



# THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

1923 · OUR 79TH YEAR OF MINISTRY · 2002

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

July 2002

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

Volume 10 – Issue 7

Monthly Parish Newsletter  
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
Fr. John Touloumes, Economist

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**DON'T FORGET**

**DIVINE**  
**9:30**  
**LITURGY**

**THRU SEPT. 1ST**

## The Great Women Martyrs of July

Saint Euphemia      Saint Paraskevi

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Saint Marina

Saint Kyriaki

The witness of the strength and faith of women in the Orthodox Church is undeniably evident during the month of July, when a number of women with the title of "Great Martyr" are commemorated. Four of them are shown here. St. Euphemia was burned at the stake and later brought about a miraculous revelation at the Fourth Ecumenical Synod. St. Paraskevi was beheaded and is known as a patron saint of those with vision problems. St. Marina was tortured and beheaded for refusing to marry a pagan prefect. St. Kyriaki was ordered to pray to idols in a pagan temple, but instead prayed to the True God and the temple was destroyed. Through their sacrifices they have received their crowns of glory.

## Father John's Message

### THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

Parish Newsletter of  
Holy Trinity  
Greek Orthodox Church  
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Pittsburgh, PA 15212  
Phone 412-321-9282  
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A Parish of the Greek Orthodox Diocese of  
Pittsburgh and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese  
of America under the Spiritual Jurisdiction of the  
Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople

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#### The Cultural Side

Michael Kritiotis      Voula Hareras  
Maria Kraniou        Vickie Bellios

#### Publication Schedule

The Herald is published monthly.  
The information deadline is the 15th of each  
month. If you would like to assist with mailing  
the Herald, please contact the church secretary  
at 412-321-9282 to volunteer your help.

Sponsor an issue  
of the Herald in  
memory of a loved  
one or in honor of  
a special event. See  
the inside back page  
for an individual  
sponsor form.



Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations; ask your father, and he will show you; your elders, and they will tell you.

(Deuteronomy 32.7)



Dear Brothers and Sisters and Christ,

As I was driving through a local neighborhood this week, I noticed some beautiful new banners with patriotic themes, obviously being hung in anticipation of the Fourth of July Independence Day celebration. Funny, I don't remember the Fourth of July preparations being so grand and being put up so far in advance before. But, then again, this is post-September 11 America. If the past few months are any indicator, the first July Fourth since the terrorist attacks is bound to be a day of national enthusiasm and solemn remembrance.

In this mostly non-liturgical society, which has slowly eliminated and minimized so many forms of tradition and ceremony, such events and holidays are proving that the commandments God gave His people in Deuteronomy and in other places of the Holy Scriptures regarding remembrances and observations were not really for His sake as much as they were to provide a basis, context and much-needed grounding for mankind in this world. But, because commemorations and liturgical worship have been largely eliminated from the American Protestant experience, there is a large and unsatisfied emotional and spiritual void that must be filled. Thus, even if it goes back only 10 months, our still-wounded national conscience says, "This event and these people are too important to forget."

Even the briefest look into the liturgical worship and calendar of the Holy Orthodox Faith tells us that these commemorations and observations have never been absent from the Orthodox Christian experience. Beginning with the many events in the life of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, continuing through the events, miracles and martyrdoms of saints of the Church from the earliest times through today, the Church reminds us over and over, "Your God, these people, places and events are too important to forget." And as far as the quote from Deuteronomy above, whether it is through the writings of the Holy Fathers or the stories of our Yiayia's and Papou's, we indeed never forget to consider the years of previous generations and to "ask our elders."

This is perhaps one of the most deep-seated reasons why the recent progress on our Cemetery Chapel is such a welcome development in the life of our parish. It helps us honor, it helps us remember, it helps us bear witness to the Truth of the Faith and the richness of the lives and sacrifices of the many who have preceded us in this walk of faith through life. But it does so in the most positive and appropriate way: by first giving the glory to our God, the Giver of life, both here and in the world to come.

