



THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

JANUARY 2017

VOLUME 25 • ISSUE 1

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH • PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA
OUR VISION: "FAITH. FAMILY. COMMUNITY."

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ONE HOLY TRINITY

**Have you made
your 2017
commitment yet?**

- Stewardship -
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QUICK NEWS



Church School students share their joy through the annual Holy Trinity Christmas Pageant. Want to see more photos of this event and others in the life and ministries of Holy Trinity Church? See the Community Life Photo Journal on pages 6-11 or visit our growing online photo gallery site at photos.HolyTrinityPgh.org.

THE THREE HIERARCHS - FEAST DAY: JANUARY 30



Receive, O Lord, the Sacred Heralds who preached God, the pinnacle of Teachers, unto the enjoyment of Your riches and rest. You have received their labors and their suffering as being above and beyond all fruitful offering. For You alone glorify Your Saints.

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

Rev. Fr. John Touloumes, Proistamenos
Rev. Fr. Radu Bordeianu, Assistant Priest

2016 Parish Council

George Dickos, President

Dean A. Balouris	Michael Passodelis
George Danis	Joyce Athanasiou
Andrew Janis	Stephen Stearns
Van Backeris	Stephanie Sedor
Tom Germanos	Alex Trilivas
Marios Kritiotis	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 spiritual life, education, youth, senior, family and cultural opportunities. There is something for everyone, so please get involved today!

"FAITH. FAMILY. COMMUNITY."



**Look carefully then how you walk, not
as unwise but as wise, making the best
use of the time.**

Ephesians 5.15-16

My Beloved Spiritual Flock,

In his book, "Becoming a Healing Presence," Orthodox author Dr. Albert Rossi addresses the issue of "time," which seems to be a popular topic at the start of every year. "How will I use the 365 days/12 months to come?" Will I check anything off my "bucket list" this year? The mistake we often make, he says, is thinking that time is ours. "Christ is everything," he counters, "including the Lord and owner of our time." So, instead of asking, "Lord, what can I do with this time?" we should ask, "Lord, what do You want to do through me now?" That places all we are, all we have and all the time with which God entrusts us as His. What a joyful life! We don't need to figure it out on our own. We simply need to ask the Lord to reveal His plan to us. And He always will if we listen. How's that for instantly de-stressing the New Year?

That approach brings blessings not only on a year-to-year basis, but it brings peace and assurance on a day-to-day and minute-to-minute basis. And instead of enslaving us to time and tension, it frees us for God's purpose. "Our freedom," Dr. Rossi says, "consists in embracing all that happens to us—negative and positive, pain and pleasure, disappointment and joy—as a blessing in divine disguise... We have all the time we need to do all the things God has us here to do, in a peaceful way."

What a refreshing alternative that kind of serenity, assurance and divine purpose is in our world of instant-reaction Facebook-Twitter-Instagram-Snapchat-Blogging-and-Texting! Imagine how different things would be if people—including us—would simply use God's time to think before we speak, consider Christ in others before we react and seriously question whether our words and actions reflect Christian love and respect? One of the beneficial experiences of visiting an Orthodox monastery is that nothing is rushed or reactionary there. Everything is experienced in God's good time. That brings peace. And as the monastics offer that blessing to us, so we can pass it on to those in the world around us. "In the time we have remaining on earth," Dr. Rossi challenges us. "we [should] share our time and ourselves to give others strength and hope." The Jesus Prayer is the renewable power supply of that strength and hope, and it is ours in the New Year and at all times.

As we close an amazing and fruitful year at Holy Trinity Church and look to the Lord for His blessings, guidance and divine illumination in the New Year, I offer my personal and pastoral thanks to all those who have heeded the Lord's call to offer themselves—and the time God has given them—to serve and grow His Holy Church and ministries through their dedicated and sacrificial involvement. Whether that time is spent serving on the Parish Council, working at the Festival, teaching Church School, singing in the Choir, serving at the Holy Altar, reaching out through the love of the Philoptochos, Visitation or Outreach ministries, welcoming newcomers to the Church, continuing to grow the resources of our Stewardship ministry or Capital Campaign, or in any of the many ways God provides for us to serve His Holy Church, each moment offered back to Him Who provided it is sacred.

