

THE HOLY TRINITY AUG. - SEPT. 2011 VOLUME 19 • ISSUE 6

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH • PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

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QUICK NEWS



Members of the Holy Trinity FOCUS Appalachia mission team pause in front of the fruits of their labors after cutting and splitting a massive tree that had fallen on a needy family's lawn. Want to see more scenes from the life and ministries of Holy Trinity Church? Check out the Community Life Photo Journal on pages 6-13.



"Speechless be the lips of impious ones, those who do not reverence your great icon, the sacred one, which is called Directress and was depicted for us by one of the Apostles, Luke the Evangelist." (From the Service of Paraclesis to the Theotokos)

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



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

Father John Touloumes, Economos Church: 412-366-8700 Home: 412-831-3574 E-mail: fjt@HolyTrinityPgh.org

Production

Mary Portellos, Secretary/Office Administrator E-mail: office@HolyTrinityPgh.org

Contributors

Michael Kritiotis Voula Hareras Maria Kraniou Vickie Bellios Rev. Fr. John Androutsopoulos Rev. Fr. Radu Bordeianu

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About the Parish

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church 495 Browns Lane Pittsburgh, PA 15237-2515 Phone: 412-366-8700 • Fax: 412-366-8710 Web site: www.HolyTrinityPgh.org Email: office@HolyTrinityPgh.org

Holy Trinity Church is a parish of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh (www.odpgh.org) and Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America (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

Chris T. Balouris, President

Anthony Loomis Alex Trivilas Jason Farmakis George Danis Troy Geanopulos | Joanne Germanos Louis Kort Vasilios Scoumis

Yvonne Balouris George Dickos Andrew Athanasiou Gerri Valliant

Ministries

Philoptochos Kay Balouris, Pre	s.
GOYAPres. Becky Touloumes, Adviso	or
ChoirJohn Nychis, Directo	or
Over 50 ClubStella Athanasiou, Pre	s.
St. Lydia StudyStacy Dickos, Coordinato	or
CemeteryBill Fiedler, Chairma	ın
Bookstore Bill and Linda Arehea	rt



You are my rock and my fortress; for Your name's sake lead me and guide me.

(Psalm 31.3)

In You I put my **trust**. **Teach me** the way I should go. (Psalm 143.8)

Dear Brothers and Sisters.

f you have ever been involved in youth ministry or even certain team-building exercises in organizations or businesses, you may be familiar with the activity known as the "Trust Walk." Here's how one instructor describes the exercise:

The Trust Walk Activity is a team building activity involving leadership and lots of trust as people navigate each other around obstacles. Find a good location with some obstacles, but nothing dangerous. Form pairs. Have one be the navigator (the guide), and the other to be blindfolded (the follower). Spin the follower around a few times so that they do not know which direction they are headed. From this point on, the guide should not touch the partnert at all, but rely solely on verbal cues (e.g. "About five steps ahead, there is a branch. Step over it slowly.") The guide is solely responsible for his or her partner's safety. Followers will learn valuable lessons related to teamwork: the guide learns about the challenge and responsibility of caring for another individual's well being, while the follower learns to trust and rely on another person.

In a very tangible way, we here at Holy Trinity Church are on a Trust Walk with God. We are not physically blindfolded, because we have not ventured into the challenge of building a new community without a vision, but we are, just as the person on the Trust Walk, entirely dependent on God for our step-by-step directions. Consider some of the ways we have done this in recent times:

- 1) We purchased a piece of land trusting that the Lord would provide a plan of how to use it. He did.
- 2) We sold our former church facility trusting that the Lord would provide a place for us until the new church was built. He did.
- 3) We designed a project trusting the Holy Spirit to lead people's hearts toward supporting it and making it financially possible. He has.

In all these and other times, we have stretched out our hands and trusted the Lord. and without fail He has heard and responded to our calls, taken from the scriptures above: lead us, guide us and teach us.

