



# THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

JULY-AUGUST 2013

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HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH • PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

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## QUICK NEWS



His Eminence Metropolitan Savas offers the historic knock on the door that opens the new Holy Trinity Church. Want to see more photos of the opening weekend events? See the Community Life Photo Journal on pages 7-15 or visit our online photos and videos at [www.HolyTrinityPgh.org](http://www.HolyTrinityPgh.org).



*"The Foundations of Many Generations"*

**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

#### 2013 Parish Council

George Dickos, President

Dean A. Balouris

Marios Kritiotis

George Danis

Charles Petredis

Andrew Janis

Joyce Athanasiou

Jason Farmakis

Stephanie Sedor

Louis Kort

Alex Trilivas

Leo Loomis

Gerri Valliant

#### Ministries

Please visit the Holy Trinity website at [www.HolyTrinityPgh.org](http://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!



**F**ar be it from me to glory except in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Galatians 6.14

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

For everyone in the Holy Trinity community, it has been a historic and amazing time. In one glorious weekend we were able to look back with thanksgiving to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the parish standing on the foundations and prayers of the blessed

founders of this Holy Church, while at the same time standing on new foundations raised up for "many generations" with the opening the new Holy Trinity Church and Center. It is almost too overwhelming to contain.

For my family there were two other "foundational" blessings multiplying our joy in these great days. First was the celebration of the start of it all for Presvytera Becky and me as we celebrated on 25th wedding anniversary on June 26th. Second, and still officially upcoming, is the 20th anniversary of my appointment as the proistamenos of Holy Trinity Church on August 1st by His Eminence Metropolitan Maximos back in 1993.

Much to my suprise, His Eminence Metropolitan Savas succesfully multiplied the joy of those celebrations with the very special blessing of elevating me to the office of "Proto-presbyter," the highest order of married priesthood in the Greek Orthodox Church. He did so at the conclusion of the "Thyranoixia" service on June 22nd in the midst of the beautiful flock whose love and prayers have made this ministry both possible and fruitful for as long as we have been blessed to serve here. Pictured above at that special occasion along with me is Presvytera Becky and our youngest two children, Maria and Nikolas, who had just returned from our Metropolis Summer Camp, where they were serving as counselors. Our oldest son, George, is in Greece serving as a summer camp counselor at Ionian Village and was watching live on the Internet that morning.

Although the Cross indicating this special office was placed around my own neck, it is a blessing and an honor I must share with my family and the Holy Trinity flock if I am to wear it with any sense of truth and integrity. It is not possible to imagine this ministry without my family—especially my beloved co-worker and wife, Presvytera Becky. Likewise, how would it be possible for me to lay claim to any success or progress in ministry at Holy Trinity Church without recognizing the faithful members whose daily prayers, love and sacrifices make this ministry possible? I thank God and His Eminence for this great honor and I ask my family and the Holy Trinity community—along with my brother and co-minister, Father Radu—to share it worthily as we continue to work together to the glory of God as we together carry "the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Finally, please also allow me to add another set of thanks to this beautiful weekend. On Saturday evening many people who contributed greatly to the opening of the new Church were thanked by three people I must myself specially highlight here: our Parish Council President, George Dickos, the Vision Committee Chairman, Gus Georgiadis and the Capital Campaign Chairman, Jim Balouris. Please be sure to offer them your personal thanks, as I have, as the organizers, motivators and enthusiastic servants of Christ whose efforts led the way to June 22, 2013. May this community be blessed with such visionary and godly leaders for "many generations" to come!

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Herald Personal Sponsor for this Issue:

**Mary Magdalene Welsh**  
"To The Glory of God"



## WORSHIP LIFE

### Weekday Services ..... July/August

Please take note of the following weekday Liturgies and services this month. Unless otherwise indicated, Orthros is at 8:15 a.m., followed by Divine Liturgy at 9:30 at the St. George Chapel (SG).

**Aug. 2:** 6:30pm Paraclesis with prayers offered for our seniors and the elderly. (SG)

**Aug. 6:** The Holy Transfiguration

*Liturgy of the Transfiguration will be celebrated at the Holy Transfiguration Monastery in Ellwood City.*

**Aug. 7:** 6:30pm Paraclesis with prayers offered for married couples. (SG)

**Aug. 9:** 6:30pm Paraclesis with prayers offered for the sick. Anointing with holy oil following the service. (SG)

**Aug. 12:** 6:30pm Paraclesis. *Annual "Back to School/Off to College" Blessing will take place at the end of the service. All families with students should attend. Brief discussion with the clergy afterwards.* (SG)

**Aug. 14:** 7:00pm Great Vespers of Koimissis

*Aug. 14 services will be held at our sister parishes in Oakmont and Aliquippa for their feast days.*

**Aug. 15:** The Falling Asleep of the Theotokos (Liturgy at SG)

**Aug. 29:** The Beheading of St. John the Baptist (Liturgy at SG)

### Service Locations . . . Holy Trinity Church/St. George Chapel

With the opening of the new Holy Trinity Church, we have a beautiful new home for our large Sunday services and sacraments. We still, however, also have the blessing of the Saint George Chapel for various liturgical needs. Please take note of these general practices and our new worship space options:

**Sunday Services:** All Sunday services will be held at Holy Trinity Church (HT). Orthros is at 8:15 a.m., followed by Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m.