A Blessed, Safe and Wonderful New Year of the Lord to all!

With pastoral love in Christ,

Herald Personal Sponsor for this Issue:

Presvytera Louella Kostopolos

"In Memory of Father John Kostopolos"



WORSHIP LIFE

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.. Guide to locations of services: "HT"=Holy Trinity Church, 985 Providence Boulevard, Pittsburgh; "SG"= Saint George Chapel, 8941 Ringesen Road, Allison Park.

Thu., Jan. 5: The Forefeast of Theophany

This is the first of two Theophany Divine Liturgies and services of Great Blessings of the Waters. It is an evening Liturgy, so be sure to prepare properly to receive Holy Communion by (in addition to your other spiritual preparation) abstaining from food and drink from your noon meal on. The Liturgy will be followed by the Great Blessing of the Waters service. Please note that this is also a strict fasting day in preparation for Theophany. (HT)

Fri., Jan. 6: The Holy Theophany of our Lord

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

Sat. 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)

Mon. Jan. 30: The Three Hierarchs (SG)

SPIRITUAL LIFE MINISTRY

"Faith and Family WEEKDAYS" Spring 2017

Holy Trinity Church's new, expanded "Faith and Family WEEKDAYS" ministry continues, with many people participating in more opportunities for worship, spiritual life and educational ministries beyond Sunday morning. Interested in learning and growing in your Orthodox Faith? Try the Wednesday "Journey to Fullness." Didn't make the first series in the Fall? No worries! Just jump right in starting January 4. See page 14 for information and a Spring 2017 schedule. To submit ideas or feedback, please see Spiritual Life Ministry Chairperson Joyce Athanasiou (412-292-4205).

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Volunteers/Donations for HT Bball Tourney ... Jan. 13-15

Holy Trinity GOYA is putting out a call for all who are interested in helping with the Metropolis GOYA Basketball Tournament being hosted at Holy Trinity Church on the weekend of January 13-15, 2017. **Volunteers** are needed: hospitality greeters and guides, gymnasium supervisors, concession stand personnel, cooks for the Friday, Saturday and Sunday meals being served at the Church, and general setup and cleanup for the beginning and end of the event. **Donations** are also needed to help extend our Holy Trinity hospitality to our hundreds of visitors. Although this is a GOYA event, basketball tournaments at Holy Trinity have always been a

community offering of "Holy Trinity Hospitality", and our teens will be depending on our help, since they are wrapped up in the games during the weekend.

Please use the form included in this issue of the *Herald* or contact Presvytera Becky (GOYA@HolyTrinityPgh.org or 412-874-5195) to volunteer or donate. **Thank you!!!**

COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS

No Church School Class Dec. 25, Jan. 1

Attention, parents: there will be no Church School class on Sundays, December 25 and January 1. Please join together to worship as a family at 9:30am.

New Year Holiday Office Schedule January 2

The offices of the Archdiocese, Metropolis and Holy Trinity Church will be closed on Mon., Jan. 2 for New Year's Day.

Parish Council Election Results/Installation Jan. 8

Thank you to all those whose names were submitted for Parish Council elections this year. The results from the vote have placed the following members on the Council for the 2017-2018 term: Joyce Athanasiou, George Danis, Karen Georgiadis, Tom Germanos, Michael Passodelis, Jeanne Willow, and Gerri Valliant. Continuing on for the remainder of their two-year term through 2017 are: Van Backeris, Dean A. Balouris, George Dickos, Marios Kritiotis, Steven Stearns and Alex Trilivas. Parish Council installation will be held on Sunday, January 8, followed by the election of officers. Thank you to all those whom you have selected to serve in this important ministry, and remember: they serve **for you and with you**, not instead of you, so when they call for support, please answer, "Yes, here I am!" Thank you.

Vasilopita Celebration. January 8

The Philoptochos will sponsor the annual Vasilopita Celebration on Sunday, January 8, 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!