Thank you for being part of this great adventure. Hold His hand tight, for we still have a way to go. And lest we be deceived in any way by an adversary who wants us to put our trust back in our selves, if you think you have it all figured out and want to head out without our Guide, stop ... put your blindfold of faith back on, reach out your hands, and call out to Jesus Christ: "Lord, lead us, guide us and teach us!"

Your co-follower in Christ,

WORSHIP LIFE

Weekday Services August/September

Please take note of the following weekday services in the months of August and September. IMPORTANT NOTE: All weekday services are held at the Saint George Chapel. Orthros is at 8:30 a.m., followed by Divine Liturgy at 9:30.

Aug. 6: The Holy Transfiguration (at Ellwood City)

Aug. 15: The Falling Asleep of the Theotokos

Sept. 7, 6:00pm: Nativity of Theotokos Vespers & Vigil

Sept. 8, 9:00am: Nativity of Theotokos Divine Liturgy These services will be held at the Nativity of the Theotokos Monastery in Saxonburg, PA.

Sept. 13, 7:00pm: Exaltation of the Holy Cross Vespers

Sept. 14, 9:00am: Exaltation of the Holy Cross Orthros/Liturgy These services will be held at the Holy Cross Church in Mount Lebanon.

Sept. 14, 6:00pm: Monthly Paraclesis Service (Second Wednesday of each month)

Sept. 17: Saint Sophia and her Daughters Orthros/Liturgy

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

There will be a one-hour Church School staff meeting on Sunday, August 21 following Divine Liturgy.

Church School Registration Aug. 21, 28, Sept. 4

Registration for Church School will take place after Liturgy on Aug. 21, 28 & Sept. 4. It's quick & easy!

Church School Begins.....September 11

The first day of classes for Church School is Sunday, September 11 at 9:30 with Divine Liturgy and the children's sermon, followed by classes after Holy Communion. See you there!

Adult Study Opportunities September

Please watch the Sunday Bulletin and the Holy Trinity web site (www.HolyTrinityPgh.org) for information on the St. Lydia Women's Study Fellowship, the Orthodox Studies Forum and other adult study opportunities to be posted during the month of September. Don't miss out on these opportunities to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." Remember, for a Christian, learning never ends!

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Holy Trinity Combined Youth Ministries Kick-Off. . . Sep. 11

Holy Trinity will host a combined Youth and Young Adult Ministries Kick-off event on Sunday, September 11 from 12:30 to 4:00 pm at the home of Jim and Yvonne Balouris, 531 Cloverdale Court, Wexford. This picnic and fun event will be the first event of the season for HOPE (Kindergarten through 2nd grades), JOY (3rd through 6th grades), GOYA (7th-12 grades) and the Young Adult Ministry (age 18 and over). Combining the event will provide a convenient onestop destination for families with children in multiple age groups; it will also remind us that even though each group has its own identity and will have its



own meeting during the event that day, we worship, live and cooperate as one Holy Trinity family, from the very youngest to the oldest. So parents, please be sure to be there with all your children, from Kindergarteners through Seniors, and Young Adults, please plan on attending and getting involved, too! And bring your bathing suits: there's a pool!

Summer Camp Photos Available Online

Looking for photos from this year's Metropolis of Pittsburgh Summer Camp Ministry? Go to the Metropolis web site at pittsburgh.goarch.org/gallery.

MEMORIALS

Upcoming Memorials

August 21: Georgeanne Cominos (1 yr.), Maria Leontiades (6 mos. Trisagion),

COMMUNITY NEWS

Capital Campaign Reminder: We Still Need You!

With all the excitement of the move, please remember that without the continued success of the Capital Campaign for the new church, it would not be possible. If you have not yet made your commitment, please do so today! If you have, please remember to maintain your designated contributions schedule so we can move forward as planned. Thank you, good and faithful stewards!



Help Welcome Holy Trinity Guests!

