



THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

JANUARY 2007 VOLUME 15 • ISSUE 1

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 Father John's Message
- 3 News & Events
- 5 Gheronda's Corner
- 6 Mouse Tales
- 7 Community Life Photo Journal
- 11 The Cultural Side
Η Πολιτιστική Πλευρά
- 13 Philoptochos News
- 14 Our Worship - Part 17
- 15 2007 House Blessings
- 16 House Blessings Request

Also Enclosed:
January Parish Calendar



QUICK NEWS



On Sunday, December 10, 2006, a Special General Assembly of Holy Trinity Church convened to consider purchasing a new property for a potential new home for Holy Trinity Church from La Roche College in the North Hills. The motion to purchase was overwhelmingly approved by a majority of 93%. On Monday, December 18, the Sales Agreement was signed at La Roche College. Pictured above a representatives from Holy Trinity and La Roche.

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH • PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA



You have accepted to be baptized in the Jordan by the hand of a servant, that having sanctified the nature of the waters, O sinless Lord, You might lead us to a new birth through water and Spirit and restore us again to our original freedom.

Keeping feast in remembrance of this divine mystery, we ask You, O Master Who loves mankind, to sprinkle upon us, Your unworthy servants, cleansing water and the gift of Your compassion according to Your divine promise...

Make it a source of incorruption, a gift of sanctification, a remission of sins, a protection against disease, a destruction to demons, inaccessible to the adverse powers and filled with angelic strength, that all who draw from it and partake of it may have it for the cleansing of their soul and body, for the healing of their passions, for the sanctification of their dwellings and for every purpose that is beneficial.

From the Prayer of the
Great Blessing of the Waters
at the Feast of Theophany, January 6

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

Editor

Father John Touloumes, Economos

Church: 412-321-9282

Home: 412-831-3574

E-mail: fjt@HolyTrinityPgh.org

Production

Josephine Stofko, Administrative Asst.

E-mail: office@HolyTrinityPgh.org

Contributors

Michael Kritiotis

Voula Hareras

Maria Kraniou

Vickie Bellios

Fr. John Androustopoulos

Rev. Fr. Radu Bordeianu

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.

About the Parish

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

302 West North Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15212-4626

Phone: 412-321-9282 • Fax: 412-321-7272

Web site: www.HolyTrinityPgh.org

Email: office@HolyTrinityPgh.org

Holy Trinity Church is a parish of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh

(www.odpgh.org),

& Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

(www.goarch.org)

under the Spiritual Jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

(www.patriarchate.org)

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church Parish Administration

Clergy

Rev. Fr. John Touloumes, Proistamenos

Rev. Fr. Radu Bordeianu, Assistant Priest

Parish Council

Louis T. Loomis, President

Chris T. Balouris

Dean J. Balouris

James T. Balouris

George Dickos

Troy Geanopoulos

Steve Hodge

Nikki Marsh

Nicholas Sarandou

Vasilios Scoumis

Alex Trilivas

Gerri Valliant

Louis G. Zozos

Ministries

Philoptochos..... Esther Ladakos, Pres.

GOYA..... Pres. Becky Touloumes, Advisor

Choir..... John Nychis, Director

Over 50..... Stella Athanasiou, Pres.

St. Lydia Study..... Stacy Dickos, Coordinator

Cemetery..... Bill Fiedler, Chairman

Greek School.... Effie Kilantonis, Coordinator

Social Hall..... Kathy Romanias, Coordinator



“God, Who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and made us sit with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”

Ephesians 2.4-7

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

If there is a parish in the entire Archdiocese that should be able to sing “Joy to the world, the Lord has come” with a overflowing soul and gladness of heart this year, it is our own beloved Holy Trinity Church, for He has indeed come to us. Looking back over the past year, there have been so many different ways He has come to this community, stretched out His embracing arms to us and told us of His great love. The overflowing grace of God has been, as Saint Paul tells the Ephesians above, immeasurable.

These are only a few of the many wonderful blessings, but they are some that we have all shared together as brothers and sisters in Christ, and as we come to the end of the year, may we simply take a moment to offer to God the glory for His mercy, His love and His grace:

- God guided us to the historic blessing of adding a new church to the roster of the Archdiocese: the new Saint George Chapel, thus bringing to fulfillment the desires of this community to honor the beloved founders and departed faithful of Holy Trinity Church and lighting a shining new beacon of Orthodoxy in Pittsburgh.
- The largest festival in the history of Holy Trinity Church yielded not only a wind-fall of finances, but an abundance of healing, grace, fellowship and restoration of community spirit as the Holy Trinity family came together side-by-side for the glory of God and love for His Holy Church.
- Out of His richness He presented us with the gift of a greater level of ministry through the addition of Father Radu Bordeianu, the first-ever Assistant Priest in the history of Holy Trinity Church and a most blessed addition to our community, along with his Presvytera and children.
- Our community has grown in ways both intangible and measurable, including the largest number of stewards in the history of the parish.
- And, of course, most recently, He blessed us with one of the finest pieces of property in the entire North Hills region, a wonderful community of future neighbors surrounding it, and a level of support for purchasing it and joining of hearts in doing so that can only come about as a work of the Holy Spirit,

In the Book of Psalms, David speaks of how the Lord treats the faithful king: “You make him most blessed for ever; You make him glad with the joy of Your presence (Psalm 21.6). It will be the continuing calling of this community to seek God’s purpose in each of these blessings, but in the process of doing the work, may we never lose the joy. We are not perfect; that is why the grace of God continues to pour upon us even in our weaknesses and shortcomings. And we have a lot of work ahead of us if we are to demonstrate to the Lord our sincere desire to live lives worthy of His blessings.

