



THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

JANUARY 2013

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January Parish Calendar

**HAPPY
NEW YEAR!
NEW CHURCH
OPENS IN
FIVE MONTHS!**

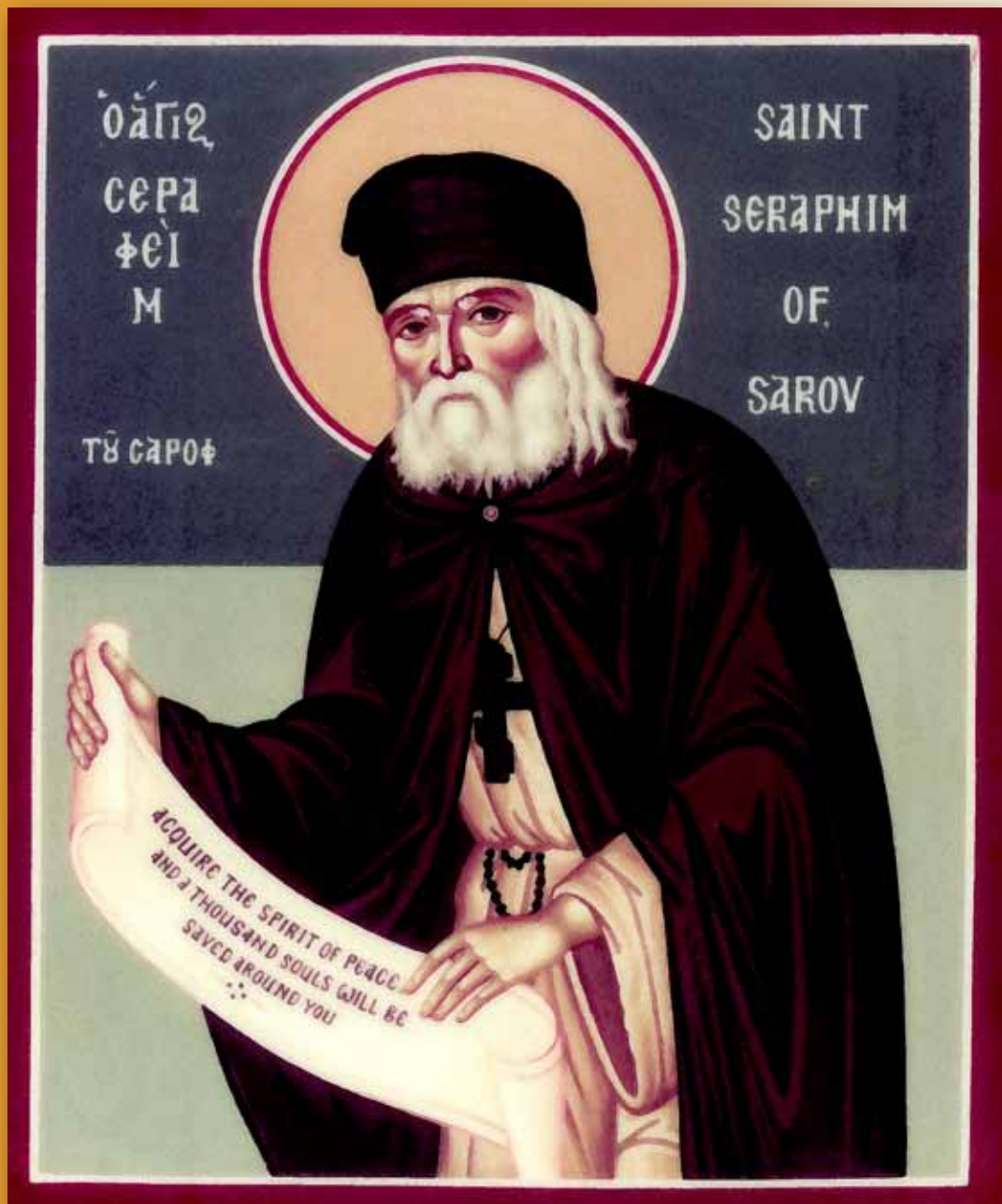
QUICK NEWS



Holy Trinity Kindergarteners gather in front of the 1,083 food items collected by the Church School for a local food pantry. Want to see more scenes from the life and ministries of Holy Trinity Church? See the Community Life Photo Journal on pgs. 6-10 or visit our online photos and videos at www.HolyTrinityPgh.org.

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH • PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

Saint Seraphim of Sarov - Feast Day: January 2



Our venerable and God-bearing father Seraphim of Sarov was a Russian ascetic who lived at the Sarov Monastery in the 18th century, and is considered a wonder-worker. His scroll in this icon bears his well-known and powerful spiritual guidance: "Acquire the spirit of peace and a thousand souls will be saved around you." May the life and words of this blessed saint inspire us to strive, live and pray for peace throughout the world in the coming year with God's grace and blessings!