Help us show our Holy Trinity Hospitality! We now have beautiful gold felt crosses for our visitors each Sunday, Thanks to our Hospitality and Visitors Committee for this new opportunity to share our warm Holy Trinity hospitality and grow our parish. If you see someone wearing a gold felt Cross, please greet them and welcome them to our community! Remember, "Hospitality" is one of the main goals of our mission here at Holy Trinity Church!

Holy Trinity Email News: Sign Up Today!

Want the Weekly Bulletin sent to your email box? Sign up today! Go to www.HolyTrinityPgh.org and sign up today!

NEW HOLY TRINITY CONTACT INFORMATION NEW PHONE NUMBER: 412-366-8700 FAX: 412-366-8710 NEW ADDRESS: 495 Browns Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Gheronda's Corner | Fr. John Androutsopoulos

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



Father John Androutsopoulos

August-September 2011 – The Voice of the Gospel

The Dormition of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Beloved, the month of August has been called the month of the Birthgiver of God, the month of the "Panagias" and you will see why.

What is the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos?

On August 15th, our Eastern Orthodox Catholic and Apostolic Church celebrates the Dormition of

H KOIFILICIG

the Blessed Virgin Mary. After the crucifixion of Christ, His Mother lived under the care of St. John, the apostle. It has ever been piously believed in the Church that after her death, Her body as well as her soul were taken up into heaven.

Why Does This Feast Go By Difference Names?

Beloved, this Holy Day is known by three names, and par-

ishes around the country which celebrate this holy feast may use any of them:

- **Assumption:** meaning the taking up ("assuming") of the body and soul of the Theotokos into Heaven.
- **Dormition:** meaning "falling asleep."
- "Kimisis tis Theotokou": again, "falling asleep," but transliterated from the Greek name of the feast.

In the 2011 Yearbook of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, there are 30 parishes with the name "Assumption," five named "Dormition," and eight with the name "Kimisis tis Theotokou." The Church of Greece and the Church of Constantinople use the name "Falling Asleep" (Kimisis).

"Assumption" versus "Falling Asleep"

The following is an explanation of the "Feast of the Assumption" from the World Book Encyclopedia: "Assumption" is a doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church. It states that the body and soul of the Virgin Mary were taken to heaven by angels to be with Christ. Pope Pius the 12th (XII) proclaimed the Assumption as part of the Roman Catholic doctrine in 1950. The Assumption is also a belief, but not a doctrine, of the Greek Orthodox Church. The Church of Rome also celebrates the Feast of the Assumption on August 15th, the same day as the Orthodox Church. The first records of the celebration of the feast are in the Eastern Orthodox Church long before

the Council of Chalcedon in 451 and in the Roman Catholic Church since the 600's.

Troparion of the Feast Day

In the birthgiving, O Theotokos, you did keep and preserve virginity; and in your falling asleep you have not forsaken the world; for living you were translated, being the Mother of Life. Wherefore, by your intercessions, deliver our souls from death.

The Gospel of the Feast

As Jesus and his disciples went on their way, he came to a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him in her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat down at the feet of the Lord and listened to his teaching. Martha was upset over all the work she had to do; so she came and said, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her to come and help me!" The Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha! You are worried and troubled over so many things, but just one is needed. Mary

has chosen the right thing, and it will not be taken away from her."

When Jesus had said this, a woman spoke up from the crowd and said to him, "How happy is the woman who bore you and nursed you!" But Jesus answered, "Rather, how happy are those who hear the word of God and obey it!"

Why is this Gospel read on this Great Feast Day? Because the Blessed Virgin Mary also chose the best part, the service of God, and so gained that other best part, eternal reward, "which shall not be taken away from her." St. Augustine remarks on this Gospel: "By Martha is represented the life of active business and duty; by Mary the life of prayer and contemplation.