Please don't forget that the Israelites also set up altars and places of worship during their travels so they would not forget to honor their God, so we also should honor Him by remaining with Him throughout the summer, both in regular attendance here at Holy Trinity as well as by attending services in the nearest Orthodox Church when we're away. May God grant you a safe and blessed holiday...and may God bless America!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

## News & Events

### YOUTH MINISTRIES

#### Vacation Church School . . . . . July 29-August 2

The last issue of the Herald contained a registration form for the 2002 Vacation Church School program. Please don't forget to sign up your children early to take advantage of the early registration discount.

### LITURGICAL LIFE

#### 9:30 Divine Liturgy Hours . . . . . Through Sept. 1

Throughout the summer and continuing through the Festival Weekend (September 1), Holy Trinity Church holds Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m. This schedule is in effect for all Sundays and weekday Liturgies. Orthros starts at 8:30 am. Also, don't forget, the homily is delivered following the Gospel reading, which takes place early in the service. Please be sure to adjust your personal and family schedules to be there on time!



### COMMUNITY NEWS

#### The Festival is Coming! . . . August 28-September 1

Please mark your calendars for the 2002 Holy Trinity Greek Festival, August 28-September 1. Ad Book Sponsor forms were included in previous issues; the Volunteer Schedule is included in this issue. Cooking is being held every Thursday evening. Please don't wait—get involved today! It's just around the corner!

Want to help and enjoy yourself, too? Call your friends, koumbaroi, relatives or co-workers and schedule a meal at the Festival from now.

#### Over 50 Club Trips

The Over 50 Club will be taking two trips in the near future. The first will be a day trip on August 20 to Akron, Ohio. The destination is the Carousel Theatre., where the group will be seeing the classic musical, "Showboat." Time for shopping will also be provided. Contact Stella Athanasiou at 412-322-4080 for information or reservations.

Also, the group will be travelling to the Jersey Shore and Lancaster County, PA, from September 30 to October 5. Bus transportation and meals are included in the \$335 package. Destinations include Wildwood, NJ, and the Sight & Sound Theatre in Stroudsburg, PA,

where the group will attend a musical performance of the Bible story of "Daniel."

#### Additional Stewardship Pledges Received

In addition to the list published in the last issue of *The Herald*, pledges from the following Holy Trinity Stewards have been received to date:

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Brewer  
 Mr. Harry Geanopoulos  
 Mr. Spiros Giannoutsos  
 Mrs. Eugenia Hoehn  
 Mr. & Mrs. Gus Kilantonis  
 Mrs. Penelope Komninos  
 Mr. Anthony Lakes  
 Miss Helen Parikakis  
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Siebott & Irene Karavolos

Thank you, good and faithful Stewards! If you have not yet submitted your card, please do so today!

### SACRAMENTAL REGISTRY

#### Baptism: Nektarios Pappas

The servant of God, Nektarios Pappas, son of Andrew and Angie Pappas, was received into the Holy Orthodox Christian Faith through Baptism on Sunday, May 26. The Godparents were Kostas and Joanna Barbush (Bourbakis). Congratulations and may God grant him many years!

#### Baptism: Christian Georgiadis

The servant of God, Christian Georgiadis, son of Gus and Penny Georgiadis, was received into the Holy Orthodox Faith through Baptism on Saturday, June 15, 2002. The Godparents were George and Stacy Dickos. Congratulations and may God grant him many years!

#### Baptism: Petros Balouris

The servant of God, Petros Balouris, son of James and Yvonne Balouris, was received into the Holy Orthodox Christian Faith through Baptism on Saturday, June 22, 2002. The Godparents were Paul and Maria Sfanos. Congratulations and may God grant him many years!