House Blessings. January

Services for Holy Theophany and its surrounding feasts will be held as usual on January 5-7. An important part of that celebration is the Great Blessing of the Waters service. In order to bring the blessings of the feast and the Lord into our homes, Orthodox Christians traditionally invite the priest to bless their home with the Holy Water from the feast. Please see the enclosed information and schedule your visit by January 5. Never has your house blessed before? This is a great year to start! House Blessing Request information can be found on page 13 and on the back page of this issue. The easiest way to schedule is **online** at www.HolyTrinityPgh.org/events. Please note and be available for the dates in your area. Rescheduling will only be done for cases of inclement weather.

For the latest updates and schedule of parish events, visit www.HolyTrinityPgh.org/calendar

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

JANUARY 2017 – "THE VOICE OF HOLY TRINITY CHURCH"



Father John Androutsopoulos

Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:13,14).

My Beloved brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Our Heavenly Father is the giver of many wonderful new things. We come to Him by faith in Christ and He gives us the New Birth. "Behold, I make all things new." Now to you and me God is giving a New Year. This means a new start for some of us. We have not done so well in the old year—we have not lived for God as we should. Now we have a chance to make a new start. This means a new hope for some. We have dreamed that certain things would happen in the old year, but these dreams have not come true, so we will hold on to the hope that they will come true during this new year. This means new obligations for some. Maybe it means a new job, maybe it means new family responsibilities, maybe it means a new position to maintain. You are resolving to carry these responsibilities more successfully in the coming year. Maybe it means a new life to live. It is time for all of us to turn over a new page and to write a new story on a clean page.

Looking Back, Moving Forward

In our text we see Paul looking two ways. He looked backward and thought of all that he had suffered for Christ and all that he had accomplished for Christ. Then he said, "I am going to turn my back upon all of that, for there is something more important ahead." Then looking forward he said, "I am going to re-dedicate my life to Christ and redouble my efforts for Him. In like manner, it behooves us to look back over the past for a time—we are to turn all of that over to God and leave it with Him. Then we are to move forward toward the New Year, resolving in our hearts that with God's help we will make it a better year for Him, His Church and ourselves.

The "Three R's": REPENT, RESOLVE and REMEMBER

We wish each other a Happy New Year, but we must do more than that. Let me give you a recipe for a Happy New Year. This recipe consists of three "R's": REPENT, RESOLVE and REMEMBER.

1) **WE ARE TO REPENT:** Now we know that repentance is

the first step to God. We will never be saved until first of all we have repented of our sins.

2) **WE ARE TO RESOLVE:** Our resolution for the New Year "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 knew that we had sinned and that the wrath of God would fall upon us. So He went to the cross and took our place and died in our stead. REMEMBER and SAY "In this New Year I will do my best for Christ."

Attending Church: A Good Habit

In Luke 4:16, we are told that regular attendance at public worship was a part of our Lord's weekly activity. Orthodox Christians are admonished to walk even as He walked, and to form similar good habits of meeting together with other believers. If we neglect to worship God on the Lord's Day, we grieve Him and injure our own soul.



Some years ago a news reporter invited people to send in their response to the statement, "Why I Don't Go To Church." After he had received a number of replies, he decided to show the weakness of their alibis by inserting the word "movies" wherever "church" appeared in their letters. Here is a sampling of his column: One said, "I am out of the habit of going to the movies, that's why I no longer attend." Another wrote, "I know a man who has gone

to the movies for years, and he is no better than I am." Still another remarked, "There are as many good people outside the movies as inside." Some commented, "I stay away from the movies because I went when I was a child." A number of other excuses were given which proved equally absurd when "movies" was substituted for the word "church". The reasons given were not valid. They were attempts to conceal a declining interest in their spiritual life, a refusal to walk in the footsteps of Jesus, or a lack of love for God's people. Let us follow the footsteps of Jesus' custom of attending Church services regularly.

Thought for the New Year: "Attending Church services does not depend on how far you live your church, but how close you live to God!" Remember, in time of illness or any other need, call upon your priest. He is there to pray for you, bless you and support you.

My family and I wish to Fr. John, Fr. Radu and their families and all the members of the Holy Trinity Church...

Have a blessed, happy and healthy New Year!

*With His love,
Rev. Fr. John K. Androutsopoulos
Protopresbyter and Internal Missionary*

ONE Holy Trinity!