What is the "one thing necessary"? The service of God and the salvation of the soul. Beloved, how great must

have been the joy among the angels and saints surrounding the Blessed Mother of the Redeemer when she was crowned Queen of Heaven! As we celebrate the Falling Asleep of the Theotokos, let us recollect that she is there prepared to listen to our prayers, to intercede for us, and above all to be our advocate with her Divine Son. Her intercessions are shaking the Heavens.

"By the intercession of the Theotokos Savior, save us." Amen.

With His Love,

Rev. Fr. John K. Androutsopoulos, Protopresbyter



Spero | Mouse Tales: The St. Spyridon Church School Library Update

Hello, my precious children!

Wow! What a wild summer it has been! First my keeper and helpers came an packed up the entire library and all my belongings. Then they moved it into storage at a school, but it was strange because there were no children at this school. Finally, they explained to me that we are renting the school while our new church is being built and it's no longer a school. Oh, it's all so confusing!



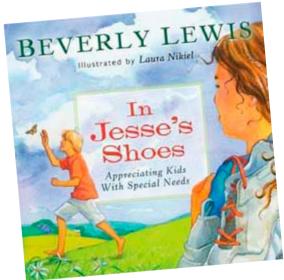
But wait until you see my new room! It's a lot bigger than the old room and it has <u>lots</u> of shelves and space for my "stuff." Here's a pic-



ture of it on the left. My volunteers are still getting thighs set up, but I am already really excited. And it's right next to the coffee hour room, so that means it will be easier for you to stop by and

check it out, read it or watch it and "grow in the grace an knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." i can't wait to see you there!

Well, today I would like to chat about a subject that some of us just don't know how to handle: other children with special needs. The book, "Jesse's Shoes," by Beverly Lewis, talks about this and after reading it, I, Spero, have a much greater appreciation for children with special needs. it is a realistic story about a boy with special needs. Jesse's sister is just confused and frustrated. She wishes her parents would sent her brother Jesse away to boarding school. She thinks that would solve the problem of him being picked on, made fun of and teased by other children. She complains to her dad about this, but he reminds her, "You haven't walked in Jesse's shoes." She tries hard to figure out what her father means by this. Check out the



book and you will find out what it's like to walk in Jesse's shoes. You'll also find out how to handle being picked on and criticized for being different. You know, that reminds me of the advice Yiayia used to give us about criticizing others: "Before you criticize someone else, we should walk a mile in their shoes so we know better the conditions in which they live." Remember, my precious little ones, our Heavenly Father made each of us, and none of us is perfect except Jesus. So before we start picking on someone who seems different, remember: he or she is a child of God,

Love in Christ, Spero

Community Life Photo Journal | Holy Trinity Church: The Move

June 15-26: Twelve of the most hectic days ever in the life of Holy Trinity Church! After weeks of packing, carefully recording inventory sheets and getting ready for the big day, the moving vans pulled up on June 15. In just two days the entire contents of Holy Trinity Church were either moved to the temporary facility or put in storage at one of three locations. The following Sunday, our sister parish of All Saints in Canonsburg extended a kind invitation to join us for their Feast Day Liturgy, since it was also our first Sunday without a worship space. The following week, the Holy Trinity held its first Divine Liturgy at its interim location on Browns Lane in the auditorium of the former Northway Elementary School. Many thanks to the dedicated team of volunteers who made this amazing feast both possible and manageable!



















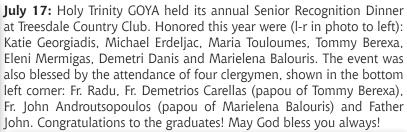






GOYA Senior Recognition Dinner | Community Life Photo Journal





























June 20-25: Holy Trinity Church became the first parish from the Metropolis of 3 young adults and 16 GOYA teenagers travelled to Pinebridge, North Carolina They worked on projects involving painting, lawn care, driveway repair, lumber non-working hours they managed a wonderful visit to a local Orthodox monastic.













Pittsburgh to send a mission team to FOCUS Appalachia. The group of 6 parents, to reach out with Christian love and compassion to a number of needy families. In management, deck reconstruction, sliding door installation and more. In their tery and a few peaceful hours at the Quiet Reflections Orthodox Retreat Center.





