



# THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

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HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH • PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

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## QUICK NEWS



Holy Trinity team spirit was shining as bright as the smiles on the faces of our girls during the first Metropolis GOYA Basketball Tournament in Canton, Ohio, January 18-20, 2008. The Holy Trinity boys teams brought home back two Second Place trophies, the girls brought back a Third Place trophy, and, as a special honor, the entire community was awarded the Sportsmanship Trophy for representing Holy Trinity Church so well on and off the court!



The Presentation of the Lord in the Temple into the Arms of the Elder Symeon  
Feast Day: February 2

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



# THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

## About the Herald

The Herald is the Monthly Newsletter of  
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

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### About the Parish

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Holy Trinity Church is a parish of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh ([www.odpgh.org](http://www.odpgh.org)) and Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America ([www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)) under the Spiritual Jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

### Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church Parish Administration

#### Clergy

Rev. Fr. John Touloumes, Proistamenos

Rev. Fr. Radu Bordeianu, Assistant Priest

#### Parish Council

Louis T. Loomis, President

Chris T. Balouris

Dean J. Balouris

Sondra A. Balouris

George Dickos

Anthony Loomis

Robert Marsh

John Phillips

Nicholas Sarandou

Vasilios Scoumis

Alex Trilivas

Gerri Valliant

Louis G. Zozos

#### Ministries

Philoptochos ..... Esther Ladakos, Pres.

GOYA.....Pres. Becky Touloumes, Advisor

Choir .....John Nychis, Director

Over 50.....Stella Athanasiou, Pres.

St. Lydia Study.....Stacy Dickos, Coordinator

Cemetery..... Bill Fiedler, Chairman

Greek School ....Effie Kilantonis, Coordinator

Social Hall.....Kathy Romanias, Coordinator



Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (Ephesians 5.2)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

According to the Greeting Card Association, over a billion Valentine's Day cards will be mailed this year. Imagine the tons of chocolate, acres of roses and carats of jewels that will also be used in America and throughout the world to say, "I love you." What are we as Christians, children of the God of love (1 John 4.16) to make of all this? As with many other aspects of living an Orthodox Christian life in the world today, we could simply dismiss it as not being part of our tradition (warning to husbands everywhere: this is NOT recommended as an act of piety!) Or, perhaps, we can look a bit deeper into the true roots of love and find that February 14 is not the only day of this month set aside for a special offering of love. And just maybe we can even deepen our understanding of what we are called to be as Christians, husbands, wives, men, women and a community called Holy Trinity Church.



Take a look at the heart-shaped frame to the right. Sure, it evokes the holiday spirit of the month, but not just the obvious one! Yes, it is a Valentine heart-shaped frame, but there is something quite scriptural about what's inside. Upon closer examination, it is a hand making an offering of love. No flowers, no chocolates, no diamonds; much great than those! Flip to the front cover of this issue and you will see it is the hand of the Theotokos as she makes an offering of love the depth of which even she could not fathom at the time (Luke 2.19): the offering of her Son, her First-Born, the Only-Begotten Son of God, as the first-fruit of her womb to be dedicated to the Lord. It is the hand of a mother trusting her most precious child back physically into the hands of the Elder Symeon, but in reality back into the care of the Father Whose mission would carry Him to the Cross, and through Whose victory over death we would be carried into Paradise.

That is, indeed, a deeper picture of love than we usually think of in the frilly days of February. But instead of dismissing the 14th entirely, why not understand that it can only truly have depth and meaning when it is basks in the light of the 2nd, that is, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Jesus speaks about what it takes to love Him six times in the New Testament, all in the Gospel of St. John (8.42, 14.15, 14.24, 21.15, 21.16 and 21.17). Each time, loving Him is intimately connected with obeying Him, doing His will and serving Him. On all three counts, the holy offering signified by the lifting of the hand of the Panagia pictured above must be counted as an ultimate act of love and doing His will.

As we move forward in our lives and the life of this community, it is good to continue to be challenged by those words of Christ. "If you love me..." God will provide the calling for each of us to make the holy offerings appropriate to our lives, because they are from Him to begin with. All whom we serve, we lift up to God like that holy icon of offering. Everyone we meet provides an opportunity, one way or another, to say ... or better yet, to show ... "I love you!"

Happy Valentine's Day! Hronia Polla for the Presentation!

Yours in our loving Savior,

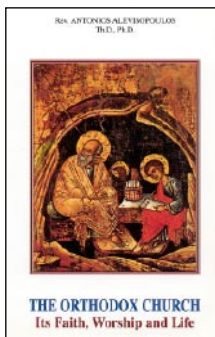
Herald Personal Sponsor for this Issue:

**Jim and Bettina Kermes**  
for the health of their friends and family

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**St. Lydia's Orthodox Women's Study . . . . . February 14, 28**

The St. Lydia Women's Study Ministry is a place 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. The source text for this year's study is: "The Orthodox Church: Its Faith, Worship and Life" by Fr. Antonios Alevisopoulos. Books are available at the meetings. Remaining dates for the Spring are: Feb. 14 & 28; Mar. 13 & 27; Apr. 10; May 8. All Holy Trinity women are welcome and invited to bring a friend! For further information on this worthwhile and informative group or for directions to the meetings, call Stacy Dickos at 412-367-0925.

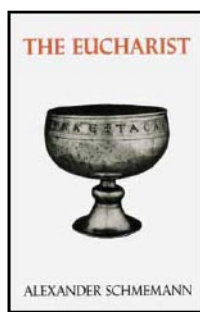
**St. Nikodemos Men's Fellowship. . . . . February 5, 19**

The St. Nikodemos Men's Study Fellowship is an Orthodox men's fellowship, study and discussion group which meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. at the office of TriadUSA, Suite 1600, Three 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. The remaining dates for Winter/Spring are: Feb. 5, Feb. 19, Mar. 4, Mar 18, Apr. 1, Apr. 15, May 6 & May 20. Everyone is welcome. Meetings start at 12 Noon and finish at 1:00 pm. For directions, call Gus Georgiadis at 412-880-4999.

**Orthodox Studies Forum . . . . . February 6, 20**

Now in its second year, the Orthodox Studies Forum is designed for adults who are interested in learning more about the Orthodox Christian Faith. It is led by Father Radu Bordeianu and is for both those who have been Orthodox all their lives and want to learn more as well as those seeking to embrace Orthodoxy from another background and grow further in their faith. The group has started a new book: "The Eucharist" by Fr. Alexander Schemmann.

This ministry meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month from 7:00-8:30 p.m. September through May at the La Roche College campus, 9000 Babcock Blvd., Pittsburgh (next to UPMC Passavant Hospital). The room is in the A.J. Palumbo Science Center, Room SC100.