**Weekday Liturgies:** Unless otherwise indicated for special dates, all weekday liturgies will be held at Saint George Chapel (SG). Again, Orthros is at 8:15 a.m., followed by Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m.

**Paraclesis Services:** Unless otherwise indicated, all Paraclesis services during August 1-15 as well as our monthly Paraclesis services will be held at Saint George Chapel (SG) at 6:30 p.m.

**Saturdays of the Souls:** With the special opportunity to commemorate the departed and bless their graves during the services, all Saturdays of the Souls (3 before/during Lent and one on Pentecost weekend) will continue to be held at Saint George Chapel (SG). As usual, Orthros is at 8:15 a.m., followed by Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m. followed by the Memorial Service commemorating all the departed.

**Funerals:** Depending on the expected size of the funeral, families will have the opportunity to choose holding funerals for their loved ones at either Holy Trinity Church (HT) or Saint George Chapel (SG). The Chapel is able to accommodate approximately 80 people for a funeral and offers the ability to walk to the grave site

directly from the funeral service. The Church accommodates larger crowds but requires transportation to/from the cemetery following the funeral.

**Baptisms:** With the addition of our beautiful new baptistry, all baptisms will be held at Holy Trinity Church unless otherwise requested at the Chapel. The Holy Trinity baptistry accommodates both infant baptisms as well as full-immersion adult baptisms with a large step-in font. The Holy Trinity Center is also available for receptions following baptisms and can accommodate both small family events and large banquet receptions.

**Weddings:** Unless otherwise requested at the Chapel, all weddings will be held at Holy Trinity Church, which is fully equipped in every way for bridal party preparation, wedding services and various size receptions.

**Lent and Holy Week:** Please watch for information and worship life calendars with location information during these special times

### Holy Trinity Church Services Now Live on the Internet

One of the wonderful new outreach opportunities our new facilities provide is the ability to stream our services live on the Internet. We are now officially listed on the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese list of live broadcasts and are the first parish in the Metropolis of Pittsburgh to be listed there. The official list can be found at [www.goarch.org/chapel/live](http://www.goarch.org/chapel/live).

**How to access Holy Trinity live:** Unable to attend Sunday services because of travels, illness or otherwise home bound? To follow the services online go to:

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

If that link does not work due to server traffic, try directly accessing the Archdiocese streaming server at:

**[realserver.goarch.org/live/index\\_pittsburgh.html](http://realserver.goarch.org/live/index_pittsburgh.html)**

**Legal Notice:** "Holy Trinity Church now broadcasts its Sunday services live on the Internet. Your presence in the Church is subject to audio and video recording."

### Infant and Child Resources Available

In an effort to continue to promote a family-friendly worship and community environment, Holy Trinity's new Church has a number of facilities and opportunities for parents to provide care for the needs of their children. While we encourage all families to include children in worship services at every age, please feel free to make use of these facilities whenever your children are in need of them:

**The Family and Pastoral Care Room:** Located in the Narthex with large windows looking into the Church, this room allows parents who need to tend to the needs of their children to stay in the worship service while giving their children the freedom to move around or fuss without worrying about disturbing others. The view looks directly into the service and sound is provided via a speaker in the room.

**Rest Rooms:** There is a unisex rest room located in the Narthex and there are larger men's and women's rest rooms located in the hallway at the entrance to the Gallery.

**Changing Tables:** The rest rooms in the Narthex and the Gallery hallway all contain sturdy fold-down changing tables to provide a safe and clean place to change infants.

## MINISTRIES NEWS

### GOYA Elections..... July 14

The GOYA teen ministry will hold its annual election of officers on Sunday, July 14, following the Divine Liturgy. All GOYA teens are asked to attend.

### Holy Trinity Missionaries at Project Mexico.....7/31-8/6

Please keep our Holy Trinity missionaries in your prayers as they head with Father John and Presvytera Becky to Project Mexico to once again participate in the home-building ministry there. Project Mexico and the Saint Innocent Orphanage are located just south of the U.S. border near Rosarito, Mexico. Our team will continue the Project Mexico tradition of building a home for a verified needy Mexican family in exactly one week. The only power tool they will use will be a cement mixer. Everything else will be cut, drilled and nailed by hand to produce a sturdy stucco house on a solid cement slab foundation. Want to contribute to this special mission to help with a donation to the orphanage? Please send or bring your gift payable to the "Agape Fund" to Holy Trinity Church, 985 Providence Boulevard, Pittsburgh, PA 15237 and mark "Project Mexico" on the memo line.

