



# THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

JULY-AUGUST 2008

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HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH • PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

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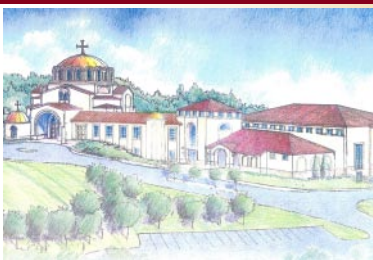
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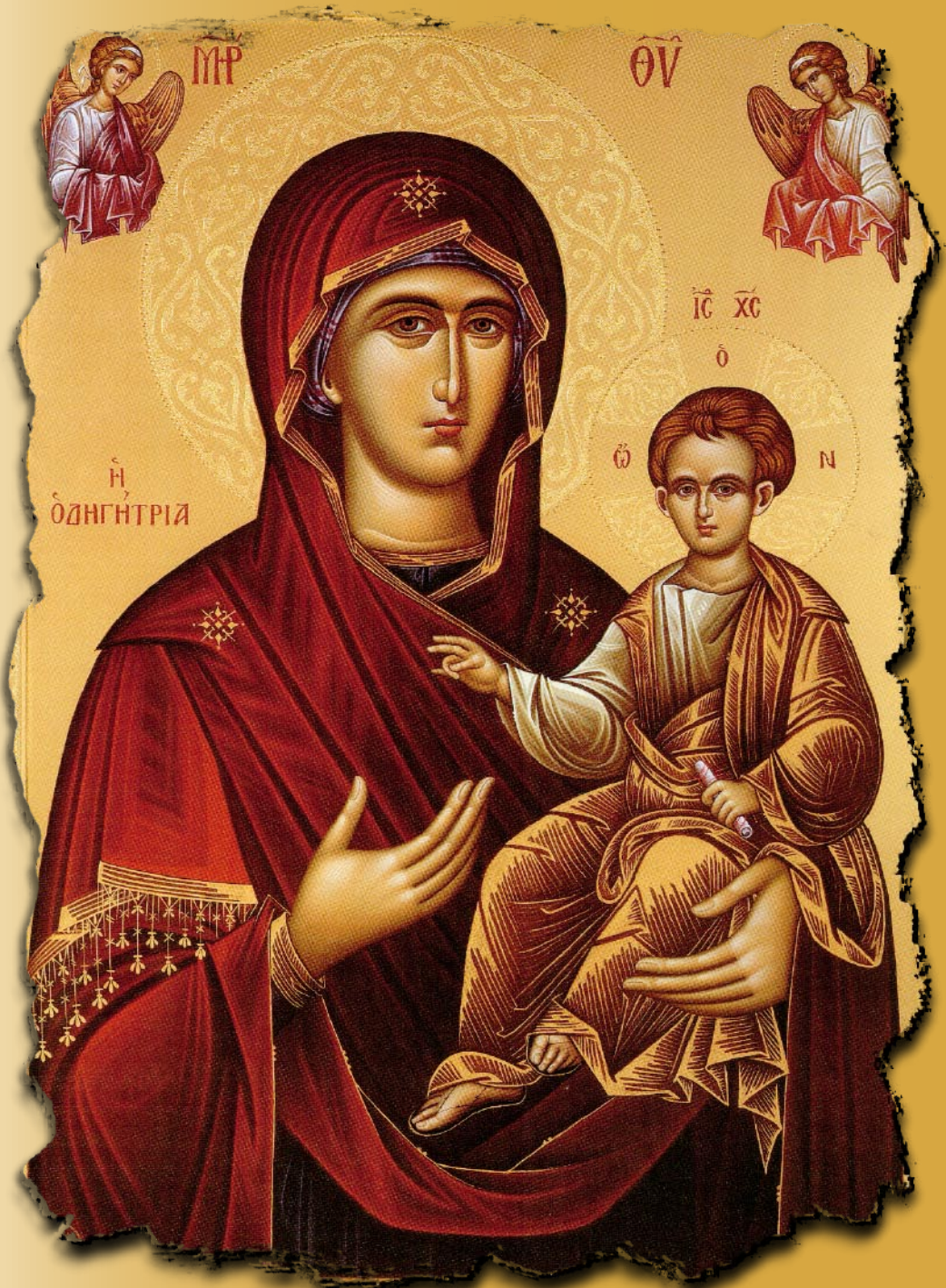
**REMEMBER:  
HOLY TRINITY  
MAIN FESTIVAL  
AUGUST 27-31**

## QUICK NEWS



Looking for news on the new church project? Turn to pages 6 and 7 for a comprehensive report from the Vision Committee on the master building plan, the formation and progress of various committees and, of course, the architect's watercolor rendering of the new facility. Stay informed...get involved!

**DIVINE LITURGY BEGINS AT  
9:30 A.M.**



**The Panagia "Odegetria" ~ The Directress**

**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 Club.....Stella Athanasiou, Pres.

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

Cemetery..... Bill Fiedler, Chairman

Greek School ....Effie Kilantonis, Coordinator

Social Hall.....Kathy Romanias, Coordinator

Bookstore .....Bill and Linda Areheart



I heard the voice of the Lord  
saying, "Whom shall I send, and  
who will go for us?" Then I said,  
"Here am I! Send me."

Isaiah 6.8

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Surveying the panoramic vista of life at Holy Trinity Church these days, it is truly hard to choose where to begin this writing. Activity of all kinds abounds. Excitement is growing. Missionaries are heading out into the field. God's Holy Spirit is pouring forth energy and faith among us.