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) 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

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Rev. Fr. Radu Bordeianu, Assistant Priest

2012 Parish Council

Chris T. Balouris, President

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Marios Kritiotis

George Danis

Charles Petredis

George Dickos

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Jason Farmakis

Stephanie Sedor

Troy Geanopulos

Alex Trivilas

Louis Kort

Gerri Valliant

Ministries

Please visit the Holy Trinity website at www.HolyTrinityPgh.org for descriptions and contact information on Holy Trinity Church's ministries, including educations, youth, senior, family and cultural opportunities. There is something for everyone, so please get involved today!



You will be enriched in every way for great generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God; for the rendering of this service not only supplies the wants of the saints but also overflows in many thanksgivings to God.

2 Corinthians 9.11

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Christ,

Just a few days ago I stood with two beloved brother priests, Father Radu and Father George Daskalakis, in front of the Holy Trinity congregation at the end of the Divine Liturgy and together we, by the grace of God, worked our way through one of the most difficult pastoral tasks we have ever experienced: praying for the souls of 20 innocent children of God, along with 7 innocent adults, who were violently taken from this life at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, last week. It became a heavier prayer with each successive child's name mentioned. But it was a burden we did not carry alone. Those who attended Divine Liturgy that day came with a deep yearning in their hearts and souls for the comfort and peace in those times that can only come from God. On behalf of my brother clergy, I thank those who participated that day for their depth of faith and purpose in prayer, for we all certainly were touched and comforted by the Holy Spirit. May the Lord grant rest to the souls of all those lost, comfort and peace to their families and strength and restoration to all the first responders and other support system workers who have been so greatly affected by this terrible act.

The suffering produced by that and other well-publicized crimes and tragedies is certainly magnified beyond the daily "bad things" that happen, but it is from the same source, whether it affects one life or twenty: man's sinful choices. In the Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil, we hear in the priestly prayers the tracing back of all this suffering to its origin: "Through man sin came into the world, and through sin, death." So where are we to go with that? Believe that man is evil and blind himself to the good which God has created? Certainly not. Proceeding further through the same Liturgy, we find God's answer: Jesus Christ. "He lived in this world, and gave us precepts of salvation. Releasing us from the delusions of idolatry, He guided us to the sure knowledge of You, the true God and Father. He acquired us for Himself, as His chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation." This is the message of Christmas. This is the message of Christians. This is the message of hope. It is God's ultimate act of generosity: love even unto point of Incarnation, Crucifixion, death and Resurrection.

If God then has chosen such generosity of love to rescue us, doesn't that make sense as a plan for us to reach out to the world, too? There are so many who need to hear it in their misery, suffering and even cynicism. I am moved beyond words at the continual acts and generous outpourings of love that spring from this community. In only the past few months, members of this community have provided over 1,000 food items for a local food pantry, served numerous meals at shelters in the area and provided dozens of Christmas gifts for children who are as anonymous to us as the innocent children of Sandy Hook for whom we prayed. Each of those offerings were really the same: a reaching out to someone who simply needs to know God loves them. One of the most touching expressions of that generosity was from a parishioner whose gift tag had three small items, so that faithful soul purchased all of them and threw in a gift card on top of it because it just wasn't enough for whoever that child was. Keep offering. Keep loving. "You will be enriched in every way for great generosity." May we have a blessed, peaceful and Happy New Year.

Herald Personal Sponsor for this Issue:

Andrew, Sofia, Jimmy and Electra Janis
In Memory of Athanasia and Clifford Geanopulos

WORSHIP LIFE

New Year's Eve Liturgy December 31

Want to start the New Year out "on the right foot?" Well, point that foot toward the Saint George Chapel and start your evening with the first Divine Liturgy of the New Year by celebrating the Feast of Saint Basil with Vespertal Liturgy at 6:30 p.m. Be sure to prepare as usual for an evening Liturgy, with no food or drink following your noon meal, and of course the appropriate prayers of preparation for Holy Communion. There is no better way to sanctify yourself, your family and the entire New Year. "Kali Hronia!" Happy New Year to all!

Fast-Free Celebration of the Nativity Dec. 25-Jan. 4

In celebration of the Feast of the Nativity of the Lord, please note that the holy canons indicate that there is no fasting from December 25-January 4. This refers, of course, to the daily fasts of the church and does not eliminate the eucharistic fast (no food or drink from the time of waking up until Liturgy) for those receiving Holy Communion. Question? Please see Father John or Father Radu. Christ is born! Glorify Him!

Weekday Services January

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. and weekday services are held at the Saint George Chapel (SG), 8941 Ringesen Road, Allison Park.

Sat., Jan. 5 Forefeast of the Theophany of our Lord

This is the first of two Theophany Divine Liturgies and services of Great Blessings of the Waters. The Liturgy will be followed by the Great Blessing of the Waters service. Please note that this is a STRICT FAST day in preparation for Theophany. (SG)

Sun., Jan. 6 The Holy Theophany of our Lord

This is the main Orthros and Divine Liturgy of this great Feast. We will offer the Great Blessings of the Water at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. (HT)

Mon. Jan. 7 The Synaxis of St. John the Baptist

This feast of the "greatest of the prophets" and Forerunner of Christ is held on the day after Theophany. (SG)

Wed. Jan. 9, 6:30 pm Paraclesis to the Theotokos

This service of supplication to the Mother of God is held on the second Wednesday of each month. Please note that that time has changed to 6:30pm. (SG)

Thu. Jan. 17, 9:00 am Saint Anthony the Great

The feast of Saint Anthony will be celebrated at the Saint Anthony parish in Clairton.