### New Three Hierarchs Bookstore Location!

Like everything else at Holy Trinity Church these days, the Three Hierarchs Bookstore has a new location. It is impossible to miss this one, as it has been placed strategically in a prominent location on the way from the Narthex to the Gallery, next to the Church Office entrance. Be sure to stop by and check out its growing stock of books and religious goods. It is also the official outlet for Holy Trinity Thyranoixia custom t-shirts and icon buttons.

### New Office Staff Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30am-4:30pm

Effective Monday, July 1, we welcome Mary Portellos, our Church Secretary/Office Administrator to full-time status! Our new office hours will be Monday-Friday, 8:30am-4:30pm. Mary can be reached at 412-366-8700 or via email at "office@HolyTrinityPgh.org".

### Sign Up For the Holy Trinity Email!

Want to receive the Sunday Bulletin directly via email each week and keep up to date with the latest Holy Trinity news or weather cancellations? Sign up at [www.HolyTrinityPgh.org](http://www.HolyTrinityPgh.org).

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### New Church Community Open House.....July 28, 2-8pm

In order to introduce the new Holy Trinity Church and Holy Trinity Center to the local community, which has been both enthusiastic and curious during our construction project, we are opening our doors on Sunday, July 28, for tours and a sampling of Holy Trinity hospitality. Arista Catering and Event Services will be co-hosting the event and demonstrating its services as exclusive caterer to the Center. Volunteers from the parish will be needed to host the event. Please see Parish Council President George Dickos or look for more information to follow. Please spread the news to your friends in the

North Hills community. Curious about all that beautiful new construction? Want to see the magnificent new church and iconography? Want to ask about hosting your next event at Holy Trinity Center? Well ... "Come and See!"

## "A TASTE OF GREECE" AUGUST 28-SEPTEMBER 1

Please mark Wednesday, August 28, through Sunday, September 1, (Labor Day Weekend) on your calendar as the inaugural "Taste of Greece" at our new Church location at Providence Boulevard. The Festival Committee is reaching out to everyone to join in helping at what will be an unprecedented and historic event at our new Church, and our Parish Council has challenged us with the goal of holding our parish's most successful festival ever!

**Volunteers Needed by the Day, Not Just the Hour:** The Festival Committee is looking for parishioners to fulfill a variety of roles—there is something for everyone and everyone's help will be needed! And rather than signing up for just a few hours as in the past, the magnitude of this event will require parishioners to dedicate more time than ever. Please consider donating your day (or days!) as your offering of stewardship to Holy Trinity Church. Many of our parishioners use their vacation days from work, as we will need lots of help during the weekday lunches on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. To learn about how to help, please contact Stephanie Sedor at 412-780-6183 or [stephsedor@gmail.com](mailto:stephsedor@gmail.com). Thank you, good stewards!

### New "Taste of Greece" Shirts Available

Want to help out and look great? Order a "Taste of Greece" festival shirt. Watch for information in July via the Sunday Bulletin.

### Festival Cooking Schedule

#### PASTRIES & MOUSSAKA:

Tuesday, July 9, 8:30a-9:00p - Finikia/Koulourakia  
 Wednesday, July 10, 8:30-9:00p - Finikia/Koulourakia  
 Tuesday, July 16, 8:30a-9:00p - Galaktoboureko  
 Wednesday, July 17, 8:30-9:00p - Galaktoboureko  
 Tuesday, July 23, 8:30a-9:00p - Kourambietes  
 Wednesday, July 24, 8:30-9:00p - Kourambietes  
 Tuesday, July 30, 8:30a-9:00p - Karithopita Meli/Finikia  
 Sunday, August 4, following Divine Liturgy - Moussaka  
 Monday, August 5, 8:30a-9:00p - Moussaka  
 Monday, August 12, 8:30a-6:00p - TBA  
 Tuesday, August 13, 8:30a-9:00p - TBA  
 Contact Joyce Athanasiou for info at 412-292-4206.

#### SPANAKOPITA:

Spanakopita preparation will be held every Wednesday, beginning July 10, from 9:00a until 2:30p. All are welcome to help. Contact Kay Balouris at 412-766-1263.

#### SOUVLAKIA:

Friday, July 12th from 3:00pm till 10:00pm and Sat, July 13th from 8:00am to 2:00pm. Contact Jim Balouris at 724-316-2846.

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

## JULY/AUGUST 2013 – "THE VOICE OF HOLY TRINITY CHURCH"



**Father John  
Androutsopoulos**

### Dedication

*The following message is dedicated to all of the couples planning to get married in our new Church in the near future and for many years to come. Congratulations to Jason and Courtney Farmakis for being the first couple to get married in the new Church! I would like to also dedicate this message to the clergy and the parishioners for*

*a job well done, by building the most beautiful Church in Pittsburgh. Well done, faithful members of Holy Trinity! God bless you!*

### The Divine Origins of Marriage

The Holy Spirit renews not only our personal life; our life together with our fellowman is also made new. The closest and most intimate form of this fellowship among human beings is Holy Matrimony. From the beginning of the human race, God instituted marriage for the propagation of mankind. Man and woman are endowed in special ways for matrimony. We are made for each other. Husband and wife belong together.