We are in our 85th Anniversary year as a faith community. For many parishes caught up in a declining spiral, a number like 85 invokes headstones instead of milestones. Closed and withering parishes around the Pittsburgh region attest to the fact that communities not willing to work to grow will die. Not so at Holy Trinity. In many ways, life is starting anew.

I remember visiting a Greek jeweler friend some years ago to have some jewelry repaired. Among the pieces was Presvytera's engagement ring. He took it and disappeared behind the counter into the workshop area with the comment, "I'll be right back." A few minutes later, after the hisses of some high-pressure bursts of steam revealed his secret method, he re-emerged, holding in his hand a sparkling diamond perched atop a circle of gleaming gold. I hadn't seen it look like that for years. Giving it back to her was like giving it anew.

As I look with wonder and thanksgiving at the depth and breadth of sacrificial offerings being made on a daily basis through meetings, plans, drawings and so much more, I have a distinct sense that this community is banding together in its 85th year to polish that sign of betrothal to God and present it to Him anew. And what is making it sparkle again? I have no doubt: it is the Holy Spirit moving in the hearts of our people as He did in the words of the Prophet Isaiah above, who when called by God stepped forward and said, "Here I am! Send me."

It is happening everywhere at Holy Trinity these days. The center spread provides a comprehensive review and report of much of it. Instead of asking, "Who will do it," more are responding, "Send ME!" If you are not yet part of it, please step up. There is a place for you!

Most exciting, it is not just life around the corner or down the road that is getting the attention, but the need to live and fulfill our mission now. As the committees work overtime to build a new church center, our Ministries Development group is working to make sure all parts of our parish are well-served, and our missionaries are heading out to an Indian reservation in Montana to simply offer Christian hands of love in rebuilding run-down housing for their daily lives. All are testimonies to the commitment of everyone to build not just a better tomorrow, but a better today through the love of Christ in serving everyone! I offer my most heartfelt thanks to everyone. Glory to God!

Most sincerely in Christ,

## WORSHIP LIFE

### Weekday Liturgies ..... July/August

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..

Paraclesis Services (See below) ..... Aug. 1-13

Great Vespers: Transfiguration of the Lord ..... Aug. 5  
7:00 p.m. *Vespers at **Holy Trinity** followed by the Blessing of the First Fruits at the end of the service*

Liturgy: Transfiguration of the Lord ..... Aug. 6  
10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy at **Holy Transfiguration Monastery in Ellwood City** with His Eminence Metropolitan Maximos presiding, followed by lunch.

Koimissis Vespers ..... 7:00 p.m., Tue. Aug. 14

*NOTE: Vespers at Aliquippa & Oakmont churches*

Koimissis Liturgy ..... Wed. Aug. 15

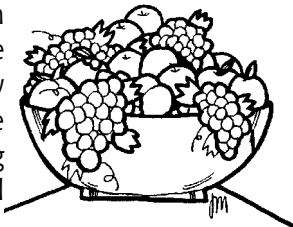
*NOTE: Liturgy at Holy Trinity Church*

Beheading of the Forerunner ..... Fri. Aug. 29

*NOTE: This Liturgy will start early at **9:00 a.m.** due to the Festival. Please come before "checking in for work" at your station!*

### Transfiguration Blessing of the First Fruits ..... Aug. 5/6

In keeping with the wonderful tradition of the Blessing of the Fruits at the Transfiguration, it is customary to bring a tray of washed grapes or fruit on August 6, which will be blessed and distributed at the end of the service. In the days of a farming society, this was the first offering back to God from the harvest. Even though they are most often bought from a grocery store today, we should not lose touch with the idea of offering back to God the first fruits of all our blessings!



Please note: We will be holding Great Vespers at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 5, followed by the Blessing of the First Fruits at Holy Trinity Church. Then, we will join His Eminence Metropolitan Maximos at the Holy Transfiguration Monastery in Ellwood City for the Liturgy of the Feast on Wednesday, August 6 at 10:00 a.m.

### Koimissis Vespers & Liturgy ..... Aug. 14/15

Our sister parishes of Koimissis churches in Aliquippa and Oakmont invite us to join them for their feast day Great Vespers on Thursday, August 14th at 7:00 p.m., followed by a lenten reception. Orthros and Divine Liturgy for the Falling Asleep of the Theotokos will be held at those parishes as well as at Holy Trinity Church on Friday, August 15, with Orthros starting at 8:30 a.m., followed by Divine Liturgy at 9:30.



### Paraclesis Services to the Most Holy Theotokos August 1-13

**H**oly Trinity Church will, as usual, offer a schedule of Paraclesis to the Theotokos Services during the first fifteen days of August in preparation for the feast of the Falling Asleep (Koimissis) of the Theotokos. We will also continue the practice of highlighting various ministries at Holy Trinity on given evenings as we invoke the prayers of the Theotokos upon our efforts. Again, please remember that all parishioners are encouraged to attend all services; these specially designated evenings are a way for us to gather together as faithful members of various ministry groups and ask for the Lord's blessings and the Panagia's prayers regarding our particular involvement in the life of the Church. **All services will take place at 6:00 p.m.** Here is the schedule:

#### **August 2008 Paraclesis Schedule**

Fri. 8/1 ..... First Paraclesis

Mon. 8/4 ..... **Seniors**

*Invoke the prayers of the Panagia on our beloved elders and senior citizens. Your mission: How about making sure to bring one of them to church tonight? Honor them through serving them!*

Thu. 8/7 ..... **Students Night**

*Special prayers for students returning to school & college. It is the best preparation parents can offer their children!*

Fri. 8/8 ..... **Married Couples Blessing**

*Prayers for blessings on the core relationship of our parish and families: marriage. Why not make it a special "spiritual date" with your spouse?*