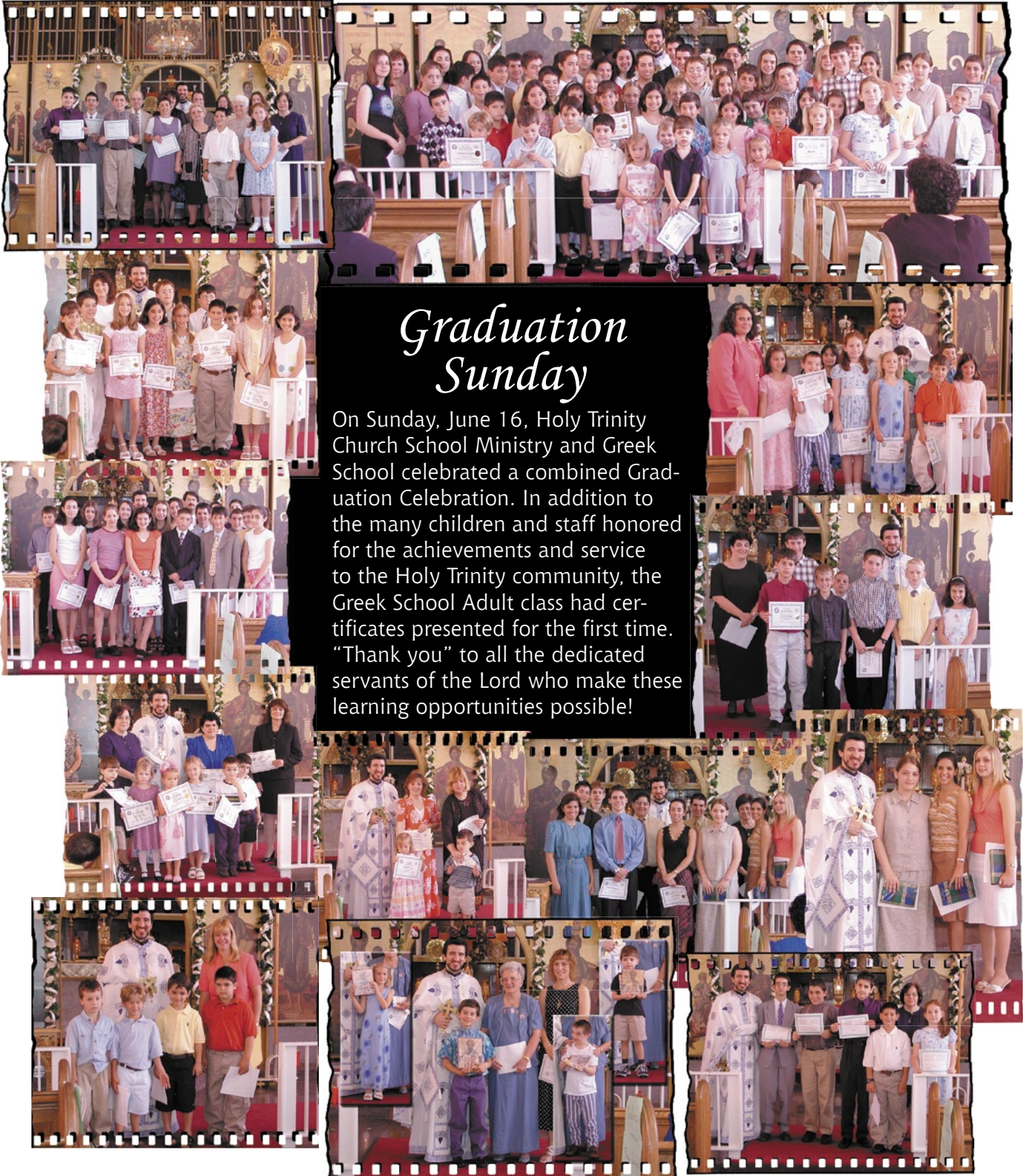
#### Funeral: John Manias

The servant of God, John Manias, fell asleep in the Lord on Tuesday, June 25. Funeral services are scheduled for June 29 at Holy Trinity Church at 12:30 p.m. May his memory be eternal!



# Community Life Photo Journal

*An on-going photo journal of scenes from the active parish life of Holy Trinity Church.*



## Graduation Sunday

On Sunday, June 16, Holy Trinity Church School Ministry and Greek School celebrated a combined Graduation Celebration. In addition to the many children and staff honored for the achievements and service to the Holy Trinity community, the Greek School Adult class had certificates presented for the first time. "Thank you" to all the dedicated servants of the Lord who make these learning opportunities possible!