"For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one" (Matt. 19:5). Please also read: Gen. 1:26-27; 2:18-25; Exodus 20:14; Matt. 19:1-9; Eph. 5:21-33; 1 Cor. 6:19-20.

### What is the significance of Holy Matrimony?

Beloved, 66 years ago, while taking the entrance exams for the Theological School at the University of Athens, we were asked to write a composition on the significance of the family in the progress of a nation. Next to my classroom, was a student by the name of Demetrios Trakatelis, who happens to now be His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, prelate of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

The founding of a happy marriage cannot take place without the deep affection for each other of both marriage partners. However, purely human love is not a sufficient base for a lifelong union. Unity can only be built upon the rock foundation of loyalty. Christ alone is the guarantee of this loyalty. So true Christian marriage is a wedlock of three: Christ himself is the living center. "For no other foundation can any one lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 3:11).

### How shall we prepare for Holy Matrimony?

If marriage is to begin on a sure basis, one should possess certain traits as well as look for certain characteristics in the prospective partner.

- Integrity and sincerity, perfect trust and loyalty, stand at the forefront.
- Individualism must be respected and enjoyed. Differences should not be a source of friction but a means of development as each stimulates the other to new viewpoints, fresh outlooks. The secret of lasting companionship is the art of growth through difference.

- Unselfish love is necessary, the kind of love that gives rather than demands, that frees rather than possesses, that appreciates rather than takes for granted.
- Emotional maturity is essential. The mature person will not expect perfection, but will see the small faults, the momentary disagreement, even the violent quarrel, in light of his deep-lying purpose to make the marriage successful.

"Greater love has not man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13)

### Marriage Crises

The happy marriage is not necessarily one in which difficulties never occur, but rather the marriage in which tensions are mutually overcome. The secret of such overcoming is complete openness and transparency before God and each other. Marriage is a decision for life. **The desired solution for marital difficulties is reconciliation, not separation.**

"Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness and patience, forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also much forgive" (Col. 3:12-13).

### The Spiritual Life of the Family

**GOD-HUSBAND-WIFE-CHILD:** Out of the marital relationship of husband and wife issue children. Children are not the property of their parents. They are entrusted blessings. The parents must sometime give account, even over their stewardship of this blessing. Please also read: Gen. 1:28; Psalm 127:3; Exodus 20:12; Mark 10:13-16; Eph. 6:1-4.

### What is the duty of the parents?

They are to provide for and train their children. The material well-being and the spiritual well-being of the children are entrusted to them. But only he who constantly allows himself to be trained can train others. The best rearing of children does not take place through words and whippings, but through instruction by living example. From the pattern set by the parents the children learn more than from the best pedagogical formulas. Three duties especially belong to the service of Christian parents:

- Training for group living, which will early teach the child cheerful and obedient cooperation.
- "Training" for faith, which prepares the soil in which some time a personal faith will grow and thrive.
- Hidden training, which continually dedicates the child to Jesus Christ, who alone can lead him in the paths of righteousness. First and last, Christian training involves much prayer and intercession.

"Bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." (Eph. 6:4)

*With His Love,  
Rev. Fr. John K. Androutsopoulos, Protopresbyter*





## HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

Reverend Father John Touloumes, *Proistamenos*  
Reverend Father Radu Bordeianu, *Assistant Priest*



Dear Holy Trinity Family:

On behalf of the Parish Council and our entire community, we want to thank everyone who worked so tirelessly in to make our Thyranoxia and Grand Opening weekend a wonderful time in each of our lives. So many people gave of themselves in so many ways that cannot be fully recounted here, but first and foremost, we thank God the Holy Trinity—the Almighty Father, His Son, Jesus Christ, and the All-Holy Spirit—for Whom our Church is named, for the many blessings bestowed on all of us during that most special weekend. From the amazing facility we have been provided by God's divine hand, to the glorious weather we relished, to the wonderful food and fellowship we enjoyed, we received manifold blessings over the course of the weekend, and we truly give thanks.

We also wish to sincerely thank His Eminence Metropolitan Savas for blessing us with his presence all weekend. It was truly an honor to enjoy the weekend with him!

We cannot thank Fr. John and Fr. Radu enough for their inspired and dedicated leadership and love over the Thyranoxia weekend and always. We are very blessed to have them leading our spiritual family on a daily basis.

Thanks also to Kathy Balouris and the entire Gala Celebration Committee. The event was an overwhelming success in all respects thanks to the countless hours of dedicated work by this talented group of parishioners. Of course, the food and service provided at dinner by Frank, Helena and the entire Erdeljac family and Arista Catering and Event Planning were simply superb. We look forward to many more spectacular events with them! The Saturday luncheon was also wonderfully planned and executed by my wife, Stacy, and a wonderful committee of very giving individuals. Once again, Kay Balouris and the Ladies Philoptochos Society provided a special community luncheon on Sunday and Feast Day coffee hour on Monday after the services. Their generosity and kindness on these occasions and always are truly special and much appreciated.