Mon. 8/11 ..... **Religious Education Ministries**

*Church School Staff Meeting following.*

Tue. 8/12 ..... **Healing Prayers for The Sick**

*Anointing with Holy Oil from Mount Athos for all. Bring the names of those people who are in special need of healing.*

Wed. 8/13... **Prayers for the Future of our Church**

*All parishioners are asked to join in seeking the blessings of the Panagia for the future of our community.*



## FESTIVAL NEWS

## Festival Cooking ..... July/August

Our Festival cooking committees offer many thanks to all those who have pitched in over the past few months. We are almost done ... but not quite! Please put the following dates on your calendar:

**July 13** following Liturgy: Cutting grape leaves for dolmathes

**July 17**, 9:00 a.m., making dolmathes

**July 24/25**, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., making diples.

Also watch for souvlakia dates in the bulletin. Please don't wait for a phone call: consider yourself invited!

## Main Festival Dates ..... August 27-31

Don't forget to also keep August 27-31 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.

## Stewardship Pledges Due

This issue of *The Herald* contains a complete list of 2008 Holy Trinity Stewards who have submitted signed pledge cards this year. Please be sure your name is on the list of pledges received ... and if it's not, you know what to do! Thank you, good and faithful stewards!

## SACRAMENTAL REGISTRY

## Baptism - Balouris

The servant of God, Evangelia Balouris, daughter of Chris T. and Chrysoula Balouris, was received into the Holy Orthodox Christian Faith through the Holy Mystery of Baptism on June 14, 2008. The Godparents were Nikki Daskalakis and Ian Horkheimer. May God grant her many years!

## Chrismation - Pefferman

The servant of God, Gregory Pefferman, husband of Kelly Karavolos, was received into the Holy Orthodox Christian Faith through the Holy Mystery of Chrismation on June 29, 2008. The Sponsor was Fanny Kostos. May God grant him many years!

## Wedding - Steiner/Fiedler

The servants of God, Craig Steiner and Nicole Fiedler, were united in marriage through the Holy Mysteries of Betrothal and Crowning on June 1, 2008. The Sponsors were Francis and Peter Kladias. May God grant them many years!

## REGIONAL NEWS

## Greek Day at Kennywood ..... July 22

Don't forget about the annual Greek Day at Kennywood sponsored by the Presentation of Christ Church, this year on July 22. For information or tickets, call Theodora Stupakis at 412-824-9188. All-day Funday passes are only \$20 if purchased in advance (\$32 if purchased at the gate). There are also other more affordable options, as low as \$12 after 5pm.

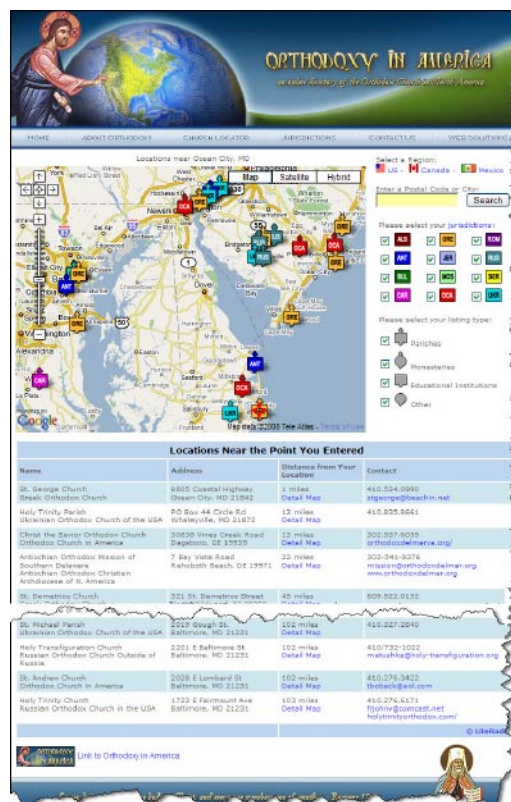
## ORTHODOX INTERNET RESOURCES

Best Overall Orthodox Site ..... [www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)

Over the past decade, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese has built the most widely-used and awarded Orthodox Christian site on the Internet, through the inspired work of IT Director Theo Nickolakis and the generous support of the Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Endowment Fund. From practical resources such as liturgical calendars to inspirational tools like scriptures and writings to the Fathers, from tools like Bulletin Builder for parish offices to on-line videos for those interested in the Faith, it is a veritable treasury. Stop by often!

Orthodox Church Locator . . . [www.OrthodoxyInAmerica.org](http://www.OrthodoxyInAmerica.org)

Travelling for summer vacation? Heading off on another business trip? Don't forget to check out the location of the nearest Orthodox church on this great site. It provides church addresses, the distance from where you're staying and even a clickable map and links to parish websites. It's a must-put-on-your-favorites kind of site. Don't head out of town without it!



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



**Father John Androutsopoulos**

## DEDICATED TO THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH PITTSBURGH, PA 1923-2008

"God put all things under Christ's feet and gave him to the Church as supreme Lord over all things. The Church is Christ's body, the comple-

tion of him who himself completes all things everywhere." (Ephesians 22-23)

The Church is a living organism, like the human body. Christ is the head, the Church is his body.

### Our Church Obligation

As we begin our 85th Anniversary of Holy Trinity, let us read the following prayer and practice it every day during the coming years: Having accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior and having made this known by uniting with His Church, I, therefore, acknowledge that I want to give my Church:

**AFFECTION** I want to give my church affection that she may be strengthened by the knowledge that I, as a member of the Church, am trying to serve with my fellow believers in the bonds of holy love and unity.