## YOUTH MINISTRIES

**GOYA Superbowl Hoagie Sale . . . . . February 3**

The GOYA will be pre-selling hoagies during January for Superbowl Sunday on February 3. Please support our teens in this effort, which helps raise funds for the various events of the GOYA, outreach projects, trips and the Metropolis basketball tournaments. Thanks!

**GOYA Community Valentine's Lunch . . . . . February 10**

The GOYA will host its annual Valentine's Lunch on Sunday, February 10, following the Divine Liturgy. Please see the flyer in this issue of The Herald for details. Thank you for supporting our youth!

**GOYA Monthly Fellowship . . . . . February 10**

The GOYA will hold its monthly fellowship meeting on Sunday, February 10 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. GOYAns should watch their email for the location.

**HOPE and JOY Monthly Gathering . . . . . TBA**

The HOPE and JOY ministries for young children will reschedule their monthly gathering for February, since it is not possible to have it on the third Sunday. Please watch for a forthcoming schedule of activities for these ministries.

**GOYA Basketball Events . . . . . February**

Thu. Feb. 7, 6:30 pm: Basketball practice  
Thu. Feb. 14, 6:30 pm: Basketball practice  
Fri. Jan. 15-Sun. Jan. 17: Tournament - Warren, OH  
Thu. Feb. 21, 6:30 pm: Basketball practice  
Thu. Feb. 28, 6:30 pm: LAST Basketball practice  
For information contact Presvytera Becky (412-831-3574) or GOYA President Maria Valliant (412-487-3977).

**Young Adult Ministry Contact Information Needed**

Calling all Young Adults! The Young Adult Ministry (YAM) needs to know how to get in touch with you to let you know what's happening with this newly-energized and active group! If you would like to have information on this ministry sent to you, please send your name and email address to Nicole Fiedler (nicole@salonika.net).

## WORSHIP LIFE

**Weekday Services . . . . . February**

Please take note of the following weekday Liturgies for the feast days in the month of February. Please note that we are currently on the time schedule for "Winter Hours:" Orthros is at 9:00 a.m., followed by Divine Liturgy at 10:00.

**Fri. Feb. 1, 7:00pm . . . . . Presentation of Christ Vespers****Sat. Feb. 2 . . . . . Presentation of Christ**

(NOTE: Both the above services will be held at the Presentation of Christ "Ypapanti" Church in East Pittsburgh, which is celebrating its feast day. Note that Orthros is at 8:30/Liturgy at 9:30.)

**Wed. Feb. 13, 6:00 pm. . . . . Paraclesis to the Theotokos**

This service of supplication to the Mother of God is held on the second Wednesday of each month.



## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Twice-Monthly Choir Practice Starting Feb 13!

Attention all Holy Trinity Choir members and Choir wannabees! Holy Trinity Choir is now holding twice-monthly practice in the North Hills. The group will meet on the SECOND and FOURTH WEDNESDAYS of each month at 7:00 p.m. on the campus of La Roche College in the Palumbo Science Center, Room SC100. All Choir members are asked to attend, and anyone wanting to join the choir is invited.

### St. Lydia/St. Nikodemos Couples Night . . . . . Feb. 24

Attention all couples: how about making this year's Valentine's holiday about more than roses and chocolates? Want to share, grow and enjoy the company of other couples in your faith community? The St. Lydia Women's Orthodox Women's Study Ministry and the St. Nikodemos Men's Fellowship Ministry will host their annual Valentine's Couples Fellowship Evening on Sunday, February 24 at 6:00 p.m. This event is open to all couples. For information, directions, and reservations, contact Stacy Dickos at 412-367-0925.

## SACRAMENTAL LIFE

### Funeral: James Karis

The servant of God, James Karis, fell asleep in the Lord on January 22, 2008. The Funeral service was held at the Saint George Chapel at Holy Trinity Cemetery on January 25, followed by interment at Allegheny Country Memorial Cemetery. A 40-day Memorial Service is scheduled for March 2. May his memory be eternal!

### Baptism: Elias Balouris

The servant of God, Elias Balouris, was received into the Holy Orthodox Church through the Holy Mystery of Baptism on December 2, 2007. The Godparent was John Giovanis. May God grant him many years!

### Chrismation: Kristin Balouris

The servant of God, Kristin Balouris, was received into the Holy Orthodox Church through the Holy Mystery of Chrismation on December 2, 2007. She received the name Christina. The Godparents were Michael and Julie Kritiotis. May God grant her many years!

### Wedding: John & Kristin Balouris

The servants of God, John and Kristin Balouris, were united in the Holy Mysteries of Betrothal and Crowning on December 2, 2007. The Sponsors were Michael and Julie Kritiotis. May God grant them many years!

Looking for information on Orthodoxy?  
Check out these great Internet resources:  
**www.goarch.org**  
and  
**www.OrthodoxyNowTV.com**

Looking for a New Way to learn about your Faith in the New Year?  
Don't Miss the Popular Learning Series from Holy Trinity Church

## THE ORTHODOX STUDIES FORUM

Now Underway! Rave Reviews! Don't Miss It!

### From the Book

"When I say that I am going to church, it means I am going into the assembly of the faithful in order, together with them, to constitute the Church; in order to be what I became on the day of my baptism—a member, in the fullest, absolute meaning of the term, of the Body of Christ."

### About the Author

Father Alexander Schmemmann (1921-1983) was born in Estonia in 1921 and emigrated to the France, where he completed studies at the St. Sergius Orthodox Institute. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1946 and later emigrated to the United States, where he became Dean of St. Vladimir's Orthodox Seminary in 1962. He published over a dozen books which have been translated into various languages and are known throughout the world. He reposed at age 62 in the year 1983 and is recognized as one of the pre-eminent figures in 20th century Orthodox Christianity.

### About the Teacher/Facilitator

Father Radu Bordeianu is a full-time professor at Duquesne University with a Doctoral degree from Marquette University and is the Assistant Priest at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. He has served and taught at several parishes in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and appeared in broadcast media and in print.

### About the Study Series

The Orthodox Studies Forum is designed for adults who are interested in learning more about the Orthodox Christian Faith. It is for both those who have been Orthodox all their lives and want to learn more as well as those seeking to embrace Orthodoxy or grow further in their faith. The group previously studied "The Orthodox Church" by Bishop Kallistos Ware.

### How to Get There and When It Meets

The group meets on the **first and third Wednesday** of each month from **7:00-8:30 p.m. from September through May (NOTE: Meeting will be move to TUESDAYS during LENT)** at LaRoche College, 9000 Babcock Blvd., in the North Hills region of Pittsburgh (next to UPMC Passavant Hospital). The room is in the A.J. Palumbo Science Center, Room SC100. There is ample, well-lit, free parking. Everyone is welcome.

### THE EUCHARIST



ALEXANDER SCHMEMANN

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



**Father John Androutsopoulos**

## THE GREAT COMMANDMENT (MATTHEW 22:34-40)

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they came together, and one of them, a teacher of the Law, tried to trap Him with a question. "Teacher," he asked, "Which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus answered, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and the most important commandment. The second most important commandment is like it: "You must love your neighbor as yourself." The whole Law of Moses and the teachings of the prophets depend on these two commandments."