It has been an uplifting year for Holy Trinity. We watched our parishioners respond to our Stewardship messages to serve our fellow parishioners and the wider community through participating in Holy Trinity ministries. The new Visitation ministry is receiving great parishioner participation as we come together to provide personal visits to our shut-ins, ill and elderly parishioners. It is uplifting to witness over two dozen Holy Trinity parishioners work, plan and serve together to reach and touch our fellow parishioners who are not able to attend worship services. Year in and year out, our Holy Trinity Philoptochos, serves not only our parish's needs, but also reaches out to our broader Pittsburgh community to serve for others in true need. The Holy Trinity GOYA, Joy, Hope, Sunday School, Summer Camp and Youth ministry participation has never been stronger in serving for His call and for our Christian missions.

It is no surprise that we have seen many Holy Trinity parishioners offer more of their treasure through their own increased personal pledges to Holy Trinity's church mission. We saw another 10% overall increase in our parishioner's Stewardship offerings in 2016. Holy Trinity is improving by covering 72% of our church operating costs from your stewardship pledges and offerings. Holy Trinity is grateful for so many of its parishioners reflecting on their blessings and increasing their Stewardship offerings to Holy Trinity year after year. To use Jim Balouris' vivid Greek expression: "Bean by bean, we fill up the sack" ("Φασούλι το φασούλι γεμίζει το σακούλι").

For 2017, Holy Trinity now provides each parishioner with a 2017 Annual Pledge Card to enlist your time, talents and treasures in three personalized pledge sections:




Stewardship

1. Stewardship: Cover Holy Trinity Operating Costs

The new Holy Trinity Annual Pledge Card is now personalized to confidentially show your 2016 Stewardship pledge and also provides a simple chart to show our church's operating need before each of us commits to our 2017 new year's Stewardship Pledge.

Mortgage

2. Mortgage: Eliminate the Holy Trinity Mortgage by 2020

Confidentially shows your own past year 2016 Mortgage Pledge, and provides a simple chart to show our church's mortgage obligation before we each reflect on making our own commitment pledge to eliminate our Holy Trinity mortgage by 2020.

Ministries

3. Ministries: Offer your services or participation in one or more of Holy Trinity's 30 Ministries

Provides each member, couple and family the opportunity to volunteer their time and talents to serve or participate in any of the 30 special ministries that serve Holy Trinity, its parishioners and our community.

The Stewardship Committee is grateful to each of you for responding

ing to our calls to increasingly offer your personal time, talents and treasures for His church and purpose.

With great promise, we look forward to an even brighter future as we each reflect and give back to God what he has so graciously bestowed on each of us and on our families. Δόξα τω Θεώ! ("Doxa To Theo" - "Glory to God!")

Charlie Petredis,
Stewardship Chairman,
and
Your Brothers and Sisters
in Christ of the
The Holy Trinity Stewardship Committee

Community Life Photo Gallery | Philoptochos Christmas Luncheon



Philoptochos Christmas Luncheon | Community Life Photo Gallery







More beautiful Christmas Pageant pictures and other community life photos at photos online at photos.HolyTrinityPgh.org



(Above) November 30, 2016: The “Journey to Fullness” Faith Growth Ministry has been using a video teaching series from Father Barnabas Powell. At the end of the first 8 weeks, Father Barnabas joined us via a live video conference call to receive feedback and answer questions.

(Below) December 10, 2016: Teens from the Holy Trinity GOYA ministry gathered at the home of Jack and Sam Passodelis for their annual “Christmas Fireside Chat.” They enjoyed fellowship with their friends and some great interactive faith learning with Father John.



(Above) December 8, 2016: As part of the “Faith and Family Weekdays” ministry, the monthly “Orthodox Movie Night” event had the honor of hosting His Eminence Metropolitan Savas, who led a discussion about the faith elements of the award-winning Thanksgiving-themed movie, “Babette’s Feast.”