Many thanks also go to the volunteers which were lined up by Marianne Sterns to help us with parking many, many vehicles at and around our new facility. They really did a terrific job and we are very grateful for their assistance. Of course, we'd like to thank the Parish Council and Vision Committee for organizing and coordinating the logistics for the weekend. Things went well and it was largely due to their behind-the-scenes planning and work.

Finally, we offer our deep thanks to everyone else who gave, helped and contributed in so many ways. May God bless you and your families for your efforts. And may God continue to bless and protect Holy Trinity Church!

In Christ,

George Dickos  
Parish Council President

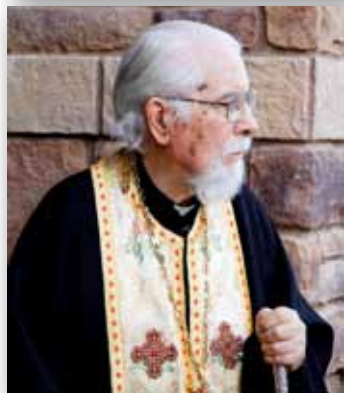
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# "Behind the Scenes" of the Opening | Community Life Photo Journal

**June 15-21, 2013:** After years of planning and months of construction, it was finally time for the big and final move-in. Here are some scenes from the Holy Trinity "army" of movers commanded by General Gus Pagonis and Dean A. Balouris in the week before the opening. We even had a surprise visit from Archbishop Theophanis from Jerusalem (pictured below with Father John)! Due to construction delays, tile was being laid and chairs were being placed right up to the evening before the Thyranoxia...but thanks to over 80 volunteers it all got done just in time, to the glory of God!







Find the Thyranoixia and other community life photos online at:  
[www.HolyTrinityPgh.org/gallery](http://www.HolyTrinityPgh.org/gallery)









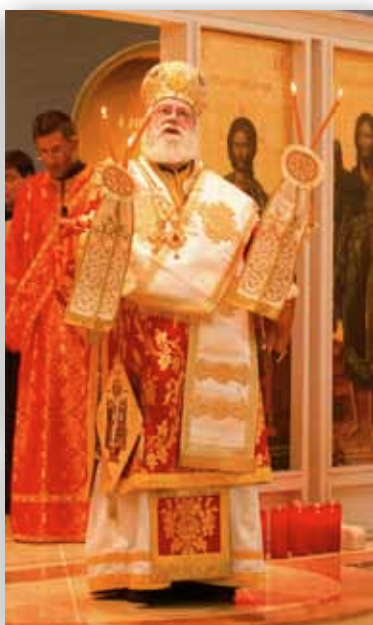












THANK YOU to John Madia of Madia Photography for donating his professional photography services to Holy Trinity Church for the Thyranoxia weekend. Want to purchase profesional prints of his beautiful photos? Visit his gallery online at: [madiaphotography.photoshelter.com/gallery-list](http://madiaphotography.photoshelter.com/gallery-list) and click on the photograph of the Holy Trinity dome!











Holy Trinity Church's Thyranoxia generated lots of local interest, including coverage in multiple print, on-line and television outlets.



### A knock on door will open Holy Trinity Church in McCandless on June 22

By Jill Cueni-Cohen

**June 6, 2013 - The new home of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, with a magnificent dome as its centerpiece, is nearly complete on the site of what had been a wooded lot at the corner of Babcock Boulevard and Cumberland Road in McCandless.**

The church with its spacious community center is preparing to open June 22 with ceremonies led by Metropolitan Savas, the Greek Orthodox bishop of Pittsburgh, who will knock on the doors of the new church with a staff to mark the start of the first service.

Congregants will be busy celebrating and praying in their state-of-the-art, \$8 million church in the days following the Saturday ceremonies and then it will be business as usual, said parish council president George Dickos of McCandless.

Construction manager Rich Ross said the dome consists of more than 1,000 pieces of custom-manufactured cold curved metal.

"The more arches there are, the greater the challenge to make them even," he said, noting that the work, which was performed by Gallery Metal Studding and Dry Wall, was recently featured in a trade magazine.

The Rev. John Touloumes, Holy Trinity pastor, said the Greek iconographers who painted the interior of the sanctuary with representations and portrayals of scriptural events were impressed with the smoothness of the dome.

It took seven artists six weeks to go from white walls to completion using the ancient technique of egg tempera.

"About 3,000 eggs were hand-broken to mix with the powdered pigments," he said, noting that the drawings were first sketched freehand and then created from the background to foreground.

"As it ages, egg tempera hardens and is more durable than acrylics."

By combining ancient church elements and technological advances, the church can broadcast weddings over the Internet to relatives in Greece, as well as provide religious services

for shut-ins or the elderly.

The new facility also includes a baptismal font that will accommodate all ages.