Wed. Jan. 30 The Three Hierarchs

Divine Liturgy for the feast of the Three Hiearchs, St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory the Theologian and St. John Chrysostom, will be held at the Three Hierarchs Eastern Orthodox School in Carnegie. Time TBA.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Christmas Food Drive Collects Over 1,000 Items!

Many thanks to all the students and family of Holy Trinity Church School for their overwhelming support for the Church

School Christmas Food Drive. In total, 1083 food items were collected and delivered to the Saint Cyril of White Lake Orthodox Food Pantry on Pittsburgh's South Side. To make things interesting, the GOYA sponsored a "Pizza Party Challenge," offering the class that collected the most items a free Pizza Party after Christmas. Our little ones in the Kindergarten came through, with 230 items! Well done, good and faithful servants of Christ!

Saint Lydia Women's Study January

The St Lydia Women's Study Fellowship is now in its 13th year! If you have missed out on this wonderful time with fellow sisters in Christ sharing, learning and growing in faith, maybe this is the year you can join in!

This year the women are studying selections of spiritual guidance topics from Elder Paisios of Mount Athos (+1994), one of the most read and beloved elders of the contemporary Orthodox world. His works have only recently been translated into English. The materials will be distributed at the meeting. As always, participants are also encouraged to bring an Orthodox Study Bible as well. All women of any age are welcome. If you can't make every session, don't worry. Each topic is independent. Please try to attend as many as you can! Meetings are held every other Thursday beginning September 13 at St George Chapel, 8941 Ringeisen Road, Allison Park. 9:30 - Coffee and Fellowship; 10:00 - 11:15 Study. For more information contact Stacy Dickos at 412-367-0925.

Topics for this month are: January 3 - "The New Generation"; January 17 - "To the Pure All Things Are Pure"; and January 31 - "Actions with Prudence and Love." Give it a try... attend this month!

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

GOYA Meeting January 13

The GOYA teen ministry will hold a meeting following Church School on Sunday, January 13.

HOPE and JOY Email Lists

Are you the parents of HOPE or JOY age children? Please be sure you are on the email lists for those ministries by sending your name and children's information to Chrysoula Balouris at chrysoulab@gmail.com. This will subscribe you to all the news you need for your children's youth ministries! Thank you!

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Thank You for Fall Event Support

Holy Trinity Philoptochos would like to thank all who contributed to our tray collection for the Patriarchate, the annual Turkey Fundraiser, the Sabika Jewelry sale, and the last fundraiser of the year, our Christmas Bake Sale. All of these ventures were successful due to the support and generosity of our parishioners. Thank you all so much.

Our last major undertaking, the Senior Citizen Christmas Luncheon was held December 4 at the Holiday Inn, McKnight Road (see photos on 7). About 60 seniors attended and

enjoyed a fine lunch. We were entertained by a string quartet of very talented students from North Hills High School, who played a variety of Christmas music. We are already looking forward to the New Year, new members and our new church facilities. We wish all our fellow parishioners, "Good Health and a prosperous 2013."

Christmas Gift Tree

Thank you also to all who supported the Christmas Tree by taking the names and requests of needy area youth. This year's two beneficiary agencies were the Mars Home for Youth and FOCUS Pittsburgh. Both were extremely grateful for the generous support. According to Yvonne Balouris, who delivered the gifts to the Mars Home: "After everything that has happened in the the world this week, it was a very moving experience to go to the Mars Youth Home and show the love of our community. I was so pleased to show up with such generosity at a time when people are questioning society. We (Holy Trinity) made Christmas special for so many children." Additionally, from the Mars Home Development Manger: "The generosity of your church is overwhelming. I cannot begin to tell you how much our kids will enjoy this Christmas because of your donations. Please express our gratitude to the entire congregation of Holy Trinity." This is because instead of purchasing just one of the two or three requested items for each child, many parishioners purchased every item the children requested! Thank you, Holy Trinity family!

Vasilopita Celebration..... January 13

The Philoptochos will sponsor the annual Vasilopita Celebration on Sunday, January 13, following Divine Liturgy. Representatives from all parish ministries are asked to be present. In addition to commemorating the Feast of St. Basil, a collection will be taken to benefit St. Basil Academy, the young people's philanthropic institution run by the Archdiocese in Garrison, NY. Thank you for your participation!

COMMUNITY NEWS

Holy Trinity Hospitality: Welcome to the Team!

Anyone attending Holy Trinity Church services in the past year could not have helped but notice the continual influx of visitors and guests, each one a potential new member! We are thankful for our active and constantly present Hospitality and Visitors Ministry as they stand ready to welcome these friends, introduce them to Holy Trinity Church and identify them with the now-familiar felt "Yellow Cross." Welcoming these brothers and sisters into the life of Holy Trinity Church is, however, everyone's calling. Please know that as a Holy Trinity parishioner you are called to share in welcoming them with open arms and hearts filled with the love of Christ. Find them at Coffee Hour and introduce them to the people and ministries of our parish. There is a place for everyone at Holy Trinity Church!

