Theotokos Monastery in Saxonburg



Dozens of GOYAns, chaperons and area clergy gathered for the annual “Back to Our Orthodox Roots” retreat, held on Western Good Friday to take advantage of the day off school. This year, the event was hosted by the Gherontissa Theophano and the sisters of the Nativity of the Theotokos Monastery in Saxonburg. Highlights (clockwise from top left): Fr. Demetrios Carellas, monastery chaplain, opens the event with stories about the Theotokos; area clergy lead the teens on a scripture walk to the St. Seraphim spring, the monastery cemetery and the front entrance; Gherontissa Theophano offers greetings and a small thank you gift to the teens; the monastery sign; Sister Ephraimia ringing the bell. Fr. John Chakos leads a group through the field on the walk; the entire group in front of the main entrance to the Monastery.



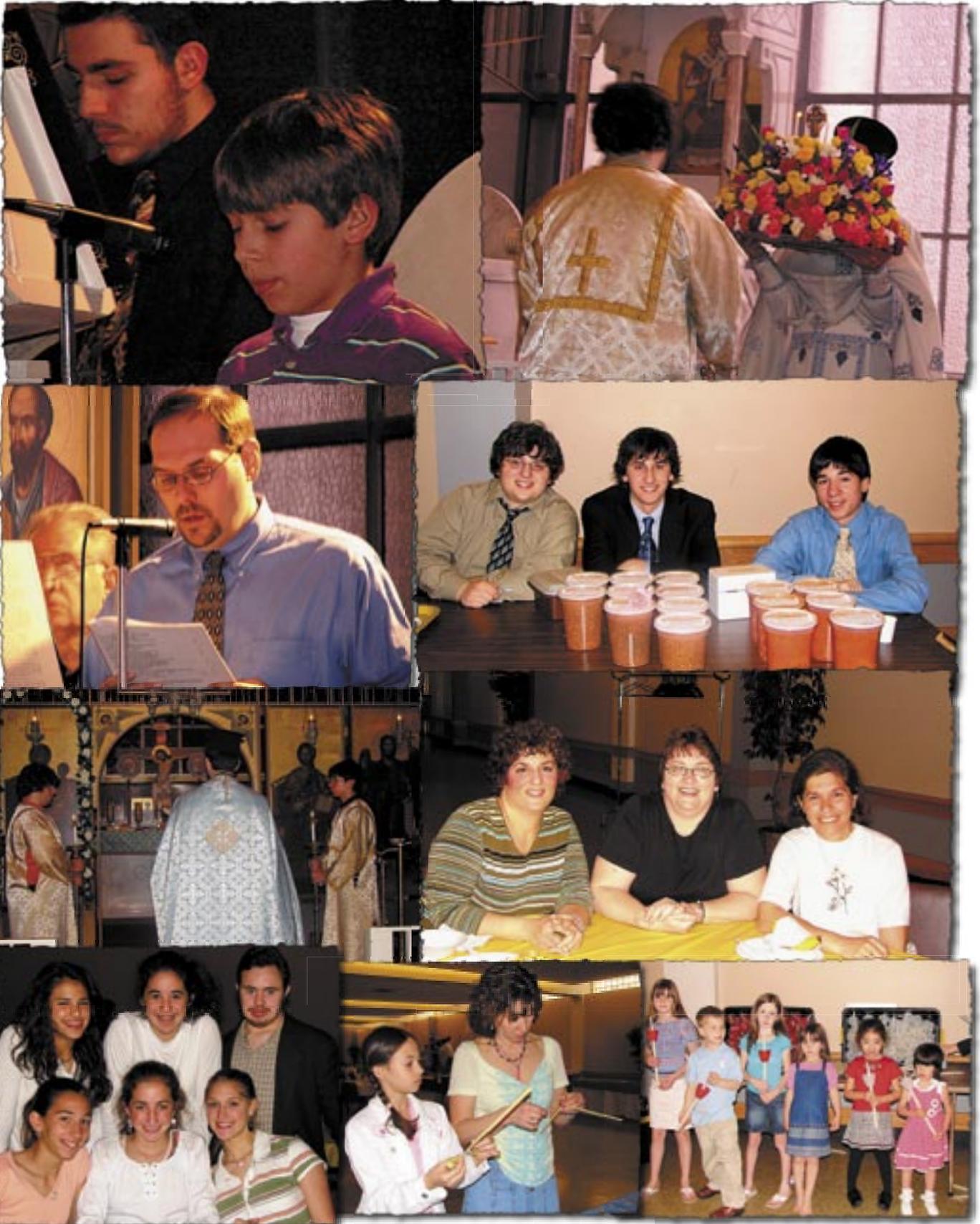
# Community Life Photo Journal: Lent at Holy Trinity