But again, along the way, may we not forget the joy as we appreciate it in our lives, share it with our children, bear witness to those who need to know God and, at Christmas, stare into the depths of the Nativity scene and know that it is still the source of life, love, salvation and, yes, JOY for the world and for each of us. May our loving God grant you a most blessed Christmas and a healthy and joyful New Year!

EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES

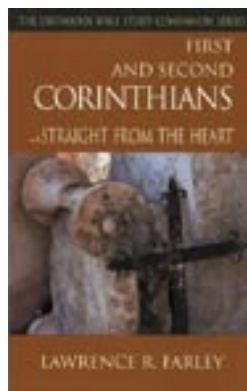
No Church School Class Dec. 24, 31

Attention, parents: there will be no Church School class on December 24 and 31 due to the holiday celebrations, so please plan on being in church together as a family for the entire service on those days.

St. Lydia's Orthodox Women's Ministry Jan. 11, 25

The St. Lydia Women's Study Ministry is for women to share in fellowship and to study scripture, the Orthodox Faith and family life in today's world. The meetings take place every other week on Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Jan Petredis in Wexford. New participants are always welcome! The fellowship is enjoyable and the approach is casual, but the subjects are important for today's women and families. All Holy Trinity women are welcome and invited to bring a friend!

This year's theme will continue the Bible Study of Saint Paul's Epistles to the Corinthians. The study guide being used is a new publication, "First and Second Corinthians: Straight From the Heart." It approaches the study with an easy-to-understand method intended for all people. For further information on this worthwhile and informative group or for directions to the meetings, call Stacy Dickos at 412-367-0925. A complete schedule for the year is available at www.HolyTrinityPgh.org.



WORSHIP LIFE

Weekday Services January

Please take note of the following weekday Liturgies for the feast days in the month of January. Please note that we are currently on the time schedule for "Winter Hours." Orthros is at 9:00 a.m., followed by Divine Liturgy at 10:00.

Wed. Jan. 3, 6:00 pm Paraclesis to the Theotokos

Fri. Jan. 5, 6:00 pm. Forefeast of the Theophany of our Lord

This is the first of two Theophany Divine Liturgies and services of Great Blessings of the Waters. It is an EVENING Vespertal Liturgy with the Great Blessing of the Waters service

Sat. Jan. 6, 9am/10am The Theophany of our Lord

This is the main 9:00 Orthros and 10:00 Divine Liturgy of this great Feast and also offers the Great Blessings of the Water service.

Wed. Jan. 17 St. Anthony the Great

Note: Liturgy for St. Anthony will be held at St. Anthony Church in Clairton for its feast day.

Tue. Jan. 30. The Three Hierarchs

Note: Liturgy for the Three Hierarchs (St. Basil the Great, St. John Chrysostom and St. Gregory the Theologian) will be held at Holy Cross Church in Mt. Lebanon for the feast day of the Three Hierarchs Eastern Orthodox School, which is located at Holy Cross.



YOUTH MINISTRY

GOYA Winter Fun Event December 26

The GOYA will be holding a sledding/ice skating party at North Park on December 26, followed by a fondue party at the Erdeljac house. Information was mailed directly to the GOYA homes.

GOYA Basketball Events January

Fri. Jan. 12-Sun. Jan. 13: Tournament - Cleveland, OH

Thu. Jan. 4, 6:30 pm: Basketball practice

Thu. Jan. 11, 6:30 pm: Basketball practice

Thu. Jan. 18, 6:30 pm: Basketball practice

Thu. Jan. 25, 6:30 pm: Basketball practice

Fri. Jan. 26-Sun. Jan. 28: Tournament - St. Nicholas, Pgh.

For information contact Presvytera Becky (412-831-3574) or GOYA President Andrew Georgiadis (724-935-2383).

GOYA Fellowship January 21

The GOYA will hold its monthly fellowship meeting on Sunday, January 21 at 6:00 p.m. at a location to be announced.

GOYA Hoagie Sale February 4

The GOYA will be pre-selling hoagies during January for Superbowl Sunday on February 5. Please support our teens in this effort, which helps raise funds for the various events of the GOYA, outreach projects, trips and the Metropolis basketball tournaments. Thanks!

COMMUNITY LIFE

New Year's Eve at Holy Trinity Dec. 31

Please make plans now to attend New Year's Eve at Holy Trinity Church. Dinner will begin at 7:30pm, followed by the Dance and New Year's celebration. See the table at Coffee Hour for details and reservations or call Jim Balouris at 724-934-4850 or Nikki Marsh at 724-625-2729.