### Question: Was The Law Of Love Not Given Before The Time Of The New Testament?

Yes; it was already most urgently insisted upon in the Old Testament, as becomes evident from the following text:

"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with thy whole heart, and with thy whole soul, and with thy whole strength; and the words which I commanded thee this day, shall be in thy heart: and thou shalt tell them to thy children, and thou shalt meditate upon them sitting in thy house and walking on thy journey, sleeping and rising. And thou shalt bind them as a sign on thy hand, and they shall be and shall move between thy eyes. And thou shalt write them in the entry and on the doors of thy house." (Deuteronomy 6:5, etc.)

Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, let us reflect earnestly on this, and examine whether we also keep this law of the Lord with the same care.

### Question: Does He That Loves God Above All Things, And His Neighbor As Himself, Fulfill All That Is Commanded By The Scripture?

He does; for he that truly loves God will not fall into superstitions; he will not murmur against God's will, nor dishonor God's name by cursing or swearing, or breaking the sabbath ("The Lord's Day"). But he will do all that he knows to be pleasing to God, whom he loves. He praises and thanks God for all His blessings; he places all his hope and confidence in Him; in adversities he

will give himself entirely up to God's will; he will also keep the laws of the Church because he knows they are an expression of God's will (Matt. 6).

He that loves his neighbor as himself will not injure the person or life of a fellow man; he will not steal from him; he will hold sacred the honor, good name and purity of everyone; will not give false witness against others, will not judge them rashly. But he will pray for his neighbor; will forgive him, if he has offended, visit him in sickness; if he hungers and thirst he will give him food and drink; he wishes and does for him everything good that he himself would wish to be done for him in similar circumstances.

### Motives Why We Should Love Our Neighbor.

1) We should be moved to love our neighbor not only by the consideration that we are brothers and sisters according to the flesh, descending from Adam, our common father, but by the consciousness that we all are brothers according to grace and Christian faith, having been adopted by one Father, God Himself, to become heirs of our heavenly inheritance; and that we all are purchased by the blood of Christ, by whose sacred body and blood we are also fed. Thus we are "all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28), and should be "careful to keep the unity of spirit by the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3).

2) Moreover, the example of Jesus Christ should move us. He loved us when we were His enemies; He suffered death for us, and prayed for those that crucified Him. Also, the example of Saint Stephen, who prayed for his executioners.

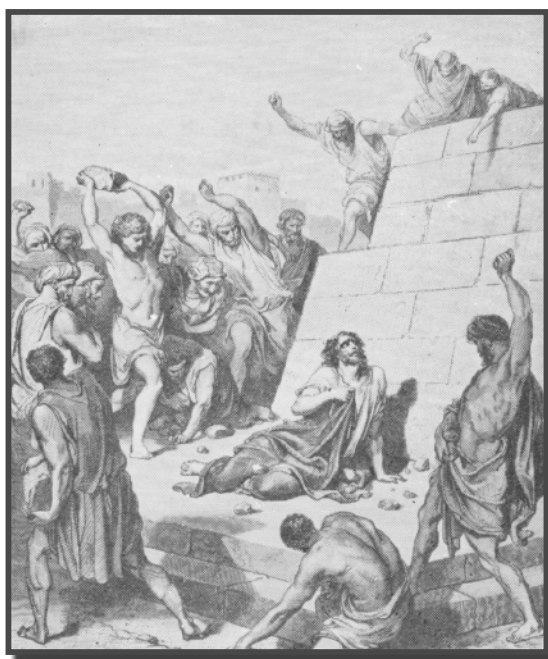
3) To this love we should be urged on by the fact that we cannot be saved without it, and that "Whoever loves his neighbor will never do him wrong. To love, then, is to obey the whole Law" (Romans 13:10).

Beloved, on the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee (February 17 this year), the Triodion begins.

May we all of us have a blessed and fruitful Pre-Lenten season.

With His Love,

*Rev. Fr. John K. Androutsopoulos*



The Martyrdom of Saint Stephen

You  
shall  
LOVE  
the  
LORD  
your  
GOD



My Precious Children,



This month, instead of writing about books, I, Spero, am writing about my big Ohio adventure. This should be a pretty special letter, because it's filled with lots of excitement and Valentine's wishes! Besides, I am sure that you don't get very many letters from mice in Ohio. Why was I in Ohio? Well, I just couldn't miss the first GOYA basketball tournament of the year! Let me tell you about it.

First of all I was so happy to be able to make the trip. Fortunately, Father John forgot to pack his slippers and when he got up in the middle of the night and opened his suitcase to put them inside, I slipped into the bag while his back was turned. I knew if I asked to go, he would tell me it was best for me to stay home. He has tried to tell me that it is not easy for mice to travel, since people are sometimes afraid of mice and he must protect me, but I really wanted to be with my precious basketball teams. I used the same trick to stow myself away in Father John's luggage to Project Mexico last year. Maybe I

should have listened about that trip, since I did not understand a single word of what the mice there said, and, worse, the food they gave me had so much hot spice in it that I had an upset tummy! Besides that, Mexico was very nice. It was warm and I was able to slip into Father's tool box and go out and see them build a house to help other precious children of God!

On this trip, just like the one to Mexico, I was able to breathe easily in the suitcase because there are spaces around the zipper that admit plenty of air for a mouse, but I couldn't see a thing. There is no customs officer going into Ohio, unlike Mexico, and so no one opened the suitcase on the trip. (For Mexico, I just hid in a pair of folded socks. When they checked Father's suitcase, the customs officer missed me completely!) I think we went to Ohio in a car because I could hear the door slam and the motor run, but that was all I could tell. I just said my prayers until we got there.

Well, we got there and I made my escape. I found some cheese cracker crumbs under the dresser, enough for a snack until I could round up a proper supper. Everyone left for the tournament without me, and I had no idea where the basketball games were, so I slipped under the door and went exploring. I didn't even make it to the elevator when a maid came after me with a broom! She shrieked and started screaming, "Help! A mouse!" I kept trying to tell her that I was a church mouse, but it did no good. I made it back under the door just before the broom fell and dove through a crack where Father had not zipped the suitcase completely closed. She had a key, opened the door and began to look for me but, thinking the suitcase closed, she soon gave up.

A little while later, someone came and put out a trap baited with cheese. Imagine, a trap!!! I, Spero, am a church mouse, so I don't steal food and I certainly would not like to be caught in a trap. I just pulled my nose back into the suitcase and curled up. It was two days before we came back to Pittsburgh. I slipped out nights to sip some water from the tap in the bathroom and tried to eat little leftovers here and there. The hotel people kept prowling the halls looking for "that Rat", as they called me. Finally, the suitcase was closed again and we came back to Pittsburgh.