New Year Holiday Office Schedule

The offices of the Archdiocese, Metropolis and Holy Trinity Church will be closed on Tuesday, January 1, in observation of the New Year holiday.

Festival Committee Meeting January 13

There will be a Festival Committee meeting on Sunday, January 13, following the Divine Liturgy and Vasilopita celebration. All those interested in helping with planning for the 2013 Festival are asked to attend. Thank you.

Sign Up For the Holy Trinity Email!

Want to receive the Sunday Bulletin directly via email? Want to keep up to date with the latest Holy Trinity news or weather cancellations? Sign up at www.HolyTrinityPgh.org.

NEW CHURCH PROJECT NEWS

Keep Up With Construction Progress Online!

Want to keep up with the construction progress of the new Holy Trinity Church? Simply visit our website, www.HolyTrinityPgh.org, and click the Gallery link for lots of photos. There are also links to up-close walking tour videos with descriptions about construction progress and features of the new facilities. For direct access to the videos or to "Like" and post comments about them, visit [Facebook.com/holytrinitypgh](https://www.facebook.com/holytrinitypgh).



OPENING OF THE NEW CHURCH: JUNE 22, 2013!

It's still a while away, but when you start making your summer plans for 2013, keep the weekend of June 22-24 clear for the "Thyranoixia" (Official Opening) of the new Holy Trinity Church! His Eminence Metropolitan Savas will preside over a weekend including the Opening of the Doors service and Liturgy on Saturday and Pentecost Liturgy on Sunday. We will then continue with our first Feast Day Liturgy on the Monday of the Holy Spirit, June 24. Details will be forthcoming ... but save those dates!

Capital Campaign Reminder: We Still Need You!

With all the excitement of the new church progress, we are almost there but we still have a way to go. Please remember that without the continued stewardship of our members and on-going meeting of commitments to the Capital Campaign for the new church, none of this would be possible. Please remember to maintain your designated contributions schedule so we can move forward as planned, and if you have still not made your Capital Campaign pledge, the time to do it is now! Thank you, good and faithful stewards!

Arista Reception for Holy Trinity Community Dec. 30

Holy Trinity's Parish Council has selected Arista Catering and Event Planning as the caterer for "Holy Trinity Center." (See the announcement enclosed in this edition of the Herald for more information.) In response, Arista will be hosting a special reception for Holy Trinity parishioners following Divine Liturgy on Sunday, December 30. All are invited to get to know our new catering partners. Welcome, Arista!

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

JANUARY 2013 – "THE VOICE OF HOLY TRINITY CHURCH"



Father John Androutsopoulos

Archiminea—the first day of the month and "**Ke Arhihronia**"—the first day of the New Year, 2013.

Happy Nameday to all those who celebrate their Nameday and birth-day this month!

A Recipe For A Happy New Year

This recipe consists of three "R's": Repent, Resolve and Remember.

1. **We Are To Repent:** We know that repentance is the first step to God. A man is never saved and can never get to God until first of all he has repented and confessed his sin.

2. **We Are To Resolve:** Resolve and say, "I want to be a better person; I will try to be a better Christian."

3. **We Are To Remember:** We must remember that we never can repay Christ for all that He has done for us. What has He done? He went to the Cross and took our place and died in our stead. Thank you Lord Jesus Christ for what You did for us, the sinners.

Beloved, the above recipe for the New Year is a repetition even from the pulpit. Remember: "*Repetition is the mother of knowledge!*"

An Explanation of The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, Who Are In Heaven:

O, Almighty and Eternal Father, You who created this universe, gave us life and who lives with us all....

Hallowed Be Thy Name:

May we learn to acknowledge, accept, and adore You, in our hearts and in our assemblies....

Thy Kingdom Come:

May Your divine plan for a Christian Brotherhood of Man be accepted by all men....

Thy Will Be Done On Earth As It Is In Heaven:

May we abide by Your precepts and commandments for a world made better with understanding and compassion...

Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread:

Oh Lord, You have given us the ability to do so much for ourselves. May we take advantage of the many opportunities You have given us to earn the food and necessities for our families...and if it by Thy will, may we experience continued prosperity throughout our land, as for all nations...

And Forgive Us Our Trespases As We Forgive Those Who Trespass Against Us:

May You forgive us for our sins of commission...wherein we have caused injury to others...and for our sins of omission....wherein we have been neglectful of our duties and obligations...and may we also learn to give...and to forgive...

And Lead Us Not Into Temptation:

May You keep us in the righteous path and may we be ever mindful of our responsibilities to ourselves, to those we live with, to those we work with and to You, Father...

But Deliver Us From Evil:

May we be safeguarded from harm, may the sanctuary of our homes be ever honored, and may we be conscious always of Your omnipotent presence.

For Thine Is The Kingdom, And The Power, And The Glory, Forever, Amen.

God Is Love – Love Is Eternal

Faith, hope and love are the very foundation of the Christian Church. They are interrelated in such a way that all three must be present in a Christian's life. If one is missing, the other two lose their significance.