Highlights from Lenten services and events in the life of Holy Trinity Church



# Community Life Photo Journal: Lent at Holy Trinity

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# Community Life Photo Journal: Holy Week at Holy Trinity

Highlights from Holy Week and Pascha services and events in the life of Holy Trinity Church



# Community Life Photo Journal: Holy Week at Holy Trinity

Highlights from Holy Week and Pascha services and events in the life of Holy Trinity Church



# Community Life Photo Journal: Saint George Chapel Opening

Highlights from the Historic "Thyranoixia" (Opening of the Doors") of the Saint George Chapel



The official "Thyranoixia" (Opening of the Doors) took place almost a year to-the-day from the groundbreaking. This historic liturgical and community event started under a tent in front of the church with the chanting of the Resurrection Orthros of Bright Monday. Since it is the Greek tradition to transfer the celebration of the Feast of St. George to the day after Pascha if it falls during Lent (which it frequently does, since its fixed date is April 23), this glorious day was held in the full joy and celebration of the Resurrection and the Nameday of the Chapel. At the end of the Orthros, His Eminence Metropolitan Maximos presided over the Opening of the Doors, which included a Blessing of the Waters and a liturgical dialogue calling upon the King of Glory (the Lord) to enter His Holy House.

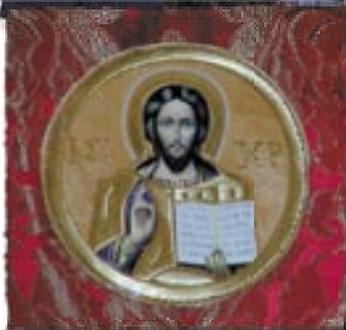


# Community Life Photo Journal: Saint George Chapel Opening

Highlights from the Historic "Thyranoixia" (Opening of the Doors") of the Saint George Chapel



April 24, 2006



The service continued with the Divine Liturgy with His Eminence Metropolitan Maximos as the celebrant, joined by Father John Touloumes (Holy Trinity), Father John Chakos (Holy Cross) and Father George Livanos (All Saints). Above, Father George adds some humorous comments as he makes a presentation of a large festal icon of Saint George as a gift to the Chapel. Right: It was truly a Holy Trinity family community day, with many Holy Trinity parishioners there, young and old. Little twins Luke and Alexander Tomalski enjoyed the big day from the comfort of their double-stroller!

# Community Life Photo Journal: Saint George Chapel Opening

Highlights from the Historic "Thyranoixia" (Opening of the Doors) of the Saint George Chapel



Above top: Taking their place in the historical record of Holy Trinity Church, Holy Trinity Cemetery and Saint George Chapel, members of the Holy Trinity Community join His Eminence Metropolitan Maximos and the clergy for a photo record of all those in attendance for this historic event.

Above middle: Members of the Parish Council and the Cemetery Chapel Committee pause for the record with His Eminence Metropolitan Maximos and the clergy.

Above Right: St. George Chapel Great Benefactor Nicholas Vlahakis and His Eminence Metropolitan Maximos. Mr. Vlahakis' generous contribution allowed the construction of the chapel to begin, along with the foundational gift provided by the James Paras estate and additional funds later donated by the Anthony Lakes estate. Right: Little Marina Gzikowski receives antidoron.



## The Cultural Side • Η Πολιτιστική Πλευρά



**Voula Hareras**

### Αν Μιλούσαν Τά Δάκρυα

Καί ποιός μάς είπε ότι τά δάκρυα δέν μιλούν. Μιλούν στην παγκόσμια γλώσσα τής καρδιάς για νά μπορούν νά τήν διαβάζουν οί άνθρωποι όλης τής γής και όποιας ηλικίας.

Αν επιχειρούσαμε νά μεταφράσωμε τήν γλώσσαν τών δακρύων, θά έπλημμύριζαν τήν ζωή μας όλα τά είδη τών τραγουδιών, από τούς θρήνων τούς

άλαγαμούς τής χαράς μέχρι τών σπαραγμούς, από τούς παιάνες τών ένθουσιασμών μέχρι τό μοιρολόι τού άνέκφραστου πόνου.