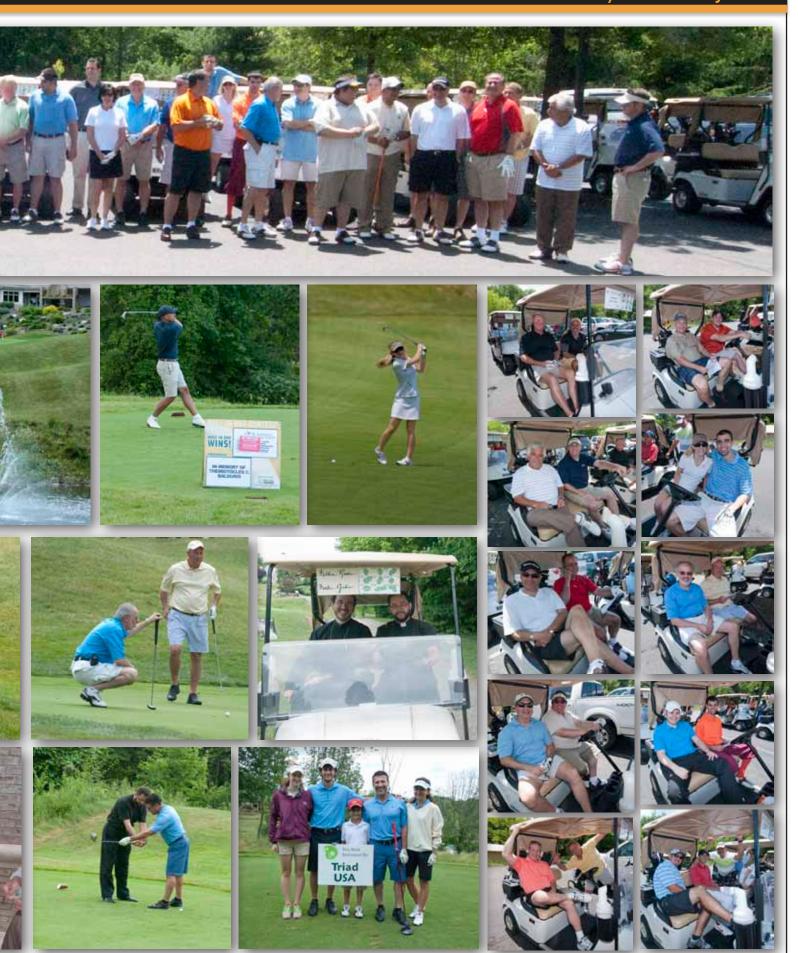












Community Life Photo Journal | GOYA Cedar Point/Monastery Trip

July 5-6: Holy Trinity GOYA continued its tradition of a summer fun & work trip with a visit to Cedar Point Amusement Park in Sandusky, Ohio, followed by a day of regional mission work at the Saint Gregory Palamas Monastery in Perrysville, Ohio. Their offerings of love included many hot hours in the monastery garden, where much of the monks' food is grown, and the construction of a retaining wall using 80-pound split-face cinderblocks.

























Metropolis Summer Camp | Community Life Photo Journal



The Cultural Side | Η Πολιτιστική Πλευρά | Voula Hareras

Reflections in modern Greek on the feast of the Koimissis of the Theotokos



Voula Hareras

ΤΟ ΚΑΛΟΚΑΙΡΙ

ερασε "ενα καλοκαίρι γεμάτο περιπέτειες. Στήν Πανίερη Κοίμηση τής Παναγίας μας.

Καί μάλιστα η κοιμηση τής Θεοτόκου, τής μητέρας τού Θεανθρώπου, τής Θεοτόκου Μαρίας, πού θα είναι τό καύχημα καί τό σεμνολόγημα μας.