**APPRECIATION** I want to give my church a kindly word of appreciation for her ministry and want to have a part in sending her truths to all the world.

**CONSIDERATION** I want to give my Church sympathy and consideration and want to rejoice in the good she is doing and share to the limit of my ability.

**ENCOURAGEMENT** I want to give my Church encouragement when temptations, vexations and annoyances make the work of Christ difficult.

**FAITH** I want to give my Church faith that she may be free to proclaim the message of peace, goodwill and brotherhood.

**GRATITUDE** I want to give my Church gratitude and praise for the many things she has

helped me to bear; for the precious outpouring of God's love that strengthens and gives me courage in time of trouble.

**PRAYER** I want to give my Church prayer each day that God bless her and make her services a blessing to everyone who enters her gates.

**REVERENCE** I want to give my Church reverence as the Divine Institution, as a body of baptized believers organized to teach men a better way of living.

**STEWARDSHIP** I want to give my Church a tithe of my income.

**TIME** I want to give my Church enough of my time to help in the work of Our Lord Jesus Christ, to win others to Him, when and where He needs me.

May God rest the souls of the founders of our Church, the departed Parish Priests and all of those members who have fallen asleep in the Lord. Eternal be their memory!

And, may God give wisdom and prudence to the Parish Priest, Fr. John, the Parish Council and to all of the members of the community to continue the good works of our ancestors. For the Glory of God, and His Church, and the spiritual welfare of all of the faithful of the parish.

### What Christians Say

Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me say farewell to those at my home." (Luke 9:61).

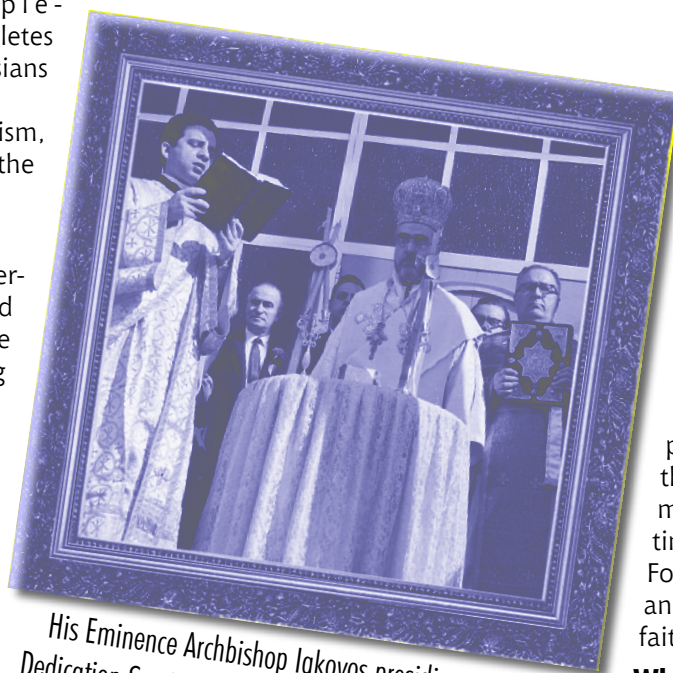
This text is typical of many so-called Christians today. People say, "I can't do it because...." and then give 101 reasons why they cannot teach a Church School class, help with church projects, come to church regularly.

To many of us, these excuses seem reasonable; the mother with the young child, the father who is too tired after working all week. Yet, these same people find time to do the things they want to do: go to a card party or to the golf course.

What would have happened if Jesus had said, "I am to young to die." Or, "Give me a few more years to enjoy life?" On the contrary, He submitted Himself completely to God.

It is not for us to say, "I'll follow You, but first...." Rather, as followers of Christ, we feel compelled to say, "Here I am. Use Me." No excuse is good enough for not doing the Master's will.

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



*His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos presiding over the Dedication Service of Holy Trinity Church, April 30, 1961*



The Holy Trinity Vision Committee has been very active over the last couple of months in furtherance of the Church's Mission Statement, which was unanimously adopted in 1999. This article is being offered to keep the community informed of recent developments.

## May 4 General Assembly Approves Move Forward

A detailed report, including proposals for several major initiatives, was presented and approved at the well-attended May 4, 2008 General Assembly Meeting. The proposals presented and approved were:

**1) Segmented Approach:** Adoption of a phased or "segmented" building plan, with the first segment being the construction of the Community Center and Ministries and Administration Building

**2) Capital Campaign:** Approval of a Capital Campaign goal of \$3.5 million

**3) Fundraising Consultant:** Selection and the retention of a Capital Campaign Consultant.

## Conceptual Design

To the right is a current rendering of the overall project, which includes buildings to be built during the first segment and second segments. Segment I is indicated by the full-color areas: the Community Center and the Ministries and Education Building. Segment II is indicated by the monochrome sketch, and includes the Church Temple on the top level and additional ministry space below.

## Community Center

In the first segment, we will be building a fully functional Community Center with a complete commercial-quality kitchen. Daylit classrooms and ministry rooms with windows overlooking our beautiful property will be on the lower level of the Community Center, along with several large storage rooms. On the main level, it is important to note that we will be able to provide a complete, semi-permanent and securable altar area at the time when the sale of the North Avenue property presents the need to offer church services in the Community Center until the Church Temple building is erected in the second segment of the project.

## Ministries and Administration Building

The Ministries and Administration Building will be connected to the Community Center by means of a beautiful atrium, and will include ministry/classrooms, a library, a com-

fortable fireside room, a bookstore, and the Church offices.