St. Paul writes that the greatest is love. In I Corinthians, Chapter 13, St. Paul writes: "Though I speak with the tongues of men and angels, and have not love, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains and have not love, to feed the poor, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing."

Also: "And now abodeth faith, hope, and love, these three; but the greatest of these is love."

What is faith if it is not expressed in love and good works? It is dead. What is hope without love? It is uncertain. Love is the means by which the other two are revealed, and it seeks to share them with other people. We cannot see a person's faith or hope, but we can feel them in the way love expressed them.

This kind of love is unselfish, godly love. It builds up treasures in heaven. It lasts forever and cannot be destroyed by death. When we enter a relationship of godly love, we link ourselves to eternity. "Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it." (Song of Solomon 8:7).

May we all have a Blessed, Healthy and Happy New Year.

With His love,

Rev. Fr. John H. Androutsopoulos, Protopresbyter



The Lord's Prayer Mosaic in English from the Church of "Pater Noster" in Jerusalem

Community Life Photo Journal | Youth Ministries Christmas Events

December 7, 2012: Children and parents from the HOPE and JOY ministries paid a seasonal visit of faith and cheer to the elderly residents of Vincentian Home off McKnight Road, very close to our new church. The group offered sing-along Christmas carols, smiles and hugs to an enthusiastic audience and grateful staff.



December 9, 2012: Teens of the GOYA ministry gathered at the home of Nikki Hodge for the annual GOYA Christmas Fireside Chat. They enjoyed a lenten meal, held a discussion about the Nativity and the coming of Christ and assembled emergency supplies packages for IOCC's relief work with the victims of Hurricane Sandy. The evening ended with the traditional "Ask Father John" Q&A session.



December 15, 2012: Kindergarteners paused during the Christmas Pageant rehearsal to survey and celebrate the 1,083 food items collected by the Holy Trinity Church School to benefit the St. Cyril of White Lake Food Pantry. Since the Kindergarten class collected the most of all the classes (see chart at right), they will receive a pizza party as a "thank you" from GOYA. Afterwards, the dads loaded the food into the truck for delivery. Good work everyone!





December 4, 2012: Approximately sixty seniors of the Holy Trinity community gathered for their annual Christmas Luncheon in preparation for the Birth of Christ. This year's luncheon was held at the Holiday Inn on McKnight Road. The group was entertained by a string quartet of very talented students from North Hills High School, who played a variety of beautiful Christmas music.



December 16, 2012: The students, staff and parents of Holy Trinity Church School once again hosted an exciting, energetic and entertaining Church School Christmas Pageant. Above are scenes from this year's "God With Us" program, a travelling production in which the scenes and actors stayed in one place and the audience moved from scene-to-scene on their journey to Christ. Many thanks to everyone attending and involved, especially our own Presvytera Becky, who directed the event for the 20th time this year!





Top: The views from Babcock Boulevard and Cumberland Road show the Church and Center both nearing their finals stages of exterior work. **Above (Clockwise from top left):** Arches in various stages of completion in the Gallery, with large scenic glass panels looking out over the Patio and Main Lawn. The apse above the Altar in the Church begins to take shape. A drywall worker cuts framing material. The Portico receives its first arches. One of the six classrooms on the upper level. The power transformed is finally installed.

WATCH CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS ONLINE! PHOTOS AT www.HolyTrinityPgh.org. VIDEOS at [Facebook.com/holytrinitypgh](https://www.facebook.com/holytrinitypgh).



Voula Hareras

Ο ΧΡΟΝΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΤΑ ΜΥΣΤΙΚΑ ΤΟΥ!

Ενας νέος χρόνος πρόβαλε. 2013 μ.Χ. τό όνομά του. Μπήκε άθόρυβα στη ζωή μας. Κι είναι όλόλαμπρος, όλοκαίνουργος, άθικτος. Γεμάτος ύποσχέσεις. Γέμισε κι ή δική μας καρδιά χαρά και αίσιοδοξία. Χρυσές έλπίδες στό στερέωμα της ψυχής μας. Καλώς μάς ήρθε. Εύτυχισμένος νά 'ναι. Καί καλός!

Ηρθε.

Καί...φεύγει!

Κάθε ήμέρα φεύγει. Κάθε ώρα. Κάθε λεπτό. Ενα ποτάμι είναι κι ό χρόνος, πού τά νερά του κυλούν γοργά. Φεύγει. Καί μέσα στη ροή του στήνεται ή ίστορία τού κόσμου. Καί ή δική σου...