The public will have an opportunity to tour the new church from 2 to 6 p.m. July 28, with an open house that will include live music and Greek food, prepared in a kitchen that rivals any hotel kitchen, according to church caterer Frank Erdeljac of Arista Catering and Event Planning.

"We have specialty convection ovens, a braising skillet, multiple grills, hi-tech ovens and an extra-large capacity walk-in cooler and freezer," he said, adding that a separate kitchen called Pastry Heaven is where Greek pastries will be baked for upcoming festivals and events.

The social hall features a 325-seat banquet hall and large-screen HD projectors to accommodate business and social events.

Mr. Dickos said it is Holy Trinity's intention to serve more than just its own congregation.

"Our goal all along has been to make this a seven-day-a-week church, and we wanted to build a facility to support that," he said.

Holy Trinity parish called the North Side home for 80 years until it moved in June 2011 into the former Northway Elementary School, closed by the North Hills School District.

Volunteers are packing and moving church belongings into the new facility.

"I think being in the North Hills is attracting people [to Holy Trinity]," Mr. Dickos said. "With the move our membership has grown, and we hope this continues."

The annual Greek food festival Aug. 28 to Sept. 1 will be held on the 10-acre site, which is expected to become the cornerstone of McCandless Crossing's soon-to-be-constructed town center.

"We're very optimistic that the community reception will be strong," said Mr. Dickos, adding that the building and surrounding landscape was designed to accommodate the church's popular festivals, which feature five days of live music, entertainment and Greek food.

"We plan to make our festivals bigger and better."

Jill Cueni-Cohen, freelance writer, can be contacted at [suburbanliving@post-gazette.com](mailto:suburbanliving@post-gazette.com). Article source: <http://www.post-gazette.com/stories/local/neighborhoods-north/a-knock-on-door-will-open-holy-trinity-church-in-mccandless-on-june-22-690623>. Photos by Robin Rombach. ©Copyright 2013 Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.





"A Thousand Times Greater." A Greek work of prose on the love of the Theotokos we especially honor during the season of August 1-15.



Voula Hareras

### ΧΙΛΙΕΣ ΦΟΡΕΣ ΠΕΡΙΣΣΟΤΕΡΟ...

**Τ**όν Αύγουστο, μήνα της Παναγίας, γιορτάζουμε και τον μεγαλύτερο μετά την Αλωση Ιεραπόστολο και Εθναπόστολο, τον Αγιο Κοσμά τον Αίτωλό.

Τού Γένους μας πνευματικό συτολοβάτη στά χρόνια της τουρκοσκλαβιάς. Κι όσο κανένα άλλο τολμηρό κήρυκα της εθνικής λευτεριάς μας. Μαγιά της, είπαν, μέ έξ ύψους δύναμη. Εθνομάρτυρα κι άγιο τών σκλάβων. Διδάχο σφόδρα άγαπητό στον λαό, πού κι ό Πατροκοσμάς τον άγάπησε παράφορα. Κι άγωνίστηκε νά τον μάθει γράμματα, του Θεού τά πράγματα, γιά νά ξεσκλαβωθεί μέσαθέ του... Καί, διαχρονικά, σύμβολο έθνικό και άγιοπατέρα τών όρθοδόξων πιστών.

Επόμενο είναι, λοιπόν, τον Αύγουστο νά μνημονεύσουμε τις Διδαχές του και ιδιαίτερα μέσα στον Δεκαπενταύγουστο, κάποιους από τους λόγους του γιά τή μεγαλύτερη του έθνους μας Πρέσβειρα και Μάνα μας, τήν Παναγία.

Νά έχετε εύλάβειαν εις όλους τους άγιους μας, ναί, μά περισσότερο, έλεγε, νά έχετε χίλιες φορές εις τήν Δέσποινα μας, τήν Θεοτόκο Μαρία... (Διδαχή Γ'). Και τό δικαιολογούσε... Ολοι οι άγιοι είναι δούλοι του Χριστού αλλά ή Δέσποινα μας, ή Θεοτόκος, είναι του ούρανού και τής γής ή Κυρά κι ή Βασίλισσα...

Κανένas τίτλος έγκώμιο άλλο δέν τον εξέφραζε, φαίνεται, καλύτερα τον Πατροκοσμά από τή λέξη Βασίλισσα γιά τήν Παναγία. Και τήν επαναλαμβάνει μέ σέβας συχνά, πυκνά. Επήρε ό Θεός τήν Θεοτόκον και τήν έκαμε βασίλισσα και έτίμησε τό γένος μας... Γυναίκες εις τον κόσμο γεννήθησαν πολλές, ώσαν τά άστρα του ούρανού, χίλιες χιλιάδες γυναίκες. Μά καμμιά δέν εύρέθη νά πληρώση τήν πλευράν του Αδάμ, όπου έχρωστούσε, παρά ή Δέσποινα, όπου ήξιώθη διά τήν καθαρότητά της και έγέννησε τον Κύριόν μας Ιησούν Χριστόν και Θεόν. Παρθένος ήτο και παρθένος έμεινε και έπλήρωσε εκείνην τήν πλευράν του Αδάμ, (Διδαχή Α'). Κι έγινε Βασίλισσα εις τον ούρανόν... και πάσης κτίσεως νοητής και αίσθητης (Διδαχή Ε'). Εξ άλλου, έλεγε ό Πατροκοσμάς, Μαρία θέλει ειπή κυρία, ώσαν όπου έμελλε ή Θεοτόκος

νά γίνη Βασίλισσα του ούρανού και τής γής (Διδαχή Ζ'). Κοσμοβασίλισσα! Παντοβασίλισσα!