Άφού τήν ίκετεύσαμε στίς παρακλήσεις μας καί χορτάσαμε

άπό θεομητορική άναμονή τρέχουμε στούς ναούς μας γιατί κάναμε γιορτή καί πανηγύρι τήν κοιμησή της.

Καί περνούμε τίς πιό όμορφες παννυχίδες τήν ήμέρα πού άπόθεσε τό πανάγιο σκηνωμά της, τό άγιότερο σώμα, στά σπλάχνα τής Γεσθημανή.

Οί Ορθόδοξοι λοιπόν ώς λογικοί άνθρωποι πού φρονούμε τά θεία, τά πνευματικά καί τά ούράνια καί όχι τάσαρκικά καί τά έπίγεια, καλούμαστε νά γιορτάσουμε τήν κοίμηση τής Μητέρας μας Θεοφρόνως. Μέ τρόπο θεϊκό,πνευματικό καί άγγελικό.

Όπως άρμόζει στήν Παναγία καί πανάσπιλη μορφή της. Μέσα στό ίερό δέος τό σεμνό κάλλος καί τό υπέρφωτο θάμβος τών Ναών μας.

Μέσα σέ άτμόσφαιρα σιωπής καί προσευχής. Γιατί οί Ναοί μαςείναι άψίδες χάριτος, κάτω άπό τίς όποίες έχουν άγιασθεί μέσα στούς αίώνες έκατομμύρια ψυχές.

Έκεί τρέχουμε όλοι οί Όρθόδοξοι, γέροντες, ώριμοι, νέοι, παιδιά, άνδρες, γυναίκες.

Δηλαδή όλος ό λαός τού Θεού,μέ τόν όποίο μας ένώνει ίσόβιος βμυστικός δεσμός,πούκαρποφορεί μέσα στό διάβα τού χρόνου άγιότητα καί όσιότητα.

Αύτά είχε ύπ¨όψη του ό άγιος Κοσμάς ό μελωδός, Έπίσκοπος Μαϊουμά, όταν έγραψε στήν πρώτη ώδή τού Κανόνος του (Λαμπροστόλιστη μέ θεϊκή δόξα ή πανίερη καί πανένδοξη μνήμη τής κοιμήσεως σου Παρθένε, συγκέντρωσε όλους τούς πιστούς γιά νά χαρούν καί νά εύφρανθούν πνευματικά).

Λάμπει μέ θεϊκή δόξα ή Θεοτόκος διότι είναι ό οίκος Θεού. Οί Πατέρες μας διδάσκουν ότι ό οίκος Θεού τό όποίον είδε ό προφήτης Ιεζεκιήλ γεμάτον άπό δόξα Θεού ήταν τύπος καί είκόνα τής Θεοτόκου.

Έγραψε ό Προφήτης (Καί είδον καί ίδού πλήρης δόξης Κυρίουό οίκος δόξα κυρίου ήταν τό όλόφωτο σύννεφοπού έμφανιζόταν κατά καιρούς στόν παλαιό Ίσραήλ, σάν

Η όρατή έκδήλωση τής παρουσίας τού Θεού σ¨ένα τόπο.)

Ο Προφήτης Ίεζεκιήλ είδε αύτή τή δόξα Κυρίου μέσα στό Ναό τών Ίεροσολύμον.Καί έπειδή ή Θεοτόκος είναι οίκος Θεού, άφού στά σπλάχνα της κατοίκησε ό Ύιός

καί λόγος τού Θεού καί άπό αύτήν γαννήθηκε ώς άνθρωπος πρέπει γράφει ό Άγιος Κοσμάς, καί ή μνήμη σου Παρθένε νά είναι στολισμένη μέ δόξα Θεού.