Year-End Stewardship Donations Due Dec. 31

The Parish Council thanks all our Holy Trinity Stewards for their pledges and contributions this year. Please take note that all offerings you would like listed as received during the 2006 tax year (Jan. 1-Dec. 31) for tax deduction purposes must be received at the church by Dec. 31. This is an IRS regulation. You may indicate the offerings to apply for either your 2006 pledge (to pay the balance) or the 2007 pledge (to pay ahead) and your pledge balance will be accurately calculated no matter when the offering is made. Year-end statements will be sent out at the end of January. Thanks!

Vasilopita Celebration January 7

The Philoptochos will sponsor the annual Vasilopita Celebration on Sunday, January 7, 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!

Snow Line 412-321-9282, Option "6"

Please keep in mind over the winter months that the Holy Trinity "Snow Line" is available to check for the cancellation of events in the case of snow or inclement weather. Call the church office after hours, then select option "6" to hear announcements of any cancellations.

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. A House Blessing Request Form can be found on the back page of this issue. Please note that dates of your area and be available at that time. Rescheduling will only be done for cases of inclement weather.

Parish Council Installation January 7

Thank you to all those who submitted their names for the Parish Council elections this year, as well as to the Board of Elections and to everyone who voted. The following people were elected to serve a two-year term (2007/2008): Chris T. Balouris, Dean J. Balouris, Steve Hodge, Louis T. Loumis, Vasilios Scoumis, Gerri Valliant and Lou Zozos. Continuing their terms (through 2007) are: James T. Balouris, George Dickos, Troy Geanopoulos, Nikki Marsh, Nicholas Sarandou and Alex Trilivas. The 2007 Council will be installed on Sunday, January 8 at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.

Many thanks go to the entire 2006 Parish Council for all their love, dedication and sacrifices during a year which was wrought with challenges and filled with blessings. Of special note this year is the departure from the Council of three long-standing members: Chris A. Balouris, Bill Fiedler and George Georges, whose terms expire at the end of the year. On behalf of the entire community, "thank you, good and faithful servants of Christ, for all your fine and dedicated work!" Please be sure to offer your personal thanks to them as well.

**Looking for information on Orthodoxy?
Check out the award-winning site of the
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese:**

www.goarch.org

Want to see local Orthodox television programming? Comcast On-Demand customers can see it on Channel 95, or visit the 'Net:

www.OrthodoxyNowTV.com

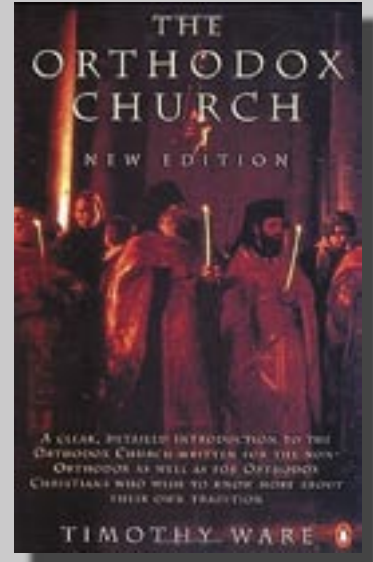
**Looking for a New Way to learn about your Faith in the New Year?
Don't Miss the New Learning Series from Holy Trinity Church:**

THE ORTHODOX STUDIES FORUM

Now Underway! Try It!

About the Book

This book is probably the best introduction to the Orthodox Church, written in an accessible, though rigorous style. It deals with the history, Liturgy, and teaching of the Orthodox Church. It brings an ecumenical perspective in the sense that it compares the teachings and history of the Orthodox Church with those of other Christian Churches. It also presents our Tradition in a language that you could use when discussing your faith with people who are not Orthodox.



About the Author

Kallistos Ware is one of—if not the—most important living Orthodox theologians. He wrote his dissertation on the Orthodox Church while still a young Protestant student, later developing a fascination with the history, teaching, and Liturgy of our Church. He eventually became Orthodox and was made the bishop of Diokleia, changing his name to Kallistos. He is also a retired professor from Oxford University in Great Britain, whom Pittsburgh will be honored to host in March 2007.

About the Teacher/Facilitator

Father Radu Bordeianu is a full-time professor at Duquesne University with a Doctoral degree from Marquette University and is the Assistant Priest at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. He has served and taught at several parishes in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

About the Study Series

The Orthodox Studies Forum is designed for adults who are interested in learning more about the Orthodox Christian Faith. It is for both those who have been Orthodox all their lives and want to learn more as well as those seeking to embrace Orthodoxy or grow further in their faith.

How to Get There and When It Meets

The group meets on the **first and third Wednesday** of each month from **7:00-8:30 p.m. from November through May** at LaRoche College, 9000 Babcock Blvd., in the North Hills region of Pittsburgh (next to UPMC Passavant Hospital). The room is in the A.J. Palumbo Science Center, Room SC105. There is ample, well-lit parking.

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



Father John Androutsopoulos

NEW YEAR 2007

Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

New Year's resolutions are good, if they are backed up with earnest PRAYER for help in keeping them.

The following two stories will help us to RESOLVE this New Year to forgive and to be cheerful givers.

The Beauty Of Forgiveness

"And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors."