Η ζωή της ήταν γεμάτη άγιες άρετές, έπιμένει νά λείι ό Πατροκοσμάς γιά τή Βασίλισσά του. Σεμνότητα, άγνότητα, ταπεινώση, ύπομονή, τέλεια ύπακοή, άγάπη, άκόρεστη και προσευχή...

Αλλά ή Παναγία μάς έδωσε μέ τή ζωή της και μεγάλα μαθήματα. Πρώτο μάθημα τό ότι άποκατέστησε εκείνη τή γυναίκα, τήν Εύα, πού παράκουσε πρώτη τον Αγιο Θεό κι έγινε αίτία όλο τό ανθρώπινο γένος νά έξοριστεί από τον Παράδεισο. Και νά ζεί χιλιέτις πάροικο και παρεπίδημο εδώ κάτω στη γή, μέσ' στη σκιά του θανάτου, τρισάθλια βλέποντας τά έσχατά του... Στο πρόσωπο όμως τής Παναγίας ή γυναίκα γίνεται κλίμακα νά ξανανέβει ό άνθρωπος στην πρώτη πατρίδα του, τον ούρανό. Αυτό είναι τό πρώτο μάθημα, μέγα μυστήτρο και άνεπανάληπτο. Αλλο δεύτερο μεγάλο μάθημα λείι ό Πατροκοσμάς, μάς διδάξε ή Παναγία, μέ τήν παρθενία της. Οτι ή παρθενία εύλογήθηκε άνωθεν. Και τρίτο σπουδαίο μάθημα, μάς έδωσε ή Παναγία μας μέ τό ότι άρραβωνιάστηκε, κατά τό θέλημα του Θεού, μέ τον Ιωσήφ. Ενδειξη ότι ό Θεός τιμάει πολύ και τον γάμο και τον εύλογεί.

Διά τούτο πρέπει και ήμείς, άδελφοί μου, νά τιμώνμεν τήν Θεοτόκον μέ νηστείες, προσευχές, έλεημοσύνες και καλά έργα. Και νά μιμούμεθα τήν ύψηλή άρετή της. Νά βλέπουμε σεβαστικά οίκογένεια και παρθενία, ρυθμίζοντας τήν όποια έκλογή μας στά ίχνη τής Παναγίας και μέ τή μεσιτεία της. Γιατί ή Παναγία έργον της έχει νά ίκετεύη τον έσπλαχνον Χριστόν διά τας άμαρτίας μας. (Διδαχή Γ'), έχοντας τον καθένα μας παιδί της και τό λαό μας λαό της...

Ολη αυτή ή διδαχή του Πατροκοσμά ποτέ δέν ήταν κουραστική, γιατί στό κήρυγμά του άνάμεσα ίστορούσε μεγάλα θαύματα τής Παναγίας. Κι ήταν πολός ό λαός πού συνέρρεε. Και τον ακουγαν έκστατικά, γυναίκες, άντρες και παιδολοί. Και σίγουρα κανένas τους δέν θά τά λησμονούσε εκείνα τά θαύματα, όπως τά 'κουγε... ζωντανά και παραστατικά, σαν νά τά 'βλεπε μέ τά μάτια του...

Δύσκολα θά 'βρεις άλλον, πού νά μίλησε τόσο λιτά κι άπλά, τόσο θερμά και μέ καρδιά και χίλιες μύριες φορές σαν τον Πατροκοσμά γιά τήν Παναγία.

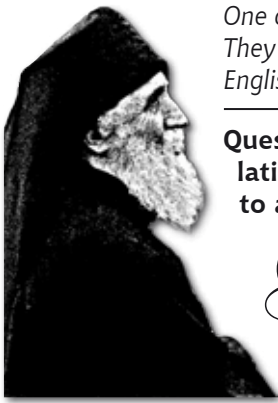
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New Church Information | Our New Address & How to Get There

**Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church**  
**985 Providence Boulevard, Pittsburgh, PA 15237**

**Note: While Providence Boulevard is still being constructed, it is not yet on GPS units or mapping sites (even though our mail is being delivered!) For driving directions, we are at "Cumberland Road and Babcock Boulevard" or opposite "La Roche College, 9000 Babcock Boulevard, Pittsburgh."**





**Elder Paisios**

*One of the great blessings of Orthodoxy is the presence, prayers and inspired words of the Holy Elders of the Faith. They have been referred to as "precious vessels of the Holy Spirit." In recent years, many books have been published in English with their writings and talks. This column provides an opportunity for each of us to be blessed by their words.*

**Question: Geronda, do trials and tribulations become occasions for people to approach God?**

The well-disposed can benefit from the trials and tribulations they may encounter in life. But people who don't have a good disposition have a quarrel with God and curse Him.