## Bricks, Buildings ... and Ministries

In order to implement the Mission Statement and move this project and the life of the community forward with a comprehensive and integrated approach, various subcommittees of the Vision Committee have been established. They are: the Building Subcommittee, headed by Bill Fiedler; the Ministries Development Subcommittee, headed by Mike Kritiotis; and the Capital Campaign Subcommittee, chaired by Jim Balouris. Fr. John Touloumes, Gus Georgiadis, Leo Loomis and George Dickos are each liaison members of all or a majority of these subcommittees.

## The Building Subcommittee

The Building Subcommittee is responsible for the overall design, development and construction of the property and buildings, consistent with the overall Mission Statement of the Church. The current members of the Building Subcommittee include: Leo Loomis, John Philips, Matthew and Melissa

Ferrari and Troy Geanopoulos. Gerri Valliant, Fran Stevens and Rania Pontikos will also assist the Building Subcommittee in their particular areas of expertise.

This Subcommittee has been very active in meeting and working with the overall architect for the project, the property engineers and the pre-construction advisor, who has already saved us a considerable amount of money through their suggestions.

The Building Subcommittee is close to finalizing the designs

for the Community Center and the Ministries and Administration Buildings with the architects, so that we can proceed to the Design/Development phase, during which the building designs will be prepared in detail.

## The Ministries Development Subcommittee

In order to ensure that the building design process is in line with the current and future needs of our community, the Ministries Development Subcommittee has been formed. This subcommittee is responsible reviewing the current ministries of our parish and looking forward to anticipate new and expanded ministries the community would like to see in our new facilities. This is of crucial importance in making sure that the facilities can accommodate and encourage all aspects of community life and ministry. The overall goal is that the new



Top: Architect Christ Kamages' watercolor rendering of the Master Plan of Holy Trinity's new property in the North Hills, with Segment I in color and Segment II in monochrome. Right: Interior of Community Center set for a reception.





buildings allow Holy Trinity Church to be at the “crossroads of daily life.” It is also a critical function of this subcommittee to suggest ways that our current ministries can be enhanced both while we are still in our current facilities, as well as when we move into our new location. Joining Mike on this important subcommittee are: Joyce Athanasiou; Dean A. Balouris, Frank Erdeljac, Carol Fiffas, Vas Scoumis, Peter Panos and Presvytera Becky Touloumes.

The Ministries Development Subcommittee has already had multiple meetings, and is developing a list of ministry programs and suggestions. They will then be prioritizing them so they can be implemented, both now and in our new facilities, in accordance with our available financial and personnel resources.

## The Capital Campaign Subcommittee

The Capital Campaign Subcommittee has also been very actively meeting with the Capital Campaign Consultant, Fr. Constantine Zozos. Fr. Constantine has already provided much needed guidance on how to organize and run a significant capital campaign. For example, he has suggested, and we have adopted an Executive Committee for the Capital Campaign which includes Fr. John, Jim Balouris, Gus Georgiadis, George Dickos, and Leo Loomis. The Executive Committee will work with the various functional “teams” which will handle much of the work of the Capital Campaign Subcommittee. One team is the Administrative Team which includes Sue Zikos, Angie Fitzpatrick and Karen Georgiadis. They are responsible for coordinating and keeping track of the parishioner and potential donor visits, pledges and thank you acknowledgments, and pledge accounting. Another team is the Special Events Team comprising Yvonne Balouris, Sondra Balouris Brubaker, Nikki Marsh and Peter Panos. These volunteers will plan and develop several “special events” which will serve as fundraisers for the Capital Campaign. Yet another team is the Communications Team who will provide all of the communications to present the Capital Campaign to the community and keep us up to date with its news and progress. That team comprises Christ A. and Kathy Balouris.

The Executive Committee has held meetings with Fr. Zozos leading to the commencement of the Capital Campaign this



Left: Members of the Capital Campaign Executive Committee and Administrative Team meet with Father Constantine Zozos, our professional fundraising consultant. Bottom: Members of the Building Subcommittee meet with our architect, Christ Kamages, and other construction professionals working on the project.



August. Meetings will be scheduled by the Administrative Team for Fr. Zozos and prospective donors in August, September and October of this year, to begin with. In addition, a special event commemorating the 85th anniversary of Holy Trinity Church and the 50th anniversary of our current facilities is planned for October 25, 2008. A ground blessing service is planned for the next day, Sunday, October 26. In addition, plans are being made for a golf outing this fall as an additional fundraising event to which we can invite both members and friends of Holy Trinity Church. More details on those events will follow.

## Sales of the North Avenue Church Property

Finally, questions abound concerning news regarding the possible sale of our current facilities on North Avenue. At this time, there is no firm news in the form of a sales agreement to report. There are, however, at least three different groups who have expressed interest and to whom we are currently speaking. No specifics or formal agreements have yet been discussed, but the effort is continuing on a active basis.

We hope you will see that much has been taking place by and through your Vision Committee. As always, we can really use additional help. If you would like to volunteer, please let Gus, Leo or George know, and we will find the right place for your much-needed talents.