(Left) December 11, 2016: Mike Kritiotis heads off to FOCUS Pittsburgh with gifts of love from Holy Trinity parishioners to needy children. 112 gifts were offered in addition to trays of prepared food for their Christmas lunch. Special thanks to the parishioners who also donated for, prepared and/or delivered nine large pans of vegetables to the Center on a treacherous morning, so that the 450 people present could enjoy a healthy lunch – Kay Balouris, Dan Willow, Harry and Joyce Athanasios, Angie Fitzpatrick, Julie Kritiotis.



(Right, Below) December 14, 2016: Holy Trinity community members of all ages gathered to sing Christmas Carols to the retired nuns across the street at the Sisters of Divine Providence Convent. This annual event is a highlight of the year for our faithful neighbors, many of whom sing along and know all the words of the carols by heart!



2016 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 during the Christmas holidays. May the Lord remember them and those whom they have honored!

DONORS

COMMEMORATIONS

Anonymous.....	For the health of my family (8 plants)
Lynda M. Areheart.....	In honor of Mary Magdalene Welsh
Harry & Joyce Athanasiou.....	In memory of George Athanasiou
Harry & Joyce Athanasiou.....	In memory of George Bertos
Harry & Joyce Athanasiou.....	For the health of our Moms
Harry & Joyce Athanasiou.....	For the health of our children
Anthony & Helen Balouris.....	For the health of family & friends
Anthony & Helen Balouris.....	In memory of our family, past community members & friends
Ethel & Lynn Barker.....	In memory of the Kalogeras Family
Ethel & Lynn Barker.....	In memory of the Geanous Family
Reggie & Marianne Bonfield.....	For the health of Mary Bonfield
Reggie & Marianne Bonfield.....	In memory of John Bonfield
Reggie & Marianne Bonfield.....	For the health of family & friends
Reggie & Marianne Bonfield.....	In memory of Nolan Bonfield Himes
The Chapas and Bonfield Families.....	For the health of Anne Chapas
The Chapas and Bonfield Families.....	In memory of Frank Chapas
Bill & Sophea Chapas.....	In memory of John Chapas and Frank Chapas
Lou and Penny Cherpes.....	In memory of our daughter Georgeanne Cherpes Cominos
Joyce Countouris.....	In memory of Andrew J. Countouris
Joyce Countouris.....	In memory of Peter A. Countouris
Cynthia Morris Criss.....	In memory of Tom & Dora Morris (5 plants)
Shea Danis.....	In memory of Demetrios Danis (2 plants)
Helen DeMoss.....	In memory of John DeMoss and Anthoula Pefanis & for the health of their families (2 plants)
Christine Dickos.....	In memory of Dinos Dickos
Frank & Katina Erdeljac.....	In memory of Mike & Theologia Alexiades
Connie Fries.....	For the health of family & friends
George & Phyllis Geanopoulos.....	In memory of Harry & Helen Geanopoulos
George & Phyllis Geanopoulos.....	In memory of John & Erma Haas
Mark & Karen Georgiadis.....	For the health of our family
Eugenia Graser.....	In memory of my husband Robert and my parents Michael & Maria Patsalos
Eugenia Hoehn.....	In memory of Margaret Phaturos
Andrew & Sofia Janis, James and Electra.....	In memory of Clifford & Athanasia Geanopoulos
Brian & Debbie Jewell.....	In memory of Samuel Booras
Brian & Debbie Jewell.....	In memory of Georgia Booras
Brian & Debbie Jewell.....	In memory of Marsha Booras
Brian & Debbie Jewell.....	In memory of Kathy Page
Brian & Debbie Jewell.....	For the health of Jody Menni
Brian & Debbie Jewell.....	For the health of Diane Morse
Brian & Debbie Jewell.....	For the health of Patti Colavincenzo
Brian & Debbie Jewell.....	For the health of Christina Schulliger
Dr. Kristina Johnson and Stella Johnson.....	In memory of Homer J. Johnson
Dr. Kristina Johnson and Stella Johnson.....	In memory of Augustina Makris
Kelly Karavolos.....	In memory of Steve T. Karavolos
James & Bettina Kermes.....	For the health of family & friends
Vasiliki & Elenie Kourouklis.....	In memory of Achille Kourouklis
Vasiliki & Elenie Kourouklis.....	In memory of Stavroula Repana
Vasiliki & Elenie Kourouklis.....	In memory of Dimitri Repana
Angela Leist.....	In memory of James Phaturos
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas T. Loomis.....	For the health and well-being of our families
James & Judith Mermigas and Family.....	In memory of Theodore Mermigas
James & Judith Mermigas and Family.....	For the health of Mary Mermigas
Dean & Arlene Metropulos.....	For our precious family, we ask God's blessings in the New Year
Dean & Arlene Metropulos.....	In memory of the love ones we have lost over the years
Meno and Jean Mitaras.....	For the health of our family and friends
William J. Pagonis.....	In memory of James & Mary Pagonis (2 plants)
Peter & Mary Panos.....	For the health of the Panos Family
George & Rhea Pantelakis.....	In memory of John & Maria Pantelakis and John & Stavroula Scopelitis
Marian Pantelas.....	For the health of family and friends
Orestes & Arlene Paras.....	In memory of John & Maria Paras and Michael & Diana Paras
Orestes & Arlene Paras.....	In memory of Albert & Rose Russell and Arthur Russell
Parikakis and Fiedler Families.....	In memory of Sophie Parikakis, Danielle Zagnacky, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins & friends
Parikakis and Fiedler Families.....	For the health of our families, friends and Holy Trinity members
Rania Pontikos.....	For the health of Pauline Pontikos (2 plants)
Angie Roman.....	In memory of Gus Roman
Steve & Electra Roman.....	In memory of those we have lost
James F. Sicalias.....	In memory of my mother Bessie Cocheres-Sicalias
Charles Siebott & Irene Karavolos.....	For the health of our family
James Steve Statheas.....	In memory of Stavros & Demetra Statheas
Kirk & Frances Stephen.....	In memory of our beloved Pappap Clesson, Nanny Vi & Pappou Peter (2 plants)
Josie & Richard Stofko.....	In memory of Olga Regakis
Katrina Tanner.....	In memory of Nicholas Tanner
Mary Magdalene Welsh.....	In memory of my mother, Julia Welsh
Dorothea K. Zikos.....	In memory of Peter J. Zikos
Anthony & Aspasia Zissis.....	In memory of our Parents
Lou, Julie & Alexandria Zozos and George Zozos.....	In memory of Eileen Hoffmann
Lou, Julie & Alexandria Zozos and George Zozos.....	In memory of Persephone Zozos