Θά ξεγλιστρούσαν αυθόρμητα οί ψιθυρισμοί από τίς μυστικές τής καρδιάς μας συγκινήσεις, πού κανείς δέν θέλομε νά τίς ξέρη, τάχα ποιός μπορεί νά έρμηνεύση έσωτερικά βιώματα πού ούτε έμεις οί ίδιοι κάποτε δέν τολμούμε νά άποκρυπτογραφήσωμε.

Αν όσα λένε τά δακρυσμένα μάτια μας έγράφοντο μέ γράμματα ή μέ νότες στό πεντάγραμμο, δέν θ'άντεχε ούτε ή ματιά, ούτε ή άκοή μας τούς θρήνους, τά παράπονα, τά έρωτηματικά, τίς τύψεις, τήν ντροπή, για τά άνομολόγητα λάθη μας πού ούτε μονάχοι μας κάποτε δέν θέλομε νά παραδεχθούμε.

Καί όμως! Ό,τι δέν λένε τά χειλη και δέν γράφει το χέρι, τό δημοσιοποιεί πολλές φορές τών ματιών μας τό δάκρυ. Καί τό δάκρυ μιλάει ειλικρινά, δέν γνωρίζει τήν γλώσσα τής ύποκρισίας, τής άδυναμίας, τών ψεύτικων συναισθηματισμών. Ξαφνικά άναποδογουρίζει τό ποτήρι τών διαλογισμών πού μαζεύει στής ψυχής μας τά φυλλοκάρδια τά σύννεφα, πού πυκνώνει μέσα μας κάθε είδους εύαισθησία, και άνεβάζει στά μάτια τήν βροχήν τών δακρύων. Άρκει νά διασχίση τόν ούρανόν τής ψυχής μας ή άστραπή μιάς άλήθειας, ικανής νά τήν συγκινήση. Χαρά στόν άνθρωπο πού έχει τότε τήν εύαισθησία νά κλάψη.

### Κλασσικό τό παράδειγμα μέσα στό Εύαγγέλιον

Τό άμάρτημα σχεδόν μέ τήν ίδια βαρύτητα τού Ιούδα και τού κορυφαίου Άποστόλου Πέτρου, ό πρώτος Τόν έπρόδωσε, Τόν έπούλησεν, ό προδότης! Ό άλλος Τόν άρνήθη, έβεβαίωνε πώς δέν Τόν ξέρει και μάλιστα 'μεθ' όρκου' στην πιο κρίσιμη ώρα τής ζωής Του, όταν ό Κύριος, μόνος, έγκαταλειμμένος, έξευτελισμένος, δαρμένος, έδικάζετο για νά θανατωθή!

Όμως! Όμως ή άστραπή τής άγάπης τού Κυρίου έβγήκε γεμάτη στοργή και τρυφερότητα από τήν Θεϊκή ματιά Του...και πέρασε στην ματιά τού Άποστόλου Του κι έφτασε στά βάθη τής καρδιάς τού, κι ό Μαθητής, ό γενναίος στην Πίστι και στην άυταπάρνησι, συγκλονίσθηκε 'και έξελθών έξω έκλαυσε πικρώς' (Μάρκ. κστ' 75).

Στήν κατάπικρη ώρα τού πειρασμού ό Άπόστολος Πέτρος δέν άρνήθηκε τόν καλόν έαυτόν τού, θυμήθηκε κάτω από τό θεϊκό χάδι εκείνης τής ματιάς τού Διδασκάλου τού, ό, τι τού είχε πεί πριν από λίγο, ότι πριν νά λαλήση ό πετεινός, θά μέ άρνηθής τρεις φορές!... Καί καθώς τό λάλημα τού κόκκορα σάν ξερή σκουζιά έσκισε τό σκοτάδι τής τραγικώτερης νύχτας τού κόσμου, ή βροχή τών δακρύων τού γενναίου Μαθητού έπότισε τήν ψυχή πού άμάρτησε, και όχι μόνον τήν δική τού, έπεσε μαλακή, ποτιστική, σωτήρια στό σκληρό χώμα τής άμαρτίας τής κάθε μιάς ανθρώπινης ψυχής, κι άφησε νά άντηχή στους αίώνες τό τραγούδι τής μετανοίας, λυτρωτικό, άναστάσιμο, χαροποιοό.