When he unpacked, Father John found me there, weak, tired, and very, very hungry. "Spero! Just what are you doing in there? How long have you been there?" I told him that I had been there all weekend. I really had wanted to go to the tournament and that I was sure I would come to no harm. I am after all, only a church mouse!

"Spero," Father John said. "Did I not tell you about prejudice? It is a big word but you need to remember it. When people have it, prejudice, it means that they will not allow themselves to see what a person truly is. They can only see black or white skin and not how good a person can be. And in your case they only see a mouse. They do not know you are a church mouse who helps me teach children about our Heavenly Father. And now, I think you have learned a lesson about listening to those who love you and want to protect you from harm. It is time for you to go home to Yiayia for a bath, some food, and a good rest."

And so, here I am, writing this letter and telling you that I have learned a lot from this trip. And I learned also to look more carefully at those around me, not to accuse them without cause, and to listen to what Yiayia and Father John have to teach me. Happy Valentine's Day to Yiayia, Mommy, Zoe and all my precious children!

Love in Christ,  
Spero



Voula Hareras

## Η ΚΥΡΑ ANNA

Όταν πάτησα το κεφαλόσκαλο, η μεγάλη πόρτα του Νοσοκομείου άνοιξε διάπλατη, προχώρησα μερικά βήματα και μπήκα σε μία μεγάλη αίθουσα άναμονής.

Από την μία πλευρά άνετες πολυθρόνες, καναπέδες, και τραπεζάκια περίμεναν

τούς επισκέπτες, προχωρώντας προς τόν κεντρικό διάδρομο κοντοστάθηκα στην μεγάλη Ταμπέλα που έλεγε Information-κι'άμέσως αλλάζοντας γνώμη, κατευθύνθηκα προς την ηλεκτρική σκάλα για τό δεύτερο πάτωμα.προχώρισα τόν μακρύ διάδρομο, δεξιά και άριστερά πόρτες μέ νούμερα στόν τοίχο μία κορνίζα μέ μία χαριτωμένη Νοσοκόμα, μέ τό δάκτυλο στά χείλη στήν χαρακτηριστική στάση, επιβάλοντας σιωπή, άκρα ύσυχία, περπατώντας έφτασα στό δωμάτιο μέ τόν αριθμό 210 μπήκα από την μισάνοιχτη πόρτα, από συνήθεια γύρισα τό κεφάλι νά χαιρετίσω τήν γριά Εβραία. Τό κεβάτι της όμως ήταν άδειο, στρωμένο κι' έτοιμο νά υποδεχθεί τόν έπόμενο άσθενή.

Η κουρτίνα πού χρησίμευε γιά χώρισμα, ανάμεσα στά δυό κρεβάτια ήταν τραβηγμένη, κοντοστάθηκα και δειλά δειλά τήν ανοίγω και τή βλέπω μισοξαπλωμένη. Η άγωνία της ξεχειλίζει από τό ρυτιδωμένο πρόσωπό της. Τά μάτια της σφαιριστά και τό μισάνοιχτο στόμα της έβγαζε βαριά και σφυριχτά τήν άνάσα σάν ρόγχο. Δυό τούφες από τά κατάσπρα μαλλιά της είχαν κολύσει στό κρύο μετωπό της, και τά χέρια της κρεμόντουσαν στά πλάγια τού κορμιού της, σάν κιτρινισμένη μίσχοι μαραμένου λουλουδιού.

Η κυρά Άννα δέν ήταν πιά άρρωστη. Είχε πάρει τόν δρόμο μέ τόν χάρο, κι' ήταν μόνη κατάμονη, σ' αυτό τό δύσκολο ταξίδι τό τελευταίο κανένας δέν ήταν δίπλα της, τότε άσυναίσθητα ήρθε στό μυαλό μου ό στίχος από ένα ποίημα πού είχα κάποτε διαβάσει..

[ Καί πέθανα τ' άκούς, έτσι μονάχη  
Σάν σκύλος πού φοβάει στό σκουπίδι  
Χωρίς τ' αυτή μου ένα λόγο νάχει  
Γιά συντροφιά στό μακρινό ταξίδι....

Προσπάθησα νά συνέλθω από τόν τρόπο,διώχνοντας τούς στίχους από τό κεφάλι μου. Μέ έπιασε πανικός,γι'αυτήν, και γιά μένα, άμέσως τήν πλησίασα και τής έπιασα τό κρύο κοκαλιάρικο χέρι της, οί λέξεις έβγαιναν γρήγορα και άσυλόγιστα από τό στόμα μου, ή λύπη μου ήταν μεγάλη.δέν ήθελα νά φύγει έτσι από τούτη τή ζωή χωρίς ένα λόγο αγάπης.

Κυρά Άννα μ' άκούς, μήν φοβάσαι θά γίνεις γρήγορα καλά, όλοι μας σ'άγαπάμε, κυρά Άννα, άν μέ άκούς σφίξε μου λίγο τό χέρι. Καί μόλις γίνεις καλά θά σε πάρω νά μένεις μαζί μας δέν θά είσαι πιά μόνη.

Τό χέρι της άνταποκρίθηκε, έσφιξε τό δικό μου άνεπαίσθητα και από τά μάτια της πού είχαν άνοιξει σάν δυό σχισμές κύλισαν δυό δάκρυα. Έγειρε λίγο προς έμένα.

Κυρά Άννα, τί θέλεις νά σε άνασηκώσω, νά καθήσεις πίο πάνω.

Όχι ..σάς άποχαιρετώ φεύγω φεύγω

Κυρά Άννα δέν θά φύγης ,θά με'νεις μαζί μας θά γίνεις καλά.

Όχι..σου λέω..μή λυπάσαι γιά μένα..βλέπω ένα σύννεφο..και θέλω νά φύγω,θά είμαι καλά..βλέπω έναν κάμπο..τί ώραία λουλουδια..τί όμορφα χρώματα.. κόκκινα χρυσαφιά..ολα είναι φωτεινά και ώραία..

Κουρασμένη από τήν προσπάθεια νά έπικοινωνήσει, ξαναπέφτει στό λήθαργο. Η άγωνία της μεγάλωνε,και όσο έβλεπα τήν ψυχή της νά τυραννιέται νά βγή από τό κοκαλιάρικο κορμί, πόναγα, πόναγα πολύ.

Και τότε ήταν πού έγίνα φίλη μέ τόν χάρο,αυτόν πού φιλέσπλαχνα μαχόταν νά ξεκουράσει τό ταλαιπωρημένο της κορμί,τό μόνο του κακό πού δέν κυτά χρόνια..