*If you have photos of events in the life of the parish, please submit them to the Church Office. Please be sure to submit a description of the subject and the date of the photo. All submissions become property of Holy Trinity Church and will not be returned. Inclusion is subject to editorial discretion. Digital photos (from either digital cameras or scanned images) are encouraged and may be sent to [herald@HolyTrinityPgh.org](mailto:herald@HolyTrinityPgh.org). Please use a high resolution setting (150+ d.p.i.) for best printing results.*



# Community Life Photo Journal

*An on-going photo journal of scenes from the active parish life of Holy Trinity Church.*



## “Panigiri!”

On Pentecost Sunday, June 23, Holy Trinity Church hosted a “good old-fashioned Panigiri” Feast Day celebration. Pictured here are the many volunteers from the Social Committee, Parish Council and general community who helped setup and enjoy this lovely afternoon on the sunny Holy Trinity lawn. From the roast lamb on the “souvla” to the calamari and the smelts, it was a deliciously enjoyable day! “Hronia Polla” to all!





# Consultations, Commemorations & Celebrations!

## Cemetery Chapel Architect Meetings

On Sunday, May 19, the a Special General Assembly approved the building program for the Holy Trinity Cemetery Chapel, as well as the hiring of Christ J. Kamages of Ekona Architects for the development of first stage drawings. Since then, Mr. Kamages has visited and met with various committees as well as interested members of the general community for a dialogue and an exchange of ideas on the chapel project. Pictured here are scenes from the June 14-15 meetings, as well as some preliminary conceptual drawings.

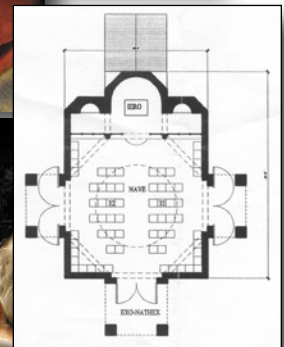
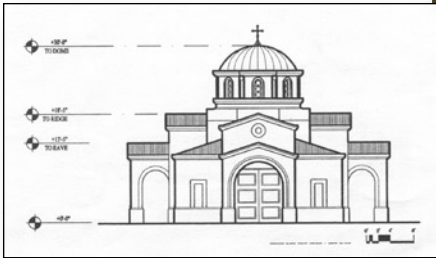


CHRIST J. KAMAGES, AIA  
PRESIDENT & DIRECTOR

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C.J. KAMAGES, AIA, ARCHITECT  
PRESIDENT & DIRECTOR

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STUDIO SUITE 333  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105  
TEL: 415-543-0707  
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ckamages@ekona.com



## GOYA Seniors Honored

On Monday, June 24, GOYans and their families gathered at the Pittsburgh Steak House to honor the GOYans who are graduating in 2002. Pictured here (l-r) are graduates Maria Houmis and April Williard. (Not pictured: Olga Beckas). Congratulations and God's many blessings upon our fine graduates!



## Saturday of Souls Liturgy

The Pentecost Saturday of Souls Liturgy was again celebrated at Holy Trinity Cemetery, where Father John commemorated the departed members of our community. Pictured here is the Great Entrance with the Holy Gifts.



## Phaturos 50th Anniversary

Peter and Dorothy Phaturos recently celebrated their 50th Anniversary with a special anniversary blessing following the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, June 2. Congratulations, and may God grant you many more years!

## The Cultural Side • Η Πολιτιστική Πλευρά



Maria Kraniou

**G**reek presence in Hollywood is not new. But a Hollywood movie about Greeks is. *Odyssey Magazine* has this to say about the new movie, *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, the funniest thing to come out of Greek America in years. *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* is the story of Toula Portokalos (played by Nia Vardalos), a 30-

year-old Greek American whose life is...well, she has no life. Toula serves coffee in The Dancing Zorbas, her family's restaurant in Chicago, all too aware of the hushed conversations about her single marital status between her father and members of her large (27 first cousins) and very Greek family.

One day, tall, handsome, vegetarian, and very WASPy, Ian (played by John Corbett) appears and changes Toula's life. The two decide to get married, and when they break the news to the family, the result is an affectionate, often painfully funny slice of Greek-American pie.