(Matthew 6:12 - From the Lord's Prayer)

WHEN A faithful Christian considers how much God has forgiven him, he is able to extend pardon to others no matter what they have done. A Christian husband found this to be true when his wife, who had become an alcoholic, told him of an affair she had had with his best friend 10 years earlier. She said she experienced such feelings of guilt that the bottle was a means of escape. Anger and resentment began to sweep over him, for his wife's drinking had embittered their children and nearly destroyed their home.

He was also deeply hurt by the fact that his close friend had betrayed his trust. Then he remembered Jesus' words, "Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors." As he thought of God's mercy toward him, he PRAYED for grace to do the Christ-like thing.

Here is his description of what happened the next time he met the man who had caused him such heartache: "With a sob in my soul, I reached out my hand and gripped his, and for the first time in my life I knew what it was to forgive. I felt a tremendous sense of re-lease as the unbearable weight of bitterness was lifted from my heart. This freedom enabled me to renew my love for my wife, and to overcome the barrier that had arisen between us. When I said to her, 'I forgive you and will accept you just as I did when I pledged to love and cherish you unto death, the healing process began its wonderful work.'"

Beloved, God forgives freely and completely! "If you forgive others the wrongs they have done to you, your Father in heaven will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive the wrongs you have done." (Matthew 6:14-15.)

The teaching of the above lesson is: FORGIVE TO OBTAIN FORGIVENESS.

He who cannot forgive others breaks the bridge over which he himself must pass.

Remember the Lancaster County schoolhouse shooting? MAY THE AMISH TEACH US TO F-O-R-G-I-V-E.

The More The Happier!

But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven.

(Matthew 6:20)

AN ANCIENT fable tells about three merchants crossing a desert. One moonless night as they came to a dried-up creekbed, they were startled by a voice speaking to them out of the darkness. It commanded them to pick up stones and then journey on a far as possible before stopping again. The travelers were also told that when daylight came and they saw what they had gathered, they would be both happy and sad. Without hesitation they obeyed the instructions.

When the first gray streaks of the dawn appeared in the eastern sky, the men eagerly looked into the bags where the rocks had been placed. Instead of stones, they discovered precious jewels. It was then they understood the meaning of the strange yet significant words, "You will be both happy and sad." They were glad because of their enrichment through the possession of such valuables,

BUT THEY WERE SORROWFUL TO THINK THEY HAD NOT PICKED UP MORE!

If we set foot upon Heaven's shore, our reaction may be much the same. Mingled emotions will fill our hearts. Certainly there will be joy, but also regrets as we contemplate the lost opportunities on earth which could have provided us with an even more abundant entrance into the realms of GLORY.



Thoughts To Ponder

Are we taking full advantage of every occasion to serve the Lord? Whether we are gathering "Jewels" through our witness for Christ, making an "investment" in the bank of Heaven through our giving, or acquiring "Crowns" through our suffering, the more we do NOW, the happier we will be THEN!

Beloved, WHAT WE WEAVE IN THIS WORLD, WE SHALL WEAR IN THE NEXT.

Have a blessed, healthy and happy NEW YEAR!

With His Love

Rev. Fr. John K. Androutsopoulos



Happy New Year ("Hronia Polla!") to all my precious children!

It is I, Spero the Orthodox Church Mouse, welcoming all of you to 2007! The other morning while I was eating breakfast, I asked my Yiayia, "I know what the "Festival of Lights" is all about, but what is the "Feast of Lights?" "Spero, my little grandson," she replied with a hint of surprise, "that is a really insightful question. It lets me, your Y i a y i a , know just how much you love learning about God and the many wonderful ways He speaks to us, His people. In the pagan Roman world, there was a long winter festival celebrating the sun and the victory of light over darkness. This is an idea that has had a place in many religions over the centuries. As the Good News of Jesus Christ was spread throughout the world by His Apostles, people realized that they could not continue celebrating these pagan holidays if they were to be faithful Christians.



So what did the Church do? It replaced those false pagan holidays with real celebrations of God's true revelation. The festival which had earlier celebrated the pagan idea of light was replaced with a large feast honoring the Birth and Baptism of the True Light, Jesus Christ, Who said, "I am the Light of the world (John 8:12). These became two of the greatest feasts of the Christian Church. In fact, honoring the True Light, many people became Christians

during those feasts as they were baptized and attended the Divine Liturgy wearing their bright new baptismal clothes and carrying their baptismal candles. So, what used to be a pagan observation of the material sun became a true feast of the True Light, filled with many baptismal candles and great joy." (My Yiayia is so...o..o smart!!) "By the way," she continued, "at the end of all that, we celebrate the Feast of St. John the Baptist because of the important role he had in the Baptism of Jesus. So we wish a 'Happy Name Day' at that time of year to everyone named after those feasts—especially our own Father John!"