Τό μήνυμα διαχρονικό. Δέν ύπάρχει άμάρτημα, όσο βαρύ και άν είναι, πού νά μπορή νά νικήση τήν άγάπη τού Χριστού. Η ψυχή πού άμάρτησε, έχει δρόμο νά γυρίση στη συγγνώμη. Άρκει νά μη πνίξη μέσα της τήν εύαισθησία τής άποδοχής τού μηνύματος πού τής στέλνει ή Θεία στοργή. Τό ξέρω πώς άμάρτησα, λέει και κλαίει ό Άπόστολος Πέτρος, αλλά ξαναγουρίζω συντριμμένος σέ Σένα, τόν Υιόν τού Θεού και Σωτήρα μου. Καί περιμένω από Σένα τήν λύτρωσι.

Κάποτε Σού έδινα ύποσχέσεις, ότι ποτέ δέν θά Σέ έγκαταλείψω, κι άς κάμουν ό, τι θέλουν οί άλλοι...γιατί έγώ είμαι σταθερός κι ήρωϊσμό πού τόν άπέδειξα...τόσες φορές...Τώρα ή άμαρτία μέ έκαμε κουρέλι, λυπήσου με...

Δέν φαίνεται πουθενά μέσα στην ιστορία τών ανθρώπων νά έκλαψεν άμαρτωλός για τήν πτώσι του και νά μη συγχωρέθηκε από τήν εύσπλαχνία τού Θεού.

Ό Ιούδας δέν έκλαψε συντριμμένος, διότι δέν μετενόησεν, άπλώς 'μετεμελήθη'. Καί τόν κατάπιεν ή άπόγνωσις, αυτοκτόνησε, και τόν έκέρδησεν ό άδης.

Δώρον Θεού ή γλώσσα τών δακρύων, μάτια πού τολμούν νά βουρκώνουν έμπρός στό μήνυμα τής άγάπης τού Θεού, ποτίζουν τήν ψυχή τους μέ τήν βροχήν τής Θείας Χάριτος, και άνθίζει μέσα τους ή άνοιξις τής άναστ άσεως.

ΠΡΟΣ ΤΗΝ ΝΙΚΗΝ

*Η Ανάστασις τού Κυρίου μας νά φέρει Ειρήνη στόν κόσμο, και Υγεία και Εύτυχία στά σπίτια σας.*

*Βούλα Χαρερά*

### Τα Δυό Δάκρυα

**Άπό τή γή δυό δάκρυα θερμά μαργαριτάρια άνέβηκαν και στάλαξαν στού πλάστη τά ποδάρια.**

**Και είπε τό πρώτο τρέμοντας προστά στόν Θείο Θρόνο, έμένα μέβγαλε ή καρδιά για τόν δικό της πόνου.**

**Και ό πλάστης άποκρίθηκε, ούτε στημή μη χάνεις σύρε νά γίνης βάλσαμο τόν πόνου της νά γιάνεις.**

**Ηρθε και τ'άλο τρέμοντας έμπρός στόν Θείο Θρόνο έμένα μέβγαλε ή καρδιά για καποιο ξένο πόνου.**

**Κι'ό πλάστης άποκρίθηκε εσύ μαζί μου μεινε τής ευσπλαχνιάς τά δάκρυα δικά μου είναι.**

## Our Worship - Part 11 (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.

### Living the Sacramental Life

Jesus described the Kingdom of God as a seed.

- How is it implanted and nurtured in us?
- How does the seed grow, so that everything in our lives becomes a "means of grace"?
- How does the seed mature so that we see the whole world as a "sacrament" of God?
- How does the seed grow and make us partakers of the Kingdom of God?

The answer is ...

**by our regular and faithful participation in the Sacramental Life of the Church!**

Through the "leaven" of the Holy Mysteries:

- our lives are filled with the Life of God
- the world is transformed into God's Kingdom
- reality is transfigured to reflect the radiance of the Glory of God

### The Mysteries of Initiation, or Holy Illumination

At the end of the baptismal service, the priest washes the oil and Chrism from the baptized saying, "You are baptized, You are illuminated, You have been chrismated. You are sanctified. You are washed in the Name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

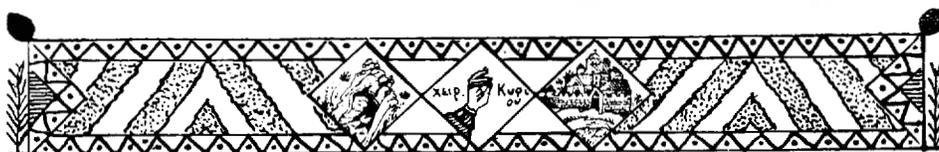
**These words sum up the amazing action of God in baptism.**