Anyone who has encountered the Greek community in the U.S. (and elsewhere) will recognize Vardalos' comic observations. From Saturday nights on the couch (covered with plastic to avoid damage) in front of the TV with her parents, Toula finds herself in the arms of a man who, at first, cannot pronounce her last name and does not seem to grasp her fear of breaking the news of their romance to her family. "We're not a different species," he tells her. Later, he agrees to be baptized to please her father, Gus (Michael Constantine).

The typical big family gatherings are also amusing. There are the reproduction Greek statues in the front yard, stonily observing the shouting, laughing, gossiping throng, as the women force platefuls of food down people's throats. Meanwhile, Ian's suburban parents, at a complete loss, are introduced to uncles George and Nick, and their sons, George and Nick.

*MBFGW* began life as a one-woman theater show in Los Angeles, where Vardalos moved six years ago after marrying Ian Gomez, who also plays the role of Ian's best friend in the movie. Friends who listened to Nia's hilarious stories about her family suggested she write a play. So she did, and it became a hit. Actress Rita Wilson, who is Greek-American, happened to see one of Vardalos' performances at the Globe Theater in LA in 1998 and dragged husband Tom Hanks along the next day. They loved it. Hanks said that when he married into Rita's family, his life changed. He developed this

big fat Greek family and he loves it. Playtone (Hanks' production company) bought her screenplay in 2000.

Growing up in Winnipeg, Canada, Vardalos always felt like an outsider. But as she got older, she learned to appreciate her Greek heritage, integrating it into her identity rather than rejecting it. So far, the audience reaction to the movie has been phenomenal. "The most important thing is that I didn't embarrass my family and our people." Not only did Vardalos not embarrass her family, but she also managed to keep her story and its characters from becoming on-screen stereotypes.

Other companies made offers for the script, but all of them planned to change the Greek element to Hispanic or Italian. Vardalos refused. "They wanted to change it, saying that everyone loves the Spanish people. I love them too, but this is about Greeks and don't you think it's about time we had a Greek-American movie?" She believes the film will have no trouble appealing to non-Greek audiences. Non-Greeks have told her, "My family is just like yours and I'm Chinese, I'm Jewish, or I am the Ian Miller of my husband's family."

Who knows what the future has in store for Nia. Should she get pregnant, we could have the sequel, *My Big Fat Greek Baby!*

*Editor's note:* Not having yet seen this movie (only due to a busy schedule), I have been intrigued by the varied reactions both in and out of the Greek community. On the positive side of things, it seems to have provided an inspiring insight into our culture, as seen in Maria's write-up as well as this excerpt from a non-Greek review at Christian-oriented [www.capalert.com](http://www.capalert.com):

*"America could do well to take example from the Greeks. Some top notch family values and ethics are presented in this warm and quite touching film about a daughter of a Greek American family breaking with tradition and (initially) breaking her father's head-of-the-house heart."*

It is lamentable that such an inspiring witness could be provided without buying into the need to add unnecessary sexual content which pervades so many other Hollywood productions. Again, from the same review:

*"There is much more to the story and most of it is wholesome and gentle but some is not. There are other sexual improprieties in it plus some uses of the three/four letter word vocabulary"*

As with all films, discretion and discernment are needed. Funny though it may be, this movie may not be for young children. (Also please note: inclusion in *The Herald* does not constitute an endorsement) *Father John*



## Stretching Your Donation Dollars

*Some tips from the Finance and Stewardship Committees on how you can support your church and save money on your taxes at the same time. These are techniques promoted by many charitable institutions. Why not use them for your Church?*

It's been said that our church-giving is the cheapest ticket for admittance to the most important journey of our lives.

And even though large endowments and donations (like the one we were blessed with recently) certainly relieve some pressures toward the future of our growing community, it's the everyday stewardship and donations from all of us that keep Holy Trinity Church (the "vehicle" of our "journey") in operation.

As part of a new and ongoing effort to inform and educate our members on finance and stewardship, the first installment, below, offers some creative and advantageous ways to turn stewardship and other church donations into tax-saving plans.