Now, precious little ones, I would like to chat about responsibility. Yes, it's a big word in more ways than one! I have been thinking about it ever since my little sister, Zoe, and I watched a video in the library called, "The Fruit of the Spirit." In it, there is a little rabbit named Bouncer, who discovers the importance of responsibility. Bouncer borrows special "hopper shoes" from his friend, Steve, who trusts him to take care of them. But Bouncer gets careless and leaves the hopper shoes in the rain and they get ruined. He learns in a sort of hard (and kind of embarrassing) way that responsibility is something we have to take seriously. Do you know that people really depend on us in a lot of ways? When we are not responsible, problems start. Just think of cows. If they stopped giving milk tomorrow, there would be no milk, no butter and ... (gasp!) no CHEESE!! See how bad things could get if cows were irresponsible. Well, each of us has responsibilities, too, and stories like Bouncer's help remind us just how important they are.



"Hey, Spero," Zoe asked, "since you are in the mood to chat, tell me this, please. When I ask Yiayia a question, how come she almost always tells me what the Bible says about the question?" "Well, my dear little sister," I responded with love (like a good big brother should!), "you know that Yiayia loves us very much and wants us to live in a way that pleases our Heavenly Father. The Bible is the Word of God, so when we read the Bible, we are learning about how our Heavenly Father wants us to live. You could sort of call it, "God's Little Instruction Book for Our Life." The Bible teaches us what is right and wrong and helps us straighten out our life when we mess up. He tells us all this because He made us, He loves us and He wants only the best for us."

"But how does Yiayia know SO MUCH about the Bible?" she replied. "Just like us when we are trying to learn for school," I said, "Yiayia wants to learn about the Bible all the time, so she reads it every day. And she really tries to live by it. You see, it's not enough to know about it; we have to live by it."

Well, we have chatted about a lot today. I feel so blessed to have such a wonderful family like Zoe and Yiayia, but also my family in the Lord, the Church! It also feels good to know that both Yiayia and our Heavenly Father love Zoe and I so much ... and you, too! Oh yes, before I go, "Happy Birthday!" to my little sister, Zoe, and "Happy New Year" to all my precious children!

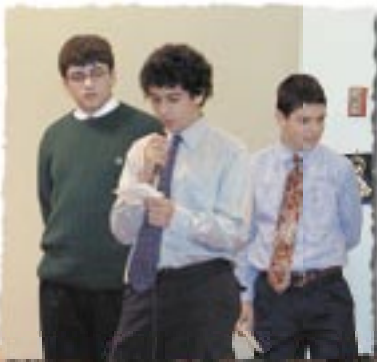
Love in Christ, Spero



November 28, 2006: The annual tradition continues! Enjoying slightly better, warmer and drier weather than in previous years, the GOYs took to the field down the street from the church on Thanksgiving weekend Sunday for their annual gridiron match. While it's not quite the big game found down the street at Heinz Field, it's fun and exciting Holy Trinity tradition. Here are a few highlights and action shots from the game, including reaching out to some of the neighborhood children to join in.

December 7, 2006: (Below) The Philoptochos sponsored its annual Christmas Luncheon for the Senior Citizens of the community. In addition to Divine Liturgy and the meal, there was a sing-along of Christmas carols and gifts for all those in attendance. May God continue to bless our seniors with good health and many years!





December 17, 2006: The Holy Trinity Church School once again presented its annual Christmas Pageant, with all students participating. This year's script, titled, "Christmas in the Cards," had our lead characters visiting a special kind of card shop, where each card came alive with scenes from the story of the Nativity of Christ. New features this year included delightful new sheep costumes (pictured below), the Nativity Hymn by the Holy Trinity Junior Choir and Coffee Hour served by the "Church School Alumni Parents."

Many thanks to Presvytera Becky, the pageant director, and all those who participated in, supported and attended this wonderful expression of joy and faith during this holy season. Christ is born! Glorfy Him!







December 18, 2006 - Holy Trinity History in the Making: The Signing of the Sales Agreement to Purchase Ten Acres of Land from La Roche College for a New Church. Pictured (L-R) here are Steve Massaro (La Roche Board Member), Father John Touloumes, Sister Candace Introcaso (President of La Roche College), Lou Zozos, Leo Loomis, George Dickos and Gus Georgiadis.



December 10, 2006: Members of Holy Trinity Church gather for a Special General Assembly to consider the following motion: "a) To purchase the property owned by La Roche College at Babcock Boulevard and Cumberland Road at a price of \$1,050,000 (one-million, fifty-thousand dollars). b) To authorize the expenditure of up to \$50,000 for civil engineering and architectural services needed for due diligence, site plan development related to the property and a fund-raising plan." The vote passed overwhelmingly, with 93% voting to approve. Pictured here are scenes from the well-attended assembly.

An update on the news and activities of our local Holy Trinity chapter of the Philoptochos Ladies Society, a national philanthropic ministry of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. and the Parish Council. " Want more information? Visit their web site at www.Philoptochos.org or contact a local member.

Annual Turkey Fundraiser

Our deepest gratitude to all who made a donation to the Turkey Fund. We collected \$2,800.00. We purchased \$100.00 gift cards from our Script Program for 18 families and sent \$100.00 to the Women's Shelter. We received so many heart-warming thank you notes that made us cry. Here are several:

Dear Ladies,

I can't thank you enough for your kindness and generosity. I was so surprised when I received your cards. Thank you again for making this season a littel easier. Your gift cards were truly appreciated.