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 censor, 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.

2017 House Blessing Schedule

Date	Time	Area	Zip Codes
Tue. Jan. 10	6pm-8pm	South Hills (all areas)	15102, 15216, 1522X, 1524X
Mon. Jan. 15	4pm-7pm	Northside, Perrysville, Bellevue, Westview	15212, 15214, 15202
Tue. Jan. 17	3pm-8pm	Allison Park, McKnight, Ross, McCandless	15101, 15237
Thu. Jan. 19	3pm-8pm	Allison Park, McKnight, Ross, McCandless	15101, 15237
Fri. Jan. 20	4pm-8pm	Gibsonia, Treesdale	15044
Sat. Jan. 28	3pm-8pm	Cranberry, Mars & North	16046, 16066
Mon. Jan. 30	3pm-8pm	Wexford	15090
Tue. Jan. 31	3pm-8pm	Wexford	15090
Fri. Feb. 3	3pm-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 SUBMIT YOUR REQUEST ONLINE at our website, www.HolyTrinityPgh.org/events (PREFERRED), OR BY FORM BEFORE JAN. 5 TO SCHEDULE YOUR HOME. YOU WILL RECEIVE A CALL TO CONFIRM YOUR TIME. THANK YOU!

EASIEST WAY: REQUEST A HOUSE BLESSING ONLINE AT www.HolyTrinityPgh.org/events

☑ WORSHIP ☑ LEARN ☑ GROW ☑ PRAY ☑ SERVE

FAITH ^{AND} Family WEEKDAYS

AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

“Every day in the temple and at home they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.” (Acts 5:42)

NEW FORMAT! NEW SCHEDULE!