Νά τόν σταματήσεις—τόν χρόνο—δέν γίνεται. Μόνο μπορείς μαζί του νά συνεργασθείς. Σκέψου σύ πώς γίνεται αυτό. Νά προσθέσω κι εγώ από τά μυστικά πού έμαθα τρέχοντας μαζί του. Λοιπόν, ό χρόνος θέλει -

- Νά τόν δείς μέ σεβασμό στην άξία του. Είναι πολύτιμος ό χρόνος. Χρήμα είναι, είπαν. Κι αγοράζεις μάυτόν—πραγματοποιείς δηλαδή—όλα τά ώραία σου όνειρα.
- Νά μή τόν σπαταλάς. Γιατί—όπως λέει ό άρχαίος σοφός - όταν τόν σπαταλάμε σ'αυτά πού δέν πρέπει, δέν φθάνει για κείνα πού πρέπει.
- Νά τόν δεσμεύσεις. Μέ τό πρόγραμμά σου. Λάστιχο είναι, είπαν κάποιοι άπλοϊκά αλλά άληθινά. Ανοίγει και χωράει.. Πόσα χωράει! Ένα νά προσέξεις—τίς έπιλογές σου. Δέν είναι τά πολλά, αλλά τά καλά, πού πρέπει νά μούν στό πρόγραμμά σου. Αυτά πού άξίζουν - ή πρόοδος σου ή διανοητική, ή εξέλιξη και σταδιοδρομία σου, ή προκοπή σου στό άγαθό και την άρετή.
- Είναι κι άλλα πού θέλει ό χρόνος, για νά συνεργασθεί μέ έπιτυχία μαζί σου. Θέλει έργατικότητα, άποφασιστικότητα, θάρρος...Νά μή πισωγυρίζεις, νά μήν αναβάλλεις, νά μή γκρινιάζεις. Αλλά νά προχωρείς μέ αίσιοδοξία προς τά έμπρός.
- Καί τό κυριότερο—Νά τόν δείς - τόν χρόνο—μέ εύγνωμοσύνη στόν Θεό πού σου τόν χάρισε. Δώρο Του είναι. Αυτός όρίζει ήμέρας και καιρούς για τόν καθένα. Καί μόνον έν τώ Θεώ ό χρόνος παίρνει νόημα.

Καλή συνεργασία μέ τόν νέο χρόνο - 2013 μ.Χ. - σου εύχομαι.

Νά προχωρείς καθημερινά όπως τό θέλει ό Θεός, μέ την βοήθεια τού Θεού.

Εύχομαι σέ όλους σας Καλή Χρονιά!

Βούλα Χαρερά



ΕΠΡΟΒΑΛ Η ΠΡΩΤΟΧΡΟΝΙΑ

Επρόβαλ ή Πρωτοχρονιά
μέ τη χρυσή θωριά της.
Κι όλούθε λάμψη και χαρά
στό γλυκοχάραμά της

Παιχνίδια γύρω, φορεσιές,
και μάλαμα κι άσήμι...
Καλά τά δώρα πού σκορπά
και στόν καθένα δίνει.

Μά εγώ γυρεύω νά σταθώ
στόν άργαλειό τού χρόνου.
Κι έλα, Χριστέ μου, από ψηλά
κάθησε στό πλευρό μου.

Τό έργο δύσκολο πολύ
κι εγώ νά μή λυγίσω.
Μιά-μιά τίς μέρες πού θάρθούν
μέ τέχνη νά πλουμίσω.

Κρίνο ή άγνότης. Κι ή χαρά,
τριαντάφυλλο πάνθίζει.
Κι άγάπη μου, νάναι πηγή
τόν κόσμο νά ποτίζει...

Δός μου, Χριστέ μου, προκοπή,
της άρετής οί κλώνοι
νά μου προβάλλουν άνθηροί
στό κάτασπρο στημόνι.

Καί σάν περάσουν οί καιροί
κι οί μέρες πιά τελειώσουν...
Τό έργο μου τό φωτεινό,
Χριστέ, θάναι δικό σου!

Χλόη Αχαϊκού

Happy New Year to all of my precious children!

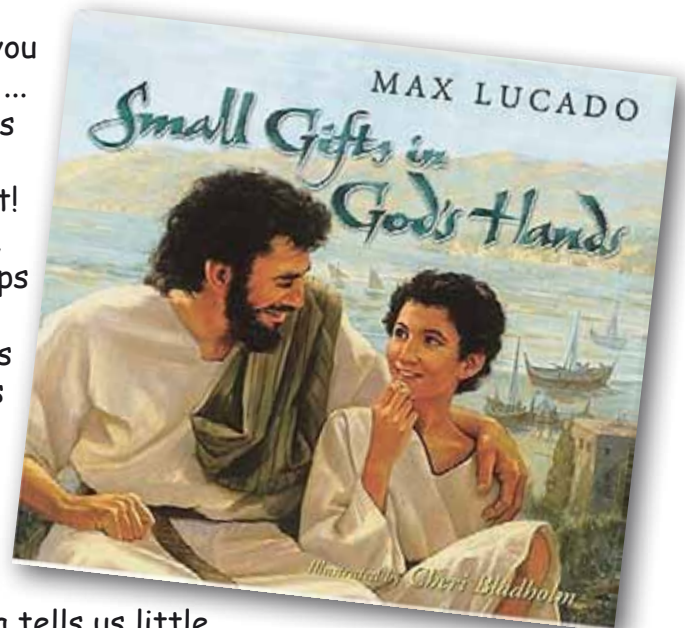


It is I, Spero ready to help you celebrate God's New Year! I hope that the New Year brings health and happiness to all of my children and their families. And to help get it started, I have two books to share with everyone today!