Dear Sisters in Christ,

Thank you! I needed that hug!

Dear Ladies of the Philoptochos Society,

I must tell you that your gift came at one of the lowest points of my life. Your gift is greatly appreciated. I guess I felt so far away from my Church and my God. But the Lord sent His flock, you wonderful women, to remind me that I'm not alone and to remind me that He never left me at all. Thank you!

Prepaid Bakesale

Thank you for ording goodies for the holidays. We collected \$1,800.00 The balance of the money from the Turkey

Fundraiser and the proceeds from the bake sale will help us meet our obligations until we have another fund raiser.

Senior Citizens Christmas Party

On December 7, 2006 our seniors met for their annual Christmas Party. A good time was has by all. We are very sorry that the weather kept some of you away. We are looking forward to next year. (See photos in this issue of The Herald.)

Membership Drive

WE NEED YOU ... EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU! We have been asking you to join the Philoptochos to no avail. Mothers: we know you have commitments to your children; basketball, soccer, gymnastics, swimming, track, etc. However, these commitments are every week. We are not asking you to commit to Philoptochos every week, but just a few hours every 2 or 3 months. Our membership drive will start in January.

Next year our chapter will celebrate 75 years. Please join, give us your ideas, help in what every committee you would like.

Next Meeting

The first meeting of the New Year will be in the library on Sunday, January 21, 2007 after Divine Liturgy. Please make arrangement to come. I look forward to seeing everyone.

Esther Ladakos, President



Philoptochos Fellowship: Ladies from the Philoptochos Society who assist at Wednesday Lunch turned the tables and enjoyed a meal out of their own at Sorgel's on November 14. Thank you for all your dedicated sacrifice and love fot the Lord's Holy Church, ladies!



Voula Hareras

ΦΩΣ ΜΕΓΑ

Φως! 'Ο πρώτος λόγος του Δημιουργού Θεού, ή πρώτη Του θέληση κι απόφαση, ήταν για τὸ φῶς. Γενηθῆτω φῶς εἶπε, κι ἔλαμψε τὸ φῶς. Ὑποχώρησε τότε τὸ σκοτάδι πού τύλιγε τὸ σύμπαν. Κι ὅλα ἐγιναν ὁρατά, ὅλα φωτεινά. Ἀρχισε πλέον ἡ ζωὴ. Μέσα στὸ ὑπέροχο αὐτὸ δῶρο τοῦ Θεοῦ, τὸ φῶς, μέσα στή φωτιστική καὶ θερμαντική του παρουσία ἐγιναν ὅλα ὅσα θέλησε ὁ Δημιουργὸς Θεός. Ἐγινε ὁ πανέμορφος κόσμος μας. Δημιουργήθηκε κι ὁ ἄνθρωπος, πού μπορούσε νὰ βλέπει καὶ νὰ χαίρεται καὶ ν' ἀπολαμβάνει τὰ θαυμάσια τοῦ Θεοῦ.

Ἦρθε ὁμως καὶ ἡ τραγικὴ ὥρα. Ἡ ὥρα τῆς παρακοῆς στή θεϊκὴ ἐντολή, ἀπὸ τοὺς πρώτους ἀνθρώπους. Ἀδὰμ καὶ Εὐα, στὸν Κήπο τῆς Ἑδέμ. Καὶ μετὰ... Μετὰ ἀπλώθηκε σκοτάδι, ἓνα ἀλλιώτικο σκοτάδι, πνευματικό. Ἐχασε τὴ Χάρη τοῦ Θεοῦ ὁ ἄνθρωπος. Κι ἀρχισε νὰ πλανιέται ἀναζητώντας νόημα καὶ σκοπὸ στή ζωὴ του. Ποιὸς μπορούσε νὰ διαλύσει αὐτὸ τὸ σκοτάδι, Μεγάλα ἀνθρώπινα πνεύματα πάσχισαν νὰ ρίξουν κάποιο φῶς. Ὅμως καὶ οἱ πιὸ μεγάλες ἐμπνεύσεις τους, τὰ πιὸ μεγάλα πετάγματα τοῦ νου τους ἦσαν ἀδύναμα. Ἦσαν φῶτα, χίλια φῶτα – ὅπως τὸ 'πε στοχαστικὰ ὁ ποιητής – μὰ δὲν ἦταν τὸ φῶς! Κι ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἀναζητοῦσε φως, περισσότερο φως.

Μέσα σ' αὐτὸ τὸ ἀδιέξοδο κι ὅταν τὸ σκοτάδι ἐγινε πολὺ βαθύ, ὅτε ἦλθε τὸ πλήρωμα τοῦ χρόνου, ἐξαπέστειλεν ὁ Θεὸς τὸν Υἱὸν αὐτοῦ. Καὶ τότε, ὅπως τὸ εἶχε προφητεύσει ὁ Ἡσαΐας, ὁ λαὸς ὁ καθήμενος ἐν σκότει εἶδε φῶς μέγα καὶ τοῖς καθημένοις ἐν χώρα καὶ σκιά θανάτου φῶς ἀνέτειλεν αὐτοῖς. (Ματθ. δ' 16). Ἀνέτειλε τὸ Φῶς τὸ Μέγα. Ὁ Ἥλιος τῆς Δικαιοσύνης, Χριστὸς ὁ Θεός, ὁ ἐνανθρωπήσας Θεὸς ἡμῶν.