### **ATTENTION DONATION PLANNING STRATEGIES!**

An excellent way to help the Church financially and at the same time reduce your taxes is by donating stocks and other securities that have increased in value over the years to the Church. If, for example, you own 1,000 shares of Disney stock that you purchased several years ago and you choose to sell it today, you will probably have to pay over \$4,000.00 in taxes - assuming you paid \$2.00 a share and sold it for \$22.00\*. However, if you donate it to Holy Trinity, the Church can sell it with no tax consequences whatsoever. YOU, the DONOR, can save over \$5,600.00 in taxes, since you will be getting credit for your charitable donation in the full current value of the stock (\$22,000 in this case), without any capital gains tax due. Your individual circumstances may vary.

Other ways you can support your Church and get possible tax savings\*:

- By naming Holy Trinity in your Will as either a sole beneficiary or one of the beneficiaries of your estate.
- You may even want to establish a Charitable Remainder Trust that will guarantee you steady, predictable income for as long as you live. Only upon death will the assets of the trust go to the Church

If you wish to donate securities to the Church or to discuss other tax-saving ideas involving charitable gifts or naming the Church as beneficiary of your estate, please consult your financial advisor or call the Church's Investments Advisor\*, Mr. Lefteri "Terry" Pistentis at (724) 853-2802. Or, please talk to any of the Parish Council members or Fr. John at any time.

*\*Note: These articles are provided to parishioners of Holy Trinity Church for informational, educational and illustrative purposes only and do not constitute legal, accounting or professional advice by Holy Trinity Church or its representatives. Likewise, they do not endorse any investment agent, company or instrument. For advice specific to your situation, please consult your professional advisor.*



## Building An Architecture of True Orthodox Vision

*Eighth in a series of educational articles by respected Byzantine architect Christ J. Kamages. Reprinted from "The Christian Activist" magazine to raise an awareness of the history, tradition and thought behind traditional architecture in the Greek Orthodox Church as our community looks toward making informed and educated decisions in the building projects which lie ahead.*

### Are Stained-Glass Windows Part of the Orthodox Tradition? What About Natural Light?

Before we consider the question of stained glass, we must consider the question of light and its place in the Orthodox Church. Our faith is one of illumination, one of light, where life is only possible with the presence of light:

- **Light of the World**
- **We have seen the True Light**
- **Sun of Righteousness**
- **Father of Lights**

There are innumerable references in our Orthodox tradition of worship that indicate that we are a theology of light. We must return to our roots of an architecture of light, not darkness (not to forget that light is only present by contrast to darkness).

### Bringing in The Light

This is accomplished through the planning and design of apertures, fenestration, or simply put: windows, properly positioned (to accommodate iconography and maintain internal focus) and designed to allow the penetration of light, and God's painting of the interior of the church with his divine light. Our ancient tradition used a combination of clear, onyx, and alabaster to provide a softened heavenly light.

### Stained Glass: A Foreign Influence

Painted stained glass with icons is not part of our tradition. The stained-glass tradition grew from the great Western Gothic Cathedrals, whose muscular structure and lack of iconographic tradition utilized stained glass to enhance what would otherwise be a spartan environment. Again, this tradition has been borrowed from other Christian traditions and today has been almost institutionalized as part of our Orthodox faith.

### The Problems with Stained Glass Iconography

Beyond tradition, the problem with colored icono-

graphic stained glass is that it:

- Restricts light into the space and limits the illumination of the iconography;
- Creates light of an unnatural hue;
- Creates conflicts and confusion with iconography;
- Becomes a false surrogate for iconography.

Glass in our orthodox churches should be translucent, luminescent, and obscure, maintaining the internal characteristic and creativity. The quality and quantity of the daylight must be adequate to provide the sense of the divine presence and to illuminate the iconography.