"Remember what I say son: if Jesus is who they say, then He can do big things with a small gift." With those words spoken from a mother to her son, the adventure begins. With all his heart, Elijah wants to give something to the kind teacher but Elijah has no money with which to buy a gift. He has no extra bed to offer Jesus rest. He has no boat to loan the Fisherman of man. He only has a small basket of three fishes and five loaves of bread. This story

is told through the eyes of a small boy in Max Lucado's book "Small Gifts in God's hands." This story recreates one of the Bible's most loved stories with a powerful message to all of my little ones. Can you guess which story this one is? Come and tell me...I'll be waiting for you in the library on Sunday. Yiayia says that it is a reminder that no gift is ever too small when placed in our Heavenly Father's hands.

Also, my precious children, can you remember when you first met your friends? Did you like them right away ... or did you think they were a little unusual? Jesus was always making friends with those who were different and lots of people thought that He was different! However, Jesus knows that people come in all colors, shapes, and sizes and so do friends. Your relationships with friends come from the inside, not what they look like on the outside. That is because friendship is always about the heart and you know that you always have room in your heart for one more friend. So the next time some one offers to be your friend or you see some one who might need a friend, remember: it doesn't matter whether they are tall, or short, fat or skinny, or their clothes are new or old; we need to love that person just like Jesus would. Yiayia tells us little



ones that the Bible tells us in John 15:12 "Love each other as I have loved you". We have a book by Joni Eareckson-Tada and Melody Carlson called "Forever Friends". There is a toy shoppe on Periwinkle Lane and this is no ordinary store. When the lights go out and Mr. Giovanni goes home, all the toys come to life. It is true when all the people are asleep all the toys come alive. Jenny, the newest doll in the shoppe, cannot wait to make friends. She begins searching for a playmate only to discover a real friend in some one that she never expected. She finds out that the best friends are not necessarily the ones who look perfect on the outside, but the ones who have a kind heart. Remember when you meet your best friend they will be your closest and dearest friend for life.

I want to wish my sister Zoe a Happy, Happy, 5th Birthday! Also Happy Name Day to all Vasili's and Vasiliki's too! Well, got to go, my family is having a party for Zoe and I love cake and ice cream.



Love in Christ, Spero

2012 Nativity Flowers Donor List | Thank You

Many thanks to the following parishioners and friends for sponsoring the beautiful poinsettias for the decoration of the church and chapel during the Christmas holidays. May the Lord remember them and those whom they have honored!

DONORS

COMMEMORATIONS

Anonymous.....	For the health of my family (7 plants)
Anonymous.....	For the health of my family (5 plants)
The Aggelou Family.....	To honor our parents
Victor Amurgis & Family.....	In memory of our loving parents; William & Harriet Amurgis (2 plants)
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Anthony & Helen Balouris.....	In memory of our family, past community members & friends
Chris & Kathy Balouris.....	For the health of Father John & Presvytera Ethel Androustopoulos
Chris & Kathy Balouris.....	For the health of Anthony and Helen Balouris
James J. Chapas.....	In memory of John Chapas
William P. Chapas.....	For the health of Anne Chapas
William P. Chapas.....	In memory of Frank Chapas, Gus & Anne Papantonio
Penny Crary.....	In memory of Sophia Fakles Regas
Cynthia Morris Criss.....	In memory of Tom & Dora Morris (6 plants)
Shea Danis.....	In memory of Demetrios Danis (2 plants)
Mina Durosko.....	In memory of my parents James & Elli Stephanou
Frank Katina, Helena & Mike Erdeljac.....	In memory of Mike & Theologia Alexiades (2 plants)
Bill & Tina Fiedler.....	In memory of Sophie Parikakis and all of our family & friends
Connie Fries.....	For the health of family & friends
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Athena & Steve Hodge.....	In memory of John & Elaine Rexine
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Gus & Stella Kalaris.....	In memory of Gus & Panagiota Bistolas
Gus & Stella Kalaris.....	In memory of George & Pauline Kalaris
Irene Karavolos.....	For the health of my family
Vasiliki Kourouklis.....	In memory of Lucky Kourouklis
Vasiliki Kourouklis.....	In memory of Stavroula Repana
Mike & Julie Kritiotis.....	For the health of family & friends
Despina Ladakos.....	For the health of my family
George & Canella Lalikos.....	In memory of our beloved parents
Nicholas & Joy Loomis.....	In memory of our parents, John & Cornelia Sampson and John & Mary Kokoros
Despina Manias.....	In memory of George E. Manias
Mark Matejevich.....	For the health of Mary Matejevich
Mark Matejevich.....	In memory of Daniel and Dolores Matejevich
James Mermigas.....	For the health and well-being of Theodore Mermigas
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Michael P. Panos.....	In memory of George & Mary Panos and Constance & Patsy Tsalas
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Rania Pontikos.....	In memory of Constantina Tsaktanis
Rania Pontikos.....	In memory of Apostolos Tsaktanis
Rania Pontikos.....	For the health of Pauline Pontikos
Angie Roman.....	In memory of Gus Roman
Steve & Electra Roman.....	In memory of our parents
James F. Sicalias.....	In memory of my mother Bessie Cocheres-Sicalias
Joanna Sideris.....	In memory of Mary Constantino
James Steve Statheas.....	In memory of Steve & Demetra Statheas
Bob and Marianne Stearns & Stephen.....	In memory of Eric Michael Stearns
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Ava Szott.....	In memory of Nick Tanner
Katrina Tanner.....	In memory of Nick Tanner
Polyxeni Tomalski.....	In memory of Themistocles Balouris and Leon Tomalski
Mary Magdalene Welsh.....	In memory of my beloved mother Julia Welsh
George P. Zappas.....	In memory of Paul Zappas
George P. Zappas.....	In memory of William Zappas
Dr. & Mrs. Antonios Zikos.....	In memory of Efthimios Zikos
Dr. & Mrs. Antonios Zikos.....	In memory of Mildred Lutkevich
Anthony & Aspasia Zissis.....	In memory of our parents