## Stewardship | 2008 Stewardship Pledges Received

*Thank you to the following faithful stewards who have submitted their pledge cards for the 2008 pledge year, 234 as of this publication for a total of \$144,000. 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.*

Mr. & Mrs. Mark Adamczyk	Mrs. Elenie Cocheres	Ms. Tina Houmis	Mr. James J. Patsilevas
Mr. & Mrs. Victor Amurgis	Mr. & Mrs. Steve Condos	Mr. & Mrs. George Hulse	Mrs. Nikki Pell
Ms. Georgiana Anargyros	Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Countouris	Mr. & Mrs. Carlo Isella	Mr. & Mrs. Charles Petredis
Miss Victoria Andromalos-Dale	Ms. Cynthia Criss	Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Janis	Mr. John S. Petropoulos
Mrs. Christy Andromalos	Mr. & Mrs. George Danis	Dr. Kristina Johnson	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Phaturos
Mr. & Mrs. William Andromalos	Mrs. Evdokia Danis	Mr. & Mrs. Homer Johnson	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph P. Phaturos
Ms. Marjorie Andromalos	Mrs. Angeline Davis	Mrs. Patricia Jones	Mr. & Mrs. John H. Phillips
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Andromalos-Dale	Mrs. Fedra Dedousis	Mr. & Mrs. Gus Kalaris	Mrs. Pauline Pontikos
Rev. Fr. John & Pres. Ethel Androustopoulos	Ms. Fotini Dedousis	Miss Voula Kapnisis	Ms. Rania Pontikos
Mrs. Carol Anestis	Mr. Lucius Delany	Mrs. Alice Kapnisis	Mrs. Olga Regakis
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Areheart	Mrs. Helen DeMoss	Mrs. Kelly Karavolos	Mrs. Sophia Regas
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Arkalis	Mr. Dean Dickos	Mr. & Mrs. George Karpakis	Mr. & Mrs. Evan Rigas
Mr. George Athanasiou	Miss Betty Dickos	Mr. & Mrs. James Kermes	Mrs. Theologia Rigas
Mr. Andrew Athanasiou	Mr. & Mrs. George Dickos	Mr. George Kilantonis	Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Roman
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Athanasiou	Mr. Bryan Elderkin	Mr. & Mrs. Gus Kilantonis	Mr. Bill Roomeliotis
Mrs. Stella Athanasiou	Mr. & Mrs. Frank Erdeljac	Mrs. Penelope Komninos	Mr. Christopher Sandou
Mr. & Mrs. Alvin Backeris	Mr. & Mrs. Christian Farmakis	Mr. E. Takis Kontoulis	Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Sandou
Mrs. Marie Backeris	Mr. & Mrs. John Fekos	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Kostopolos	Mrs. Angeliki Scoumis
Mr. & Mrs. Van Backeris	Mrs. Anna Festas	Mr. & Mrs. James Kostopolos	Mr. Vasilios Scoumis
Dr. & Mrs. Christ A. Balouris	Mr. & Mrs. William Fiedler	Presvytera Louella Kostopolos	Ms. Stephanie L Sedor
Dr. & Mrs. Constantine A. Balouris	Mr. & Mrs. William L. Fiedler	Mrs. Fanny Kostos	Rev. Fr. David & Pres. Eileen Sedor
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Balouris	Mr. & Mrs. Constantine Fiffas	Miss Stella Kourakos	Mr. & Mrs. Archie Selevos
Mr. & Mrs. James T. Balouris	Mr. & Mrs. Brian Fitzpatrick	Miss Elenie Kourouklis	Mr. & Mrs. Paul Sfanos
Mr. & Mrs. Chris T. Balouris	Mr. John W. Fitzpatrick	Mrs. Vasso Kourouklis	Mrs. Christina Sfanos
Mr. Dean J. Balouris	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Fraley	Dr. & Mrs. Dimitris Kranioi	Mr. & Mrs. Emmanuel Sideris
Mrs. Katherine Balouris	Mr. & Mrs. John Franciscus	Miss Victoria Kritiotis	Mr. Charles Siebott & Mrs. Irene Karavolos
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Barron	Mrs. Tessie Frankos	Mr. Marios Kritiotis	Ms. Angela Skentzos
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**Voula Hareras**

## ΧΑΡΑΣ

**Ψ**άλλουν πολλές παρακλήσεις οί πιστοί στίς Παρακλήσεις τόν δεκαπενταύγουστο, πρὸς τήν Παναγία.

Θερμές παρακλήσεις πού δείχνουν ἐπιθυμίες βαθιές καί πόθους τῆς ψυχῆς.

Ξέρουν πώς Αὐτή ἡ Πανάχραντη, πού μέ τήν ἀρετή,

τίς ἀρετές Της καί τήν ἀγιότητα τῆς ζωῆς Της, ἐγίνε ἡ Μητέρα τοῦ Κυρίου, θά πραγματοποιήσει μέ τίς πρεσβεῖες Της τά αἰτήματά τους καί τούς πόθους τους.

Κι' ἕνας ἀπό τούς πόθους τους, δυνατός κι' ὁλόβαθος εἶναι καί τούτος πού κλείνεται στήν αἴτηση.

[Χαράς μου τήν καρδίαν πλήρωσον, Παρθένε...] Γέμισε μέ χαρά τήν καρδιά μου Παναγία μου.

Ἀφοῦ Αὐτή εἶχε πεί τόν ἀποδεικτικό τῆς χαράς της λόγο..- [καί ἡγαλλίασε τό πνεῦμα μου ἐπὶ τῷ Θεῷ τῷ σωτήρι μου..]

Αφοῦ Αὐτή εἶναι ..[τῆς χαράς τό πλήρωμα] Αὐτή μέ εὐμένεια θά εἰσακούσει καί τῆς δικῆς μας τῆς ψυχῆς τήν παράκληση. Καί μέ τήν δική μας προσπάθεια καί μέ τούς δικούς μας ἀγώνες γιά πρόοδο καί νίκες, γιά καθαρότητα ψυχῆς καί ἀρετές, ἡ χαρά θα γίνε κτήμα μας μόνιμο.