**Holy Illumination consists of:**

- **Exorcism** (turning away from the devil, we unite ourselves to Christ and the faith of the Church)
- **Anointing** (we are restored, renewed, and recreated in soul and body by the "oil of gladness")
- **Immersion** (in the baptismal water, we are "buried" with Christ in the water and raised to New Life)
- **Clothing** (we are now clothed a white robe, having "put on" the righteousness of Christ)
- **Chrismation** (in this "sealing" with Holy Chrism is our "personal Pentecost," the gift of the Holy Spirit)
- **Procession** (carrying candles and led by the priest, we begin our lifelong walk with the Lord while the faithful sing, "As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ...")
- **Holy Communion** (our bond with Christ and His Body, the Church, is fully realized as we share in the communion in the Body and Blood of Christ)
- **Ablution** or washing (as the Holy Chrism is washed off, we pray for God to preserve us in the faith and life of Christ).
- **Tonsuring** (strands of our hair are cut as a sign of the offering of all of ourselves to God)

### Practical Stages of Growth in the "Sacramental Life"

1. Our "Everyday Time" is interrupted now and then by "Church Times"
  - We **go to Church** on Sundays and feast days whenever we can.
2. We become more involved in worship and prayer
  - We start attending services regularly
  - We attend Vigil on Saturday evenings
  - We celebrate the feasts.
  - We begin a daily discipline of prayer
3. We live by **two** calendars: our "Everyday Calendar" and our "Church Calendar."
  - At first, one of the calendars will dominate.
  - Gradually we begin to put the two calendars together through
    - daily prayer
    - regular attendance
    - seeking to do the will of God at all times.
4. Our calendars are **integrated as one.**
  - We become aware of how the "Church Time" penetrates the "Everyday Time"
  - Our "Church Time" informs and brings hope of the Kingdom to our "Everyday Time"







# The Third Annual John G. Rangos - International Orthodox Christian Charities Golf Scramble

Lindenwood Golf Club  
360 Galley Road, McMurray, PA 15317

Saturday, June 3rd, 2006 – Shotgun Start at 1:00 PM

Please Arrive by No Later  
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**PLAYERS**

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Not A Golfer?  
Join us for Dinner at 6:00  
(Suggested Donation \$35)

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**EVENT SPONSOR \$5,000**

- Foursome to play in outing
- Recognition at check-in and awards dinner
- 2 mulligan tickets and 5 door prize tickets for each player

**"FRONT 9" SPONSOR \$1,500**

- Foursome to play in outing
- Recognition at 1<sup>ST</sup> Tee Box
- 1 mulligan ticket and 3 door prize tickets for each player

**"BACK 9" SPONSOR \$1,500**

- Foursome to play in outing
- Recognition at 10<sup>TH</sup> Tee Box
- 1 mulligan ticket and 3 door prize tickets for each player

**"AT-THE-TURN" SPONSOR \$750**

- Twosome to play in outing
- Recognition "at-the-turn"
- 1 mulligan ticket and 2 door prize tickets for each player

**"LUCKY 7" SPONSOR \$777.77**

- Twosome to play in outing
- Recognition at 7<sup>TH</sup> Tee Box
- 1 mulligan ticket and 2 door prize tickets for each player

**HOLE SPONSORS \$300**

- Twosome to play in outing
- Sign with company/individual name at tee box of selected hole
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- 11 holes available for sponsorship

**"CLOSEST-TO-PIN" SPONSORS \$300**

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- Sign with company/individual name at tee box of selected hole
- 1 door prize ticket for each player
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**"LONG DRIVE" SPONSORS \$300**

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- Sign with company/individual name at tee box of selected hole
- 1 door prize ticket for each player
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Dinner Only # of People: \_\_\_\_\_

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IOCC Pittsburgh Metropolitan Committee

**Mail Payment to:**  
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**For More Information Call:**  
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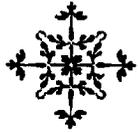
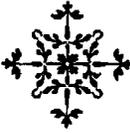
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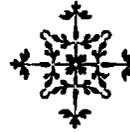
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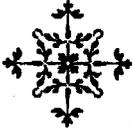
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