Τώρα ,ομως τόν βλέπω,περήφανον νά καθαλάει τό γρήγορο άλογό του και νά περνει όπι πίο ώραίο άπομένει από τό φθαρτό σώμα.την ψυχή, νά τήν πέρνει σε έναν κόσμο πού κανείς δέν ξέρει, και εκεί νά μένει ζωντανή γιά πάντα. Μακριά από τήν φθορά της ύλης, πού θά χαθεί στό σύμπαν και θά ξεχαστεί.

Αυτός ό χάρος ό άρχοντας τού άδη πρέπει νά νικήσει τώρα. Η κυρά Άννα πρέπει νά ξεκουραστεί. Τά μάτια μου σταμάτησαν νά κλαίνε. Τόν βλέπω ως λυτρωτή ευεργέτη της. Σήμερα συμφιλιώθηκα μαζί του. Σε αυτό τό άχαρο δωμάτιο τού Νοσοκομείου,πλησίασα τόν χάρο γιά πρώτη φορά. Τόν είδα έστω και από μακριά νά πέρνει τήν κυρά Άννα και τόν εύχαρίστησα.

Η σκέψη του θά μένει ζωντανή στό μυαλό μου. Θά συμβαδίζει μαζί μέ τήν υπόλοιπη ζωή μου. Αυτή ή σκέψη θά με βελτιώσει ακόμα περισσότερο. Θά βλέπω τή ζωή, τή φύση, τούς ανθρώπους, μέ μεγαλύτερη αγάπη και εκτίμηση. Καί θά είμαι πάντα έτοιμη νά άνέβω στό άλογό του. Γιατί αυτός είναι ό κύκλος μας. Η μοίρα μας. Είμαστε όλοι περαστικοί. Πεπερασμένοι..

ΤΕΛΟΣ

Βούλα Χαρερά

(Η ιστορία είναι άληθινή, μόνον τό όνομα άλλαξα.)

An update on the news and activities of our local Holy Trinity chapter of the Philoptochos Ladies Society, a national philanthropic ministry of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, and the Parish Council. "Want more information? Visit their web site at [www.Philoptochos.org](http://www.Philoptochos.org) or contact a local member.

## January/February 2008

May Everyone Have a Healthy,  
Happy New Year!

### Vasilopita

On January 13th we celebrated St. Basil's Day. We had the cutting of the Vasilopita and the recipient of the coin was Petro Balouris for the Church School. Chris Sarandou received the second coin. There was a third coin in one of the breads. No one claimed it. To Petro, Chris, And the unknown person, God bless you! Five hundred dollars (\$500.00) will be sent to the Saint Basil Academy in Garrison, New York.

### Lap Blankets

Once again this year, Philoptochos members made soft, comfortable lap blankets for Father John to take on his Christmas visitations to nursing homes, the homebound and other pastoral visits. Father noted that they were received very gratefully by those he visited. They felt specially remembered by the Philoptochos.

### Angel Tree

To each and everyone of you who took a name and bought a gift for the children of Auberle our sincere "THANK YOU!" We had 86 names of children in need of gifts this year. By Christmas we had received 85. The last one came in too late to be delivered in time for Christmas, but it was delivered later. Otherwise, it was a good year for

timely responses. I pray that next year will be even better. This page features some of the thank you notes we received from the Auberle Center and some of the notes we received for the Thanksgiving Turkey Fund philanthropic gifts.

### "Just Because" Luncheon

This month, the Philoptochos presents its first-ever "Just Because" Luncheon. Here are the details:

**WHEN:** Sunday, February 24, 2008, after Liturgy

**WHERE:** The church hall

**WHO:** Ladies of all ages their friends and female family members are invited to attend a covered dish luncheon and purse party.

**WHY?:** "Just because....!"

**CALL:** Joyce Countouris (412-366-1498) for details

### Cookbooks

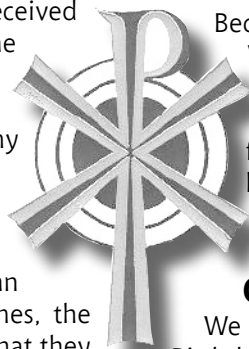
We still have cookbooks. They make wonderful gifts. Birthday, shower, housewarming or just for someone special. They are \$15.00.

### Upcoming Events

**Lenten Luncheon:** Sunday, March 30, 2008.

**Pascha Bread:** We will also be baking Easter Bread for Pascha during the spring.

Esther Ladakos  
Philoptochos President



Dear Ladies,  
I want to thank you  
so much for thinking  
of me & my son this  
holiday season.  
What a wonderful gift!

Sister Esther & all my sisters in  
Philoptochos  
You've been so very nice to me—  
I wish I knew some way  
To let you know the gratitude  
I feel but just can't say...  
So I hope this special thank-you  
Will show, at least in part,  
The warm appreciation  
That is coming from my heart.  
God Bless each &  
Everyone of you many thanks

Thank you for being so  
nice and thoughtful.  
Xpovia Toffa

Winner of  
Alfred W. Wishart, Jr. Award  
for Excellence in  
Nonprofit Management



AUBERLE

"To help troubled children and families heal themselves."

1101 Hartman Street  
McKeesport, PA 15132-1500  
(412) 673-5800  
[www.auberle.org](http://www.auberle.org)

January 4, 2008

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church  
Esther Ladakos  
3509 Shadeland Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Dear Esther,

How fortunate our children and families are to have such caring supporters! Your assistance helps us provide children and families with quality programs, dedicated staff and a safe place; stable and reassuring things that are especially vital today.

We gratefully acknowledge your in-kind donation of the wonderful gifts delivered for our Special Santa Program. These gifts helped us create an unforgettable Christmas for the children in our care. As the IRS requires, let me confirm that neither you nor Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church received any goods or services for this donation.

Please accept our thanks for your continued support of our children and families and your belief in the Auberle Mission. Friends like you make it possible for us to be there at critical times when kids need us most.

With warm regards,

Lauri  
Lauri K. Fink  
Director of Development

Thank you so  
very much!



## Holy Trinity New Year's Eve 2008



**Dec. 30:** Members of the 2008 Holy Trinity Parish Council were installed according to Archdiocese regulations. Pictured, along with Father Radu and Father John, are (l-r): Leo Loomis, Anthony Loomis, Dean J. Balouris, Robert Marsh, Vasilios Scoumis, Sondra A. Balouris, Alex Trivilas, Gerri Vallient, John Phillips, Chris T. Balouris. Not pictured: George Dickos, Nicholas Sarandou, Lou Zozos.





## GOYA Basketball Tournament

**January 18-20:** Three teams of GOYAns, along with Father John, coaches and lots of parent chaperones, attended the first Metropolis Basketball Tournament of the year in Canton, Ohio. The teams returned with two second place trophies (boys), a third place trophy (girls), the Sportsmanship Trophy (entire community) and a broken arm! Thank you to all our dedicated families for the service and sacrifice in providing for our children during these well-attended Metropolis events. Well done, HT!