Θά μας τῇ χαρίσει Εκείνος πού εἶναι ὁ μόνος χορηγός τῆς χαράς. Εκείνος πού εἶπε [ἐγώ εἰμι ἡ ὁδός] πού εἶπε [σάς εἶπα αὐτά γιά νά μεταδοθεῖ ἡ χαρά πού ἔχω ἐγώ καί σέ σάς...] Για νά μείνει ἡ χαρά ἡ δική μου μέσα σας.

Χαρά. Ἐνα ἀστραφτερό φῶς γιά τήν ζωή. Οἱ ἀκτίνες του λάμπουν στήν καρδιά. Στή σκέψη, στά λόγια, στό βλέμμα, στό πρόσωπο. Εὐτυχισμένοι οἱ κατακτηταί της. Νειάτα πού τόσο ποθεῖτε τή χαρά μήν ξεχνάτε πώς μόνον αὐτός ὁ δρόμος ὁδηγεῖ σ' αὐτή. Ὁ δρόμος ὁ χριστιανικός τῆς ἀρετῆς. Ποθεῖστε τήν περισσότερο καί ψάλτε καί τώρα τόν δεκαπενταύγουστο καί πάντα

[Χαράς μου τήν καρδίαν πλήρωσον Παρθένε..]

## Ο ΚΟΣΜΟΣ ΛΑΜΠΕΙ ΤΟ ΚΑΛΟΚΑΙΡΙ

[Ὁ κόσμος λάμπει σάν ἕνα ἀστέρι  
Βουνά καί κάμποι δένδρα νερά  
Γιορτάζουν πάλι, καθὼς προβάλλει  
Τό καλοκαίρι, νεοῦ χαρά...]

Πρόκλησις γιά χαλάρωσι τό καλοκαίρι, ὁ κόσμος

ὁλόγυρα λαμπροφορεμένος Θεοῦ χαρά. Ἐνα μεγάλο διάλειμα τό καλοκαίρι φέρνει ὁλόχαρο τά δικαιώματα πού ἔχει στήν ζωή τῶν ἀνθρώπων ἡ χαλάρωσις, ἡ ξεκούρασις, ἡ ἀλλαγὴ τῶν ρυθμῶν στήν ἐντασι τῆς ἐργασίας, στά προγράμματα, στή δυναστεία τοῦ ρολογίου.

Τό καλοκαίρι εἶναι καιρός γιά τήν φύσι, τήν ἐκδρομή τόν περίπατο, τό ταξίδι, γιά τό βουνό καί τήν θάλασσα, τό χωριό καί τό ξάγναντο.

Φλύαρα τ' ἀκρογιάλια προσκαλοῦν στή μέθη τοῦ ἡλίου καί τοῦ γαλαζίου νεοῦ χωρὶς τά βάρη τῆς φορεσιᾶς ἡ ὁρμή γιά τήν ἀπόλαυσι τοῦ κύματος, τῆς ἀπεραντοσύνης τῆς θάλασσας, τῆς γοητείας τοῦ βυθοῦ, ἕνα σκέτο μεθύσι ξεχνιέσαι καί σέ ξεχνοῦν στό λίκνισμα τῶν κυμάτων.

Καί ἀπό τήν ἄλλη ὁ βαθύς ψιθύρος τῶν βουνῶν πού σέ καλεῖ στό μυστήριο τῆς σιγῆς νά σοῦ ἀποκαλύψῃ τά μυστικά τῶν ἀστρῶν, τόν λόγον τῆς σιωπῆς τό βάθος τῶν ἀλάλητων στεναγμῶν πού ἀναζητοῦν νά φθάσουν στό ὕψος τῶν οὐρανίων θόλων. Κι' ἀπό κεί σέ μιὰ ὑπερβασιν ἀπό τά ὑλικά νά ἀνακαλύψουν τό δικαίωμα πού κατέχει ἡ ὑπερκόσμια ἀποκάλυψις πάνω στά γήινα, τά φθαρτά.

Τό καλοκαίρι Θεοῦ χαρά, δέν εἶναι μόνον τό παιχνίδι, ἡ ξεγνοιασιά, ἡ ἀνεμελιά.

Εἶναι καί πολλά ἄλλα ὠραία πού ποθεῖ ἡ ψυχὴ σου νά γευθῇ καί νά πραγματοποιήσῃ στήν ἐλευθερία τοῦ καλοκαιριοῦ. Νά διαβάσῃς ὅτι σοῦ ἔχει στερήσῃ ἡ πίεσις τοῦ προγράμματος, καθαρὸ καί ὠφέλιμο. Νά ἀσχοληθῇς μέ κάτι πού σέ ἐκφράζει ἀπὸ καλλιτεχνία, μέχρι τήν ἐκφρασι τοῦ ὠραίου κόσμου τῆς καρδιάς σου σέ ἀνθρώπους πού ἐκτιμᾷς πού σέ ὠφελοῦν πού πονοῦν, πού ἔχουν τήν ἀνάγκη τῆς συντροφιάς σου πού περιμένουν νά τοὺς βοηθήσῃς, νά τοὺς ἐξυπηρετήσῃς....καί προ παντός τό σπῖτι σου, οἱ γονεῖς σου, τ' ἀδελφία σου, οἱ γέροντες τῆς οἰκογενείας σου, τώρα πού ἔχεις καιρό.

Εἶναι τά ἐκκλησιάκια τοῦ τόπου σου, ἡ συντροφιά μέ τοὺς Ἁγίους ἡ προσευχή, ἡ ἀνακάλυψις τῆς Θεικῆς ἀλήθειας, καί τῆς σοφίας.

Γιά ἕνα μόνον δέν εἶναι τό καλοκαίρι, νά μήν τό λερώσουμε στίς βρωμογειτονιές καί στίς συντροφίες τοῦ κακοῦ.