Φῶς Μέγα ἀνέτειλε, ἀπὸ τὴ Φάτνη τῆς Βηθλεὲμ, ἀπὸ τὸ Θεῖο Βρέφος, πού γεννήθηκε ταπεινά, γιὰ νὰ πλησιάσει τὸν ἄνθρωπο, νὰ ζήσει τὴ ζωὴ του καὶ νὰ τοῦ τὴν ἀλλάξει. Νὰ τοῦ δώσει τὴ δύναμη νὰ πετύχει τὸ σκοπὸ πού τοῦ ὅρισε ὁ Δημιουργὸς του: Νὰ ὁμοιάσει στὸ Θεό.

Ὁ Χριστὸς εἶναι τὸ Φῶς. Κι ὅσοι πιστεύουμε δυνατὰ ὅτι εἶναι Φῶς ἐκ Φωτός, Θεὸς Ἀληθινός,

ὅπως διακηρύττουμε στὸ Σύμβολο τῆς Πίστεώς μας, μπορούμε νὰ ἔχουμε ἀπλετο φῶς στὶς στράτες τῆς ζωῆς μας. Νὰ βλέπουμε καθαρά ὡς τὸ βάθος τοῦ ὀρίζοντα τῆς ζωῆς. Νὰ γεμίζουμε μὲ τὴν αἰσιοδοξία καὶ τὸ θάρρος, πού δίνει τὸ φῶς. Νὰ πολεμάμε καὶ τὰ σκοτάδια, πού ἀπλώνει γύρω μας ὁ σκοτεινὸς διάβολος.

Αὐτὸ τὸ Φῶς τὸ μοναδικό, τὸ αἰώνιο καὶ ζωοποιό, ἀς πλησιάσουμε καὶ τὰ φετεινὰ Χριστοῦγεννα. Βρίσκεται στήν Ἐκκλησία καὶ τὰ Ἱερά Μυστήρια. Αὐτὸ τὸ Φῶς, ὁ Χριστὸς, θὰ κάνει καὶ μᾶς – καὶ καθένα πού Τὸν πλησιάζει – φωτεινούς, ὁλόφωτους.

Καλὰ Χριστοῦγεννα!

ΠΡΟΣ ΤΗΝ ΝΙΚΗΝ

Η ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΠΑΡΑΜΟΝΗ

Χριστοῦγεννα, χαρὰ μου παιδική,
μυρτιές καὶ κάλαντα γεμάτη
καὶ στὸ μικρὸ καλύβι τοῦ φτωχοῦ
καὶ στὸ ψηλὸ, τρανὸ παλάτι.

Τὰ σπιτία, οἱ δρόμοι, τὰ καμπαναρία
ὅλα πλημμύρισαν μαγεῖα.
Πλημμύρισ' ὅλ' ἡ γῆ φῶς ἱλαρὸ
κι ἐγιν' οὐράνια πολιτεία!

Ἄκου τὰ σήμαντρα τῆς ἐκκλησιάς:
Ντάν! Ντάν! γεμίζουν τὸν ἀγέρα.
Τί κι ἂν πολέμου ἀκούγεται βουή
κι ἀτομοβόμβα καὶ φοβέρα,...

Χριστὸς γεννᾶται! Μὲς' στήν ταπεινὴ
τὴ φάτνη σταματὰ ἡ ματιά μου.
--Πές μου, δὲν εἰν ἡ δύναμη τῆς γῆς
ὅλη δική σου, Βασιλιά μου,

Ἡ χάρη πού στὸν κόσμο σου σκορπὰς
δὲν εἰν εἰρήνη κι εὐδοκία,
Κοντὰ σου, τάχα, ποιὸς θὰ φοβηθεῖ
μέσα στοῦ κόσμου τὴν κακία,...

Ὑμνους μᾶς φέρνει ἀπόψε ἀπ' τὴ Βηθλεὲμ
καὶ μοσχολίβαν' ὁ ἀγέρας.
Πέρ ἀπ' τοὺς λόγγους της, τίς ρεματιές,
Τὸν ἦχο τῆς γλυκιάς φλογέρας...

Χριστοῦγεννα, χαρὰ μου παιδική,
Θρονιάσου στὸ ψηλὸ παλάτι,
καὶ στὸ μικρὸ καλύβι τοῦ φτωχοῦ
μυρτιές καὶ κάλαντα γεμάτη.

Χλὴ Ἀχαικοῦ

*Εὐχομαι σέ ὅλους σας Χαρούμενα Χριστοῦγεννα καὶ
εὐτυχισμένους ὁ Νέος Χρόνος!* *Βούλα Χαρερά*



Vickie Bellios

ΑΝΑΜΝΗΣΙΣ

Ελάτε να πιούμε
τον καφέ μας.
Να ανάψουμε τον αργηλέ μας.
Να πάνε τα φαρμάκια κάτω.
Και έπειτα πάμε παρακάτω.