Three years ago, Holy Trinity Church introduced an innovative series of educational programs under the title of “Faith and Family Wednesdays.” Since then, dozens of presentations, hands-on-learning sessions and worship services provided a way for Christians to grow and progress in the knowledge and understanding of their faith. In active pursuit of growing ministries that are relevant and accessible to our faithful parishioners, this ministry is now re-launched using your feedback as “Faith and Family **WEEKDAYS**!” Check it out!

“FAITH AND FAMILY **WEEKDAYS**” MINISTRIES GUIDE: SPRING 2017

DAYS	MINISTRY	SCHEDULE	ABOUT
DAILY	“Prayer Partners” Prayer Support Ministry	Every Day: In your personal prayers	EVERYONE can participate in this vital ministry EVERY DAY. On the first Sunday of January, April, July and October, blank prayer cards will be distributed. Write your first name. They will then be randomly distributed at the end of the service. Each person will commit to praying for the person they receive <u>daily</u> during that quarter. Pray and be prayed for!
TUESDAYS 9:00am	“Hearts of Faith” Women’s Ministry	4th Tuesday Sep.-May Jan. 24, Feb. 28, Mar. 28, Apr. 25, May 23	The Saint Lydia Women’s Fellowship returns with a monthly morning session of conversation with God and each other. The group meets at church at 9:00 a.m. for a 30 minute morning prayer, then gathers in the Fireside Room for an hour of sharing and discussion about the matters of a woman’s heart.
TUESDAYS 7:00pm	“Journey of Marriage” Marriage Prep Ministry	2nd Tuesday Oct.-June Jan. 10, Feb. 21*, Mar. 14, May 9, Jun. 13 (*=3rd Tues)	Marriage preparation for couples using the excellent and interactive “Journey of Marriage” materials developed by Dr. Philip Mamalakis and Fr. Charles Johannides. From “Hello!” to honeymoon, this series educates and equips couples for fruitful Orthodox Christian marriage. It’s lots of fun, too!
WEDNESDAYS 6:30pm	“Journey to Fullness” Faith Growth Ministry	Wednesdays: 2 series of sessions, 8 weeks each Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25. Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22	Father Barnabas Powell has released an excellent new video series for everyone who wants to learn more about the “fullness of the faith” found in Orthodox Christianity. Fr. Barnabas’ style is sincere, straight-forward and he is not afraid to raise and speak to the tough questions. At the end of each segment there is a brief question and answer review which delves deeper into issues raised in the talk.
THURSDAYS 7:00am	“Prayer and Panera” Men’s Ministry	3rd Thursday Sep.-June Jan. 19, Feb. 16, Mar. 16, May 18, Jun. 15	The Saint Nikodemos Men’s Fellowship hosts this morning session of prayers and Christian fellowship (with coffee and bagels, too!). The group meets at church promptly at 7:00 a.m. for a 15-20 minute morning prayer and scripture, then moves up the hill to Panera for 30-45 minutes of coffee, breakfast and Christian men’s conversation.
THURSDAYS 7:00pm	“Orthodox Movie Night” Entertainment/Fellowship	2nd Thursday Oct.-June Jan. 12, Feb. 9, Mar. 9, Apr. 6, May 11, Jun. 8	A monthly offering of inspirational movies with snacks and good company in the Fireside Room. Free to all, it’s a relaxing and uplifting alternative to the “same old stuff” on cable TV. Why sit around alone and watch that when you can enjoy a night of Holy Trinity fellowship and entertainment?

Watch for weekly updates, special events, guest speakers and youth activities in the Bulletin. Find more info at www.HolyTrinityPgh.org/ffw



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2017 Holy Trinity House/Business Blessing Request Form	
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	Notes, directions or special information
<p>A schedule and description of the House Blessing tradition can be found inside this issue of The Herald. If you would like this special annual Theophany blessing for your family, home or business, <u>please request a visit before January 5</u> either <u>ONLINE</u> or by returning this form. Your date and time will be confirmed by the day before your visit.</p> <p>EASIER & FASTER: REQUEST <u>ONLINE</u> AT www.HolyTrinityPgh.org/events</p> <p>IMPORTANT NOTE: Please be available during the time range indicated on the schedule. Re-scheduling will only be done in cases of inclement weather. Thanks!</p>	

Scripture of the Month: "The water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life" (Jn 4.14)