Καί να μήν τό σπαταλίσωμε στίς παγίδες τοῦ παμπόνηρου ἐχθροῦ....

Ἀπὸ τήν Νίκη

Αὐτό τό ἄρθρο [Τό Καλοκαίρι] θά ἦταν εὐχῆς ἔργον ἂν τό ἐξηγοῦσατε στά παιδιὰ σας, θά ὠφελιθοῦν πάραπολύ.

Βούλα Χαρερά



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.

### Philoptochos Report: July/August 2008

#### Summer Is Upon Us!

Everyone is looking for a way to go on vacation and relax, and have a good time this summer. I must remind you that the work of the Philoptochos continues during the summer. We still make our monthly commitments to National Philoptochos and to the Metropolis and to our own people when in need.

#### Mini Festival Thank You!

The Festival was a success. We could not have asked for two better days. Our thanks to those that worked, to those who spent their money and to those who showed "philoxenia" (that's Greek for hospitality!) to everyone who came.

#### Main Festival Preparation: Your Help is Needed!

We also will be preparing food for the Festival. In July we will be making Spanakopita. On Tuesdays and Thursday from 9:00am until 2:00pm. Everyone is invited to come and help. Come all day or come for a few hours. Every little bit helps.

In August we will be making Pastisio on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00am until 2:00pm. Please come and help. Thank you ALL in advance!

#### Mothers Day Tea

Last month we reported that the Mothers Day Tea collected \$1,650.00. We are happy to announce that to date the total is now \$1,830.00. Please accept our heartfelt thanks for your generosity.

#### Pascha Bread Sale

Proceeds from the Pascha breads sale were \$1,174.00. Thanks to all who cooked and bought the bread!

#### Orthodox Study Bibles

The Metropolis of Pittsburgh Youth Office is going to purchase Orthodox Study Bibles to be used at Retreats, Summer Camp and other youth ministry programs. They have asked each parish to purchase a case for donation to the youth ministries. We would like to send a case, so if you would like to

donate the cost of a book, please contact Esther Ladakos for details.

#### Prayers For Our Loved Ones

Please pray for our loved ones who are ill or are in nursing homes or recovering from surgery. Prayers are powerful and do help.

#### Cookbooks-Cookbooks-Cookbooks!

This is the time of the year when we are invited to showers, weddings, graduations, and birthday parties. A lovely gift is the Philoptochos cookbook. It is only \$15.00. If you do not have one in your kitchen, don't you think you should???

#### Members Wanted

We are still looking for new members. I understand that that many of you have young children and do not have much spare time for the Philoptochos, but we are not asking for many hours of work. We would appreciate it if you could just give us a few hours once in a while in this busy phase of your life. Stewardship is only \$20.00. Won't you please join our Philoptochos family, the largest women's philanthropic ministry in the United States???

#### Coffee Hour

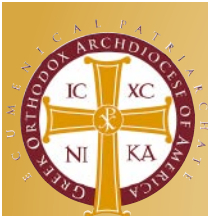
Please consider sponsoring a Sunday coffee hour. You may honor a loved one for their birthday, name day, anniversary or just because. You may sponsor the coffee hour by yourself or with your family or friends.

#### Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be in September. The date will be announced later.

HAVE A BLESSED SUMMER ... AND DON'T FORGET THE CHURCH!

Submitted respectfully,  
Esther Ladakos  
Philoptochos President



#### NATIONAL PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

(June 16, 2008 - New York, NY) National Philoptochos President Georgia Skeadas is pleased to announce the newly revamped website for the National Philoptochos Society which is available at [www.philoptochos.org](http://www.philoptochos.org) or by accessing Philoptochos under the Ministry and Outreach Tab of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America website [www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org).

The website is designed to increase local, national and international awareness of the scope of the charitable work of the Society. It also serves as a resource for the close to 28,000 Philoptochos members and the 480 Philoptochos chapters throughout the United States.

New features include a "Chapter President's Alert" with content links to the latest news and announcements. Current information is available about the National Philoptochos Society and its numerous National Committees and broad level of commitments to myriad national and international ministries. The Ministry and Outreach section contains descriptions of Commitments, Programs and Projects including a list of charitable donations of \$8,530,419.00 for the period of January 1, 2002 to December 31, 2007.

A key feature of the website is a direct link to the Social Services Department which contains an important Resource Information Database as well as articles and guidebooks to educate and inform chapters and those seeking assistance.



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## On Christian Integrity

In one of His last teaching moments before His foremost “students,” the Apostles, Jesus Christ charged them as follows: “I have given you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you” (John 13.15). Saint James the Apostle also echoes this directive in the life of Christians when he says, “be doers of the word, and not hearers only” (James 1.22). We are, therefore, expected to be people of Christian faith, action and integrity. The following hymn from the Orthros of the Feast of the Holy Apostles provides a mirror of accountability and is a safeguard against running aground on rocks of hypocrisy in the waters of shallow and uncommitted faith. The witness of our life and deed very often speaks much louder than our words!



*Jesus Christ the Teacher*

*Give clarity to my tongue, my Savior, widen and fill my mouth.  
Open my heart that I may faithfully follow what I say, and  
be the first to do as I teach. For He says, “Everyone who  
teaches and practices what they preach is a great person.” If  
I preach and don’t practice, I am as a clanging piece of brass.  
Wherefore, grant me to speak what is needed and do what  
is beneficial, for You alone know the heart.*

*Oikos from the Orthros of the Feast of the Holy Apostles*

Scripture of the Month: “That word is the good news which was preached to you. (1 Peter 1.25)