Αχ, πούνε η καλή παραία
Που ήταν όλα τόσο ωραία.
Μες τις αυλής μας το πεζούλι
Που παίζαμε μικροί κρυφτούλι μας.

Parties, Clubs, και μεγαλεία
Δεν είχαμε στην συνήκια
Μια φτωχική μικρή βεγγέρα
Και τους γειτόνους για παραία.



Οτι κι'αν έλθη μες στο νού μας
Μας φέρνει πίσω τους γωνιούς μας
Και τα παληά ωραία χρόνια
Που ζήσαμε μες τα μπαλκόνια.

Και αν δεν είχαμε μπαλκόνια
Τραβάγαμε τις καρεκλίτσες
Και τα σκαμνάκια στις αυλίτσες.

Αρχίζαμε την κουβεντούλα
Πότε για μια και πότε γι' άλλη
Το φούρναρη και τον μπακάλη.

Τα νέα ήτανε κοντά μας
Μεσα στην ίδια γειτονιά μας
Τι έκανε η Αργυρούλα
Και πως το πήρε η Σταυρούλα.

Πως άλλαξε η Μαρηγούλα
Που πήγε χθες η Σταματούλα.
Η Τούλα θύμωσε την Θάλη
Και μάλωσε με την Μιχάλη.

Αργά τη νύχτα ακουγόνταν
Οι πόρτες που σιγά εκλειόνταν.
Ελέγαμε την καληνύχτα
Και στο κρεββάτι με τα νύχια.

Να μην ξυπνήσουν στην βεράντα
Αυτοι που πλάγιαζαν στη μπράντα.
Και όλοι εμείς να ξαπλωθούμε
Γιατι πρωί θα συκοθούμε.



Την άλλη μέρα στις χαρές μας
Θα'ρχίζαμε ολοι τις δουλιές μας.
Καθάριζμα φαί και πλήση
Χωρίς κανέναν να μηλήση.

Κ'ετσι επέρναγε η ζωή μας
Ομορφα ένοιεθε η ψυχή μας
Χωρίς πολλά μοντέρνα πλούτη
Που έχει η ζωή ετούτη.

Δεν θα ξανάρθουν τα ωραία
Τα χρόνια αυτά με την παραία.
Μονο θα ζουν στις αναμνήσεις
Και θα μας φέρνουν συγγινησεις.

Vickie Bellios

Part of a special series of educational features designed to provide "continuing education" to our parishioners. Taken from the publication, "Our Worship," which examines and explains the main elements of worship in the Orthodox Christian Church.

FOCUS ON THE SPIRIT: FASTING

An important part of the Church's worship is **fasting**. Fasting is an ancient and universal practice of abstinence from all or certain foods.

For us, fasting is *not*

- An exercise of self-punishment
- A matter of matter of keeping Church "laws"
- A means of displaying our religious piety
- A way to acquire physical benefits or spiritual powers.

Fasting is a means of self-discipline.

In fasting ...

- We gain strength over the passions, our wayward impulses and impure desires.
- We prove to ourselves that "*Man does not live by bread alone*" (Matthew 4:4), but true life consists of and depends on the life-giving, grace-bestowing Word of God.
- We grow in the grace of repentance, turning our whole lives away from evil and commending our whole selves to God.
- We prepare for the worthy reception of the precious gifts of God given in the Eucharist and in the great Feasts such as Pascha.

There are many things, including food, which are within our control. Many times we allow such things to control us instead. Our lives become imbalanced in order to put aside such preoccupations and to allow us the time and spirit to look more deeply within ourselves, the Church prescribes times of fasting.

Fasting is *not merely refraining from certain foods*. St. John Chrysostom asks "*What good is fasting from food if we do not fast from sins? What good is it to be careful not to eat meat and yet be unconcerned about the violence we are doing to the poor? What gain have we if we avoid wine but still are drunk with pleasures?*"

Fasting often results in a clarity of mind and a warmth of heart. Fasting helps us concentrate on the will of God and develops compassion for the plight of our neighbor.

Four Special Seasons

We observe four seasons of special attention to the spiritual life:

- **The Great Fast and Holy Week** — from the Monday after Forgiveness (Cheesefare) Sunday through Lazarus Saturday and then with renewed intensity in Holy Week until Pascha;
- **Nativity Fast** — November 15 through December 24 (abridged in some traditions);
- **Holy Apostles' Fast** — From the Monday after All Saints Day to the Feast of Saints Peter & Paul, June 29;
- **Dormition Fast** — August 1 to the Feast of the Dormition of the Holy Mother of God, August 15.

In addition we fast on:

- **Every Wednesday and Friday** (except in fast-free weeks, such as the week after the Nativity, the Bright Week after Pascha and certain other weeks) to remember the betrayal and death of Christ;
- **The Eve of the Theophany** (Epiphany) January 5;
- **The Beheading of the Forerunner and Baptist, John**, August 29;
- **The Exaltation of the Cross**, September 14.

Is Fasting Just Another Obsession?

Anything good can be perverted to its opposite. That's why fasting is a matter to be worked out with one's spiritual advisor and should be