The Feast of Theophany and the Blessing of Homes and Businesses

"At Your Epiphany, the whole creation sang Your praises. For You, our God, have appeared on earth and dwelt among men. You have sanctified the streams of the Jordan, sending down from on high the most Holy Spirit."

From the Service of the Great Blessing of the Waters



"What is Theophany?"

Every year on January 6th, the Orthodox Church celebrates the Feast of Holy Theophany, which is the baptism of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This is one of the Twelve Great Feasts of the Church and is also known by the name, "Epiphany." The Baptism of Christ in the River Jordan at the hand of St. John the Baptist sets the example for our own baptism by water in the Holy Spirit.

"How do we celebrate Theophany?"

The main celebration is, of course, found in the Church with the holy services on January 5th (the Forefeast), January 6th (Theophany) and January 7th (Synaxis of St. John the Baptist). We also take the feast home with us by having our homes blessed with the Holy Water.

"What happens during a House Blessing?"

You will receive a call to confirm your appointment a day or two ahead. When the priest arrives, he will conduct a brief service either in your dining room or at the place where your family usually offers its prayers. It is best to have the entire family present if possible, especially children. Please be sure to have an icon and a list of the first names of all the members of your household. If you have a home censer, you may prepare it also. A bowl of water is not necessary, as the priest will bring the holy water sprinkler from the church.

The priest will offer the blessing service and offer the names of the people present and those contained on the family names list in prayer. As the service concludes, please lead the priest throughout the house to sprinkle the holy water while chanting the hymn of Theophany. He will bring a copy of the service so you can follow along and chant the hymn. When the service is over,

please understand if your priest needs to keep the visit brief in order to cover all the homes scheduled on that day.

"Should I Have Our House and Business Blessed **Every** Year?"

Yes! In the Orthodox Christian tradition, homes should be blessed each year to bring the blessings of the Feast of Theophany into the home and to rededicate ourselves and our family to the Lord. It is an annual commitment, celebration, thanksgiving and family prayer. It is also a pious way of asking God's blessings on our business and livelihood as good stewards of all His gifts.

2013 House Blessing Schedule

Date	Time	Area	Zip Codes
Tue. Jan. 8	3pm-5pm	Northside, Perrysville, Bellevue, Westview	15212, 15214, 15202
Tue. Jan. 8	6pm-8pm	South Hills (all areas)	15102, 15216, 1522X, 1524X
Thu. Jan. 10	3pm-8pm	Allison Park, McKnight, Wexford (South)	15101, 15237, 15090 (South)
Fri. Jan. 11	3pm-8pm	Gibsonia, Treesdale	15044
Tue. Jan. 15	3pm-8pm	Cranberry, Mars & North	16046, 16066
Wed. Jan. 16	3pm-8pm	Wexford (North)	15090 (North)
Thu. Jan. 17	2pm-8pm	All other areas not listed/Make-up date/Snow date	Various

Important note: Please be available at the time scheduled for your area. Re-scheduling will only be done in cases of inclement weather. Thank you for your help!

PLEASE RETURN THE FORM ON THE BACK PAGE OR EMAIL FATHER JOHN **BEFORE JAN. 5** TO SCHEDULE YOUR HOME. YOU WILL RECEIVE A CALL TO CONFIRM YOUR TIME.

Reminder: Please schedule your House/Office Blessing by January 5th! See back page.

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information.*

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Please note new contact information for Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church Interim Location

**Address: 495 Browns Lane
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Phone: 412-366-8700

Fax: 412-366-8710

Internet: www.HolyTrinityPgh.org

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2013 Holy Trinity House/Business Blessing Request Form



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Notes, directions or special information	
(NOTE: You may also EMAIL this information to: fjt@HolyTrinityPgh.org)	

A schedule and description of the House Blessing tradition can be found inside this issue of The Herald. If you would like this special blessing for your family, home or business, please mail or deliver this form to the church office by January 5. Your date and time will be confirmed the day before your visit. Note: Please be available at the time indicated on the schedule. Re-scheduling will only be done in cases of inclement weather. Thanks!

Scripture of the Month: "If any one thirst, let him come to me and drink." (John 7.37)