Every Metropolis Basketball tournament awards a single Sportsmanship Trophy to the community selected by the participants as best exemplifying the spirit Christian sportsmanship during the event. Holy Trinity Church, with its three teams, coaches and chaperones, was selected as the Sportsmanship Trophy at the Canton, Ohio, tournament. They are pictured here following Sunday Divine Liturgy.



## Young Adult Ministry: January Bowling



**January 5:** Continuing on their upward trend toward building more opportunities for fellowship and fun, the Holy Trinity Young Adult Ministry (YAM) hosted a bowling event at Lebanon Lanes. They are pictured here with Parish Council President Leo Loomis.



## 2008 Holy Trinity Vasilopita Celebration

**January 13:** Holy Trinity Philoptochos sponsored the annual Vasilopita celebration in honor of the Feast of Saint Basil the Great. Pictured here are representatives from the many Holy Trinity ministries. This year's coin went to the children of the HOPE and JOY ministries.





# Iconography and Items Needed Update | Saint George Chapel

Thank you to the many generous and faithful donors who have chosen to honor family, loved ones and the Holy Church through their offerings of items and liturgical items for the completion of the Saint George Chapel at Holy Trinity Cemetery. Since the publication of the items needed list, many of the items have been donated. It has come to my attention, however, that more people are interested in donating but do not know what items are still needed. To answer that question, here is a list of items not yet donated. Please use the form below if you would like to reserve one of them. All donations are on a first-come, first-served basis. A complete Chapel Master Plan, Items List and Donation Form are available at our chapel's website, [www.HolyTrinityPgh.org/chapel](http://www.HolyTrinityPgh.org/chapel).  
- Fr. John

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
1	Falling Asleep of the Theotokos	\$10,000
2	Nativity of the Lord	\$12,000
3	Crucifixion of the Lord	\$12,000
5	Resurrection and Last Judgement Mural	\$90,000
7	Prophet Habbakuk	\$2,500
8	Prophet Daniel	\$2,500
9	Prophet Jeremiah	\$2,500
10	Prophet David	\$2,500
11	Prophet Solomon	\$2,500
13	Prophet Moses	\$2,500
14	Prophet Isaiah	\$2,500
15	The Apostle Iakovos	\$2,500
16	The Apostle Thaddeus	\$2,500
17	The Apostle Andrew	\$2,500
18	The Apostle Luke	\$2,500
22	Jesus Christ (Deisis)	\$2,500
24	The Apostle Paul	\$2,500
25	The Apostle Mark	\$2,500
26	The Apostle John	\$2,500
27	The Apostle Bartholomew	\$2,500
28	The Apostle Thomas	\$2,500

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
29	The Apostle Philip	\$2,500
30	St. Euphrosynos the Cook	\$3,000
34	The Theotokos (Wall)	\$3,000
41	St. Romanos	\$3,000
42	St. John of Damascus	\$3,000
43	St. Sisoies	\$3,000
48	The Nativity (Prothesis)	\$2,000
49	Christ "Extreme Humility" (Prothesis)	\$2,000
61	St. Gerasimos	\$3,000
64	Censer stand	\$500
65	Paten and Chalice Sets (2) @\$500	\$1,000
66	Processional Candles (2) @\$200	\$400
69	Altar Table Candlesticks (2) @\$275	\$550
76	Funeral Candlestands (2) @\$400	\$800
78	Resurrection Banner	\$1,800
80	Gospel Stand	\$1,000
81	Gospel (Bi-Lingual)	\$1,000
82	Epistles (2: 1 Greek/1 English) @\$450	\$900
84	Menaia (Daily Hymns books: English)	\$1,200
85	CENTRAL DOME CHANDELIER	\$12,000

## How To Donate Items

If you would like to donate one or more items from the above list, please use the form below or the one found in the Saint George Chapel Master Plan booklet from our web site. Please understand that the entire project is in need of completion and every offering is equally important. If there is a particular saint, scene or item you would like to donate, you may request it. If it has already been donated, please consider another item or simply ask for your donation to be applied wherever needed. All donors will be acknowledged in appropriate ways, including listing in a booklet that will be available at the chapel describing its architecture, iconography and interior. No plaques will be used.

<b>Name</b>		<b>Phone</b>	
<b>Address</b>			
<b>Item(s) Requested (# &amp; Descrip.)</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>List as "Donated by"</b>	<b>Optional commemoration (In memory/honor or)</b>
1.			
2.			
3.			

Please send this form and check to: Saint George Chapel, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 302 W. North Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15212. Make checks payable to "Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church" and write "Chapel Donation" in the memo line. If the entire donation cannot be made at once, please contact Father John to arrange later donation date. Please contact Father John (412-321-9282) or Bill Fiedler (412-364-1545) with any other questions about the chapel or the items above.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Over the past five years, Holy Trinity Church has sponsored responded to the mission and service call of the Gospel by sponsoring mission and outreach both international and local. Homes were built for needy Mexican families through Project Mexico and various philanthropic projects were undertaken in the Pittsburgh area. This year, our missions focus will be domestic, meeting the needs of the Native American population, much of which is in extreme poverty. The letter below describes the opportunities.

Our officially designated trip will be **July 25-August 2, 2008**, to Browning, MT. We need both parents and youth to attend. It is an excellent family opportunity. Please send in your reservation form ASAP (by Feb. 15 at the latest) so that space may be held and please let me know you will be joining the HT team. We have reserved 20 spots for our community. - Father John

### Young Orthodox Christian American Mission Adventures 2008

Dear Friends:

As result of previous successful mission experiences with the Navajo Indians in New Mexico and with the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Maximos at the 2008 Pittsburgh Clergy-Laity Conference, we are pleased to announce the formation of "YOCAMA" (Young Orthodox Christian American Mission Adventures) a non-profit organization. YOCAMA is also pleased to announce the scheduling of two mission trip experiences for our youth. Two trips are planned for 2008:

- June 14-21, 2008: Thoreau, New Mexico to work with the Highland Navajo Outreach, a non-profit organization, to provide help for the Navajo people via home improvement projects, vacation bible school, medical services and food delivery.
- **July 25-August 2, 2008: Browning, Montana to work with the Blackfeet Community hospital and housing authority to provide help for the Blackfeet people via home improvement projects, lunches and activities for local children, medical services and food delivery.**

Holy Trinity  
Group Trip

Your community will be required to send one chaperone for every five young adults/children that participate. Any young adult under the age of 14 will be required to have a parent or guardian attend. There will be clergy and medical personnel present during each mission trip as well.

The all-inclusive cost of either trip per participant is \$700. This includes: roundtrip transportation, local transportation in New Mexico or Montana, and room and board. **Each participant is responsible for the entire payment of \$650 due to us by April 30, 2008.** (Note: If you are providing your own airfare, payment of just \$300 will be due on April 30th for room and board only.)