### What Forms of Artificial Lighting Are Appropriate for the Orthodox Church?

Beyond natural daylighting, the utilization of candles, oil, and electrical lighting constitutes another area of consideration:

#### • In relation to Iconscreens...

the utilization position, and placement of oil lamps or surrogates and also the use of concealed electrical lighting to supplement daylighting to feature or highlight attributes of the Iconscreen;

#### • Ambient and task lighting...

should be invisible, subtle, and of the proper color rendition;

#### • Decorative lighting...

should be tastefully compatible with the interior and placed, whether wall mounted or hung, to minimize conflicts with iconography and of a quality that does not provide glare but a soft glow. Artificial lighting should be planned, designed, and tested to enhance and not detract from the worship activity. Daylight, candle, and oil lighting provide the standard of quality that

artificial lighting must attain. Special programmable microprocessor control systems provide quick call-up preprogrammed scenes or scenarios.

*(continued next issue...)*



**“Our faith is one of illumination, one of light, where life is only possible with the presence of light. We must return to our roots of an architecture of light.”**

## Parish Council Meeting - May 14, 2002

The regular monthly meeting of the Parish Council of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church was held on Tuesday, May 14, 2002, in the Church Library. The meeting was opened with a prayer at 7:30 p.m.

### Discussion of Parish By-Laws

A review was conducted of the articles of the draft of the Supplemental Parish By-Laws by Christo J. Balouris; further discussion was scheduled for the next meeting.

### Agenda for Special General Assembly – Cemetery Chapel Project

The Chapel Project Program, which will be presented at the May 19th General Assembly, was reviewed by the Council. A motion was made to approve the Chapel Program and for approval to present to the General Assembly. Motion passed. The Cemetery Committee recommended Christ Kamages of EKONA Architecture as the architect for the Chapel project to the Parish Council. A motion was made to accept the selection of the architect, Christ Kamages. The motion passed.

### Financial Update

The financial update for the first quarter, January–March 2002, was presented. A motion was made to approve the update. Unanimously approved.

### Father John's Report

Father John reported that he had attended "The Camp at Mount Tabor" Kick-Off benefit banquet in Akron. Father also thanked the Parish Council for their attendance and help during the Lenten services and Holy Week.

### Committee Reports

**Social Committee:** The Anastasi dinner was well attended. Preparations for the Panigiri for our feast day celebration are proceeding well. It will be held on our lawn after church on Sunday, June 23.

**Vision Committee:** The Vision committee will meet this month to go over the effort of identifying a property. They plan to meet with other real estate agents that will show properties.

**Festival Committee:** The need to purchase a freezer was discussed. A firm amount for the cost of a freezer will be brought to the next meeting for further consideration.

**Catering Committee:** The issue of hall coordinator was discussed; the discussion was tabled for the next meeting.

The next Parish Council meeting was set for Tuesday, June 11, 2002. No further business appearing, the meeting adjourned with a prayer at 10:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Maria Kraniou, Secretary*

## 2002 Holy Trinity Parish Council

### Executive Officers

Dr. Christ A. Balouris, President  
William J. Fiedler, Jr., Vice-President  
Michael Kritiotis, Treasurer  
Maria Kraniou, Secretary

### **Members:**

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## Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church



302 West North Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15212

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## On the Importance of Singing Church Hymns



Bishop Theophan the Recluse, the great 19th century spiritual writer, said the following:

“The purpose of Church hymns is precisely to make the spark of Grace that is hidden within us burn brighter and with greater warmth. This spark is given by the Holy Mysteries. Psalms, hymns and spiritual odes are introduced to fan the spark and transform it into flame.”

If church music is to increase in us the Grace of God, then those who treat it merely as aesthetic pleasure are missing the point. It is supremely important that singers in the Orthodox Church be men and women of prayer and that they at all times strive to sing not with the tongue only, but also with the heart. Bishop Theophan continues:

“It is necessary not only to understand the hymn, but to be in sympathy with it, to accept the contents of the hymn in the heart and to sing it as if it came from our own heart... In the time of the Apostles, only those who were in such a state used to sing; others entered into a similar mood, and all the congregation sang and glorified God from the heart only. No wonder that, in consequence of this, the whole congregation was filled with the Spirit! What treasure is hidden in Church hymns if they are chanted properly!”

**Excerpted from “Spiritual Aspects of Singing at Divine Services of the Holy Orthodox Church  
Published in the journal, “Orthodox Life” (No. 5)**