Unfortunately, they don't say, "I have sinned," but are tormented. The devil has a great deal of authority over people. We have given him many rights over us. Look what modern man has come to! The bad thing is that he himself obstructs divine intervention, because he has no spirit of repentance. If there was repentance, many things would have been corrected. But now we will go through storm after storm. God save us!

We must ask for everyone to be granted a spirit of repentance, and for those who deliberately harm the Church and have no intention of correcting themselves; may God grant them repentance before they are taken from this life.

As far as we can, let us help people to repent, so that we may all receive God's blessings. Repentance and confession, that's what we need today. I constantly advise repentance and confession, so that the devil will lose his rights over us and the external demonic influences will be stopped. People need to be shaken up to understand, to repent.

For example, someone confesses that he has committed adultery. The Spiritual Father conveys Christ's forgiveness and imposes a penance, but goes no further. The Spiritual Father must help this person understand that the sin was not just the adultery itself; it also involved other potential crimes such as the break-up of two families. Unfortunately, some Spiritual Fathers do not venture deeper into these spiritual matters to prick the penitent's conscience.

**Question: Are there people who are good, but who don't go to Church often and don't have a sacramental life in the Church?**

It is possible once in a while to have someone who doesn't go to Church often, but who has devotion and kindness in his soul, thus making room for God to find a dwelling place there. Such people, reinforced by a sacramental life, would make tremendous progress in the spiritual life. On the other hand, there are other people who go to Church, confess, receive Communion, are observant, and yet God finds no room to dwell in them, because they have no humility, no kindness, and no true and authentic repentance. It is not enough to simply make your confession to the Spiritual Father; you must also truly repent of what you have done. Every prayer should begin with a confession before God. But this should not be a mere sentimental confession, relating our sins and then doing the same things all over again. This is not true awareness of our sinfulness. When we

become truly conscious of our sins, this is shown by a certain degree of improvement in our spiritual life.

**Question: Geronda, how does repentance help to eradicate evil?**

When we ask for repentance from God for everyone in the world, we must include ourselves among those who have need of repentance and must never say, "Lord, help the people who are sinners." The three Young Men of the Old Testament were born in captivity and yet did not say, "It is not our fault." They actually said, "We are justly suffering for our sins; we deserve to have suffered even more." By including themselves among the sinners and trusting God completely, the three Young Men survived the fiery furnace as a refreshing experience, while the pagan who went near to check things out was consumed by the flames.

If one doesn't work like this, he constantly finds excuses, "The devil made me do it." "It's Adam's fault, it's Eve's fault; it's not my fault." A theologian once told me, "Why should we suffer now because of Eve's disobedience?" "My good man," I told him, "does that bother you or prevent you from being saved?" Why blame poor Adam or the unfortunate Eve? They made one mistake and were in Hell for such a long time, while for us Christ has come and redeemed us all. And He has reassured us of His forgiveness, not only seven times but seventy times seven! Thousands of times we sin and Christ forgives us, as long as we repent sincerely, and we still dare to say that Adam or Eve is to blame? The devil entered the serpent to deceive man. And yet everyone blames Eve, saying that she brought us down and that we'd have been just fine in Paradise if she hadn't disobeyed. How ungrateful people can be!

Repentance is of great significance. Man doesn't realize that God's decision can be changed by repentance. This is not a small matter for man to have such power. You've done something wrong? God gives you a slap. You say, "I have sinned." He then stops and gives you blessings. In other words, the unruly child comes to his senses and is tormented by his conscience. Then the Father caresses His child with love and comforts it. Because the Israelites had strayed from God's commandments, they lived in exile for seventy-five years. Finally, when they had repented, Cyrus the king appeared, who one may dare to say proved himself better than the sons of Israel, who had polluted the sacred traditions of their worship of the true God. God changed Cyrus' mind and made him believe in the God of Heaven. Consequently, he set the Israelites free to return to their homeland and provided money and supplies to rebuild the Temple and the walls of Jerusalem. Cyrus showed such kindness and devotion that not even the Israelites themselves had shown.° And all this happened because the people repented and changed their way of life." You see how much repentance can help in getting rid of evil!

*Excerpted from Elder Paisios of Mount Athos, "Spiritual Counsels, Vol. II: Spiritual Awakening"*



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

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**Phone:** 412-366-8700  
**Fax:** 412-366-8710  
**Internet:** [www.HolyTrinityPgh.org](http://www.HolyTrinityPgh.org)

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**PENTECOST SUNDAY 2013**

Scripture of the Month: “Lift up the light of Your countenance upon us, O Lord” (Psalm 4.6)