To guarantee yourself a spot on the 2008 YOCAMA Trips, please note the following dates (space is limited we are operating on a first come first serve basis):

- January 31, 2008 – Non-refundable \$50 deposit due toward the airfare, along with enclosed registration form.
- April 30, 2008 - \$650 balance due and signed forms (to be mailed to registrant in February 2008).

Checks should be made out to "YOCAMA" and mailed to (including registration form):

Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, c/o YOCAMA  
Attn: Angie Giallourakis  
22909 Center Ridge Road  
Rocky River, OH 44116

If you have any questions or would like to help with planning or fundraising, please contact:

Ann Salvator (Email: [annsalvator@yahoo.com](mailto:annsalvator@yahoo.com) / Phone: 330-405-3141)

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh Mission Committee member

or Angie Giallourakis (Email: [angiegiallourakis@yahoo.com](mailto:angiegiallourakis@yahoo.com) / Phone: 440-871-2681)

We think that this will be an exceptional experience for all those who wish to give of themselves to improve the conditions of the Navajo and Blackfeet people.

*"The entire earth is a single homeland." Mother Gavrilia*

God bless,

**Ann Salvatore**



*ATTENTION MISSIONARIES: Please submit the enclosed YOCAMA Missionary Information Form ASAP! Holy Trinity Church has reserved 20 spaces, and they are on a first-come, first-served basis. Also please let Father John ASAP know if you will be participating on the trip.*

# MONTANA

## GLACIER NATIONAL PARK: HIKING DESTINATION DURING THE 2008 METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH MONTANA MISSION TRIP



From the 2007 Navajo Mission Trip: Young people from the Metropolis of Pittsburgh provided home improvement help to a needy elderly Navajo Indian. His home was not insulated and he did not have the resources or skills to do this himself. The house, located on a Native American Indian reservation, had no electricity or plumbing. This is typical of the type of work done on one of these trips.

Another scene from the 2007 Mission: Missionaries from the Metropolis of Pittsburgh with children from a Navajo reservation. The group built a daycare center for these children and also ran a Vacation Bible School program during the construction process.



This issue of The Holy Trinity Herald contains exciting news about this year's mission trip, but there are also many other opportunities for our teens and young adults to participate in faith and fellowship experiences both domestic and abroad. Here are a few to consider:

## IONIAN VILLAGE An Orthodox Summer Camp in Greece!



Please visit [www.IONIANVILLAGE.org](http://www.IONIANVILLAGE.org) to register!

Register before March 7th to receive the Early Bird discount rate!

**Summer Travel Camp: June 27th through July 17th**  
**Byzantine Venture: July 26th through August 14th**

Both sessions open to campers who have completed 7th through 12th grade.

Office of Ionian Village  
83 St. Basil Rd.  
Garrison, NY 10524

T: (646) 519-6190 F: (646) 519-6192

IONIAN VILLAGE IS A PROGRAM OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

## HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS AND SENIORS



TAKE THE  
CHALLENGE  
OF YOUR LIFE!

CrossRoad is a ten-day Orthodox Christian summer program where you focus on Christ and His calling for your life. As a CrossRoad participant, you'll explore your vocation with:

- mini-classes taught by Orthodox Christian professors
- visits to Orthodox Churches in the Boston area
- community outreach projects
- field trips exploring the Boston area
- spiritual reflection

Due to overwhelming interest, CrossRoad is now two sessions!

**CROSSROAD JUNE: JUNE 21 – JULY 1, 2008**

**CROSSROAD JULY: JULY 5 – 15, 2008**

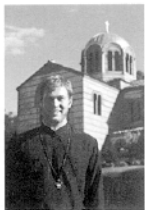
Application deadline is March 1, 2008

Applications may be downloaded from the CrossRoad Website: [www.crossroad.hchc.edu](http://www.crossroad.hchc.edu) or call 617-850-1309 for more information.



Expenses except travel to Boston are covered.

## A CALLING TO SERVE



Whether you've been called to the priesthood, or called to serve the Church as an educator, youth director or lay leader, Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology can prepare you for the challenges of Church service. Our curriculum balances theological studies with practical skills and experience that will help you in our increasingly complex world. Work with a close-knit family of students and learn from internationally recognized professors who have a deep appreciation of your calling and understand the challenges facing men and women serving the Church. For more details contact our Admissions Office at 1-866-HCHC-EDU or visit us at [www.hchc.edu](http://www.hchc.edu) today.



30 Goodford Avenue, Brookline, MA 02445  
admissions@hchc.edu • [www.holycross.hchc.edu](http://www.holycross.hchc.edu)  
866.424.2330

And don't forget our Metropolis Summer Camp:

## COUNSELORS WANTED!

JOY - Session 1: June 15-21; Session 2: June 22-28  
GOYA - Session 3: June 29-July 5; Session 4: July 6-12



Orthodox Christian Fellowship

Attention College Students!

Visit [www.ocf.net](http://www.ocf.net) for 10 exciting ways to use your Spring Break for the glory of God! Real Break 2008 will be sending teams to Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, El Salvador, Toronto, Greece and Alaska! It's not too late to apply.



See the insert in this issue of the Herald for information on how to support Dean Dickos, who will be attending Real Break 2008 at Project Mexico! Thanks for making the work of our Holy Trinity missionaries possible!



Thank you to the following faithful stewards who have submitted their pledge cards for the 2008 pledge year as of this publication. 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.. Mark Adamczyk  
 Mr. & Mrs. Victor Amurgis  
 Mrs. Harriet Amurgis  
 Miss Victoria Andromalos-Dale  
 Mr. & Mrs. William Andromalos  
 Ms. Marjorie Andromalos  
 Rev. Fr. & Pres. John Androustopoulos  
 Mr. and Mrs. Henry Areheart  
 Mr. George Athanasious  
 Mr. & Mrs. Alvin Backeris  
 Mr. & Mrs. Van Backeris  
 Dr. & Mrs. Christ A. Balouris  
 Dr. & Mrs. Constantine A. Balouris  
 Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Balouris  
 Mr. & Mrs. James T. Balouris  
 Mr. & Mrs. Chris T. Balouris  
 Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Barron  
 Mrs. Anne-Marie Battaglia  
 Mr. George N. Beckas  
 Mrs. Mary Ayne Bistolas  
 Mrs. Sophia Bridoux  
 Mrs. Georgia Castellano  
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Chapas  
 Mr. Thomas Chapas  
 Mrs. Helen Chapas  
 Dr. and Mrs. Antonios Christou  
 Mr. Gabriel Cocheres  
 Mrs. Johanna Cocheres  
 Ms. Cynthia Criss  
 Mrs. Angeline Davis  
 Mrs. Helen DeMoss  
 Mr. Dean Dickos  
 Miss Betty Dickos  
 Mr. & Mrs. George Dickos  
 Mr. Bryan Elderkin  
 Mrs. Anna Festas  
 Mr. & Mrs. William Fiedler  
 Mr. & Mrs. Brian Fitzpatrick  
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Fraley  
 Mr. & Mrs. John Franciscus  
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Geanopoulos  
 Mr. & Mrs. George Geanopoulos  
 Mr. and Mrs. Troy Geanopoulos  
 Mrs. Athanasia Geanopoulos  
 Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Georgallis  
 Mr. John and Dr. Alexandra George  
 Mr. & Mrs. George Georges  
 Mrs. Elizabeth Georges  
 Mr. and Mrs. Mark Georgiadis  
 Mr. & Mrs. Gus Georgiadis  
 Mr. Elias Germanos  
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Germanos  
 Mrs. Eugenia Graser  
 Mr. & Mrs. Nick Hanna  
 Miss Pennie Hareras  
 Mrs. Voula Hareras