Επειδήδε είναι τέτοια έσυνάθροισε όλους τούς πιστούς Χριστιανούς γιά νά πανηγυρίσουν καί νά εύφρανθούν πνευματικά. Διότι άν στή μνήμη όποιουδήποτε Αγίου τήν ήμέρα πού έγκωμιάζεται ή όσία ή μαρτυρική βιοτή του, εύφραίνονται οί λαοί όπως γράφει ό σοφός Σολομόν πολύ περισσότερο πρέπει νά εύφραίνονται οί χριστιανή στήν κοίμηση όχι μιάς άγίας, άλλά τής Παναγίας.

Διότι αύτή είναι ή άγιότερη μορφή όλων τών αίώνων. Η όπως τήν ύμνούμε στήν έκκλησία μας (ή τιμιωτέρα τών χερουβίμ καί ένδοξοτέρα άσυγκρίτως τών Σεραφείμ.)

Ή πανίερη μνήμη τής Θεοτόκου μας καλεί νά εύφρανθούμε πνευματικά καί διότι ή Παρθένος Μαρία ήταν τό όργανο τής άνεκλάλητης της παγκόσμιας χαράς πού άνετρεψε τήν παλαιά, παγκόσμια καί άπερίγραπτη θλίψη, τήν όποία εφερε στόν κόσμο ή άμαρτία. Πρίν γεννηθεί ό Χριστός στόν κόσμο στόν κόσμο ή γή είχε μεταβληθεί σέ κοιλάδα τού κλαθμώνος όπως τήν όνόμασε ό Δαβίδ.

Ή Παρθένος όμως μέ τήν άγία γέννησή της έφερε στόν κόσμο στή γή, χαρά παντοτεινή, οίκουμενική, άνεκφραστη, άνείπωτη, όσους δέ τήν ύμνούν τούς φιλοδωρεί μέ χαρίσματα πλούσια καί ούράνια.

΄Ακόμα οί Χριστιανοί πανηγυρίζουμε καί ύμνολογούμε τήν Θεοτόκο γιατί είναι ή δόξα καί τό καυχημά μας.

Οί παλαιοί Ίσραηλίτες όνόμασαν τήν Ίουδίθ δόξαν καί καύχημά τους διότι έφόνευσε τόν Όλοφέρνη τόν Άρχηστράτηγο τών Άσσυρίων. Έμείς όμως οί νέοι Ίσραηλίτες, οί Χριστιανοί, έχουμε άσυγκρίτως περισσότερο δίκαιο νά όνμάζουμε τήν παναγία δόξα καί καυχημά μας. Διότι μέ τίς πρεσβείες της κατανικά, όχι άνθρωπο, άλλά τόν διάβολο καί θανατώνει μέ τήν άνίκητη δυναμή της όλους τούς αίσθητούς καί νοητούς έχθρούς μας.

Έχουμε λοιπόν άπειρους λόγους οί Όρθόδοξοι νά πανηγυρίζουμε τήν κοίμηση της καί νά κατανυγόμαστε μπροστά σ¨αύτήν τήν μορφή τής έκκλησίας μας, μέ τόν βαρύ καί άνυπολόγιστο πλούτο τής άγάπης καί τής στοργής.

Στή γιορτή της, σέ κάθε γιορτή της, τρέχουμε στούς Ναούς μας νά τής άποθέσουμε τόν πόνο, τό δάκρυ, καί τήν μετάνοια μας. Νά ζητήσουμε τίς πρεσβείες της, νά δροσίσουμε.

Καί νά άρδεύσουμε τήν ψυχή μας μέ τά πνευματικά της νάματα.

Γι¨αύτό ή όρθόδοξη ψυχή μένει πάντα δροσερή, θαλερή, καί άκμαία, παρά τόν κοσμικό λίβα πού τήν κτυπά άλύπητα.

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Address:

495 Browns Lane

Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Phone:

412-366-8700

Fax:

412-366-8710

Internet:

www.HolyTrinityPgh.org

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June 19, 2011: Two communities, one Church! Clergy and parishioners of All Saints Church in Canonsburg and Holy Trinity Church join together for a historic combined Divine Liturgy on the first Sunday after Holy Trinity parishioners moved out of their former home.