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Henigin  
 Mr. & Mrs. Paul Hionedes  
 Mr. & Mrs. Carlo Iasella  
 Mr. & Mrs. Homer Johnson  
 Mrs. Kelly Karavolos  
 Mr. & Mrs. James Kermes  
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Kostopolos  
 Miss Stella Kourakos  
 Miss Elenie Kourouklis  
 Mrs. Vasso Kourouklis  
 Dr. & Mrs. Dimitris Kraniou  
 Miss Victoria Kritiotis  
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Kritiotis  
 Mr. & Mrs. George Lalikos  
 Mrs. Kelly Manning  
 Mr. John Manolakis  
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Marsh  
 Mr. & Mrs. Mino Mitaras  
 Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Morris  
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Morris  
 Miss Maria Nychis  
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Panos  
 Mr. & Mrs. George Pantelakis  
 Mr. Gregory Pappas  
 Mr. & Mrs. Orestes Paras  
 Mrs. Nikki Pell  
 Mr. John S. Petropoulos  
 Mrs. Pauline Pontikos  
 Ms Rania Pontikos  
 Mrs. Olga Regakis  
 Mrs. Theologia Rigas  
 Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Roman  
 Mr. Bill Roomeliotis  
 Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Saran  
 Mr. Vasilios Scoumis  
 Mrs. Chrissy Sfanos  
 Mr. & Mrs. Emmanuel Sideris  
 M/M Charles Siebott & Irene Karavolos  
 Mr. James Statheas  
 Mr. & Mrs. James G. Thiros  
 Mrs. Penny Tomalski  
 Mrs. Georgia Touloumes  
 Fr. & Pres. John N. Touloumes  
 Ms. Anastasia Tsouris  
 Ms. Eleni Valliant  
 Miss Harriet Valliant  
 Miss Maria Valliant  
 Mr. & Mrs. Gerri Valliant  
 Mr. Peter Valliant  
 Mr. Peter Vasilatos  
 Miss Mary Magdalene Welsh  
 Mr. Demo Zamagias  
 Mrs. Effie Zamagias  
 Mrs. Dorothea K. Zikos  
 Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Zissis  
 Mr. & Mrs. George L. Zozos

## Money and Possessions: The Bible has a lot to say!

**A**s you can see from the list on this page, we are again off to a great start for our 2008 Stewardship Commitment. It is encouraging to see that overall, the pledges received to date exceed the record levels we saw last year (a detailed report on 2007 will be provided in the next *Herald*).

When discussing with parishioners about our continued growth in being good Christian Stewards, one issue that often arises is our uneasiness about using "money" and "church" in the same sentence. I searched for what others might have said about this issue — by the way, if you Google "bible + money + possessions", you'll get 194,000 hits! The following are few excerpts from various sources:

"Scholars point out that Jesus discusses money more than heaven and hell combined, or that Jesus talked more about money than anyone else in the Bible. Financial teacher Howard Dayton and Pastor Rick Warren for example, mention that 1/6 of the New Testament, 2350 verses in the Bible, and 16 of 38 parables all address the topic of money and possessions."

"Such comments remind us how much God has to say about money; they also show us how critical it is for us to pay attention to what God's word says about our possessions and pocket-books. Why are we so afraid to talk about it? Why do we quickly get into a huff when we talk about money and giving at church?"

Possessions and money are earthly blessings, and where can they be more appropriately used than in our church ministries? The risk, as the Bible reminds us lies "when your affections are set on your earthly possessions instead of your heavenly possessions." Matthew 6:19-21; Colossians 3:1-4.

Michael Kritiotis  
Stewardship Chairman



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### CLERGY

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Home: 415 Tyburn Drive, Wexford, PA 15090 ..... Home: 724-933-0117

### CHURCH OFFICE AND COMMUNITY CENTER

**Administrative Assistant:** Josephine Stofko (E-mail: [office@HolyTrinityPgh.org](mailto:office@HolyTrinityPgh.org)) ..... 412-321-9282  
Regular Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.  
**Hall Booking Coordinator:** Kathy Romanias ..... 412-934-3915

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Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, 8-10 East 79th St., New York, NY 10021 ..... Web Site: [www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)  
**His Eminence Metropolitan Maximos of Pittsburgh** ..... 412-621-5529  
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh, 5201 Ellsworth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15232 ..... Web site: [www.odpgh.org](http://www.odpgh.org)  
**Rhea Ballas**, Metropolis Youth Ministries Coordinator (same address as Metropolis) ..... 412-621-8543

### PARISH REPRESENTATIVES TO ARCHDIOCESE AND METROPOLIS ORGANIZATIONS

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## We Are All Missionaries!

This issue of the Herald contains an exciting invitation to join the 2008 Holy Trinity Mission Trip to Montana to help our suffering Native American brethren. Not able to participate? Not to worry. You can still be a missionary! Right here! One of the most important missionary calling of the Church happens right here every day, in the local parish. Live your faith. Set your light on the hill. The mission is yours!

If the parish, as the eucharistic community, is alive, then its impact on its environment is immense. True communicants and active church members cannot help but show the enormous change and ... the benefit they have obtained. Therefore, our best missionary effort is this tangible, visible manifestation in the lives of the parish members.

Today, many feel the absence of warmth, true fellowship, deep, unselfish concern, and human solidarity in our families and society in general. In view of such emotional poverty, the parish is in an excellent position to help. In the prevailing impersonal, anonymous, inhuman environment, with its exploitation, violence, criminality, and moral decline, the parish can stand as a counter balance, calling people to a new lifestyle, with Christ as the source and author of such a reorientation.

We must stop thinking of the parish as a static, narrow, pietistic gathering. The parish is the embodiment of the worldwide redeeming call of God, who wants everyone to be saved, and who for this end established the Church on earth. ... Having such parishioners, of course, presupposes a long period of training and a feeling of close cooperation between the clergy and the laity in ministering and proclaiming the truth. Each bears a part of responsibility for evangelizing. Participating in parish liturgical life commits one for further action, both within the inner circle and outside its bounds to those who live on the periphery.

*From "Priest, Parish & Renewal" by Metropolitan Emilianos*

Scripture of the Month: "The Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world." (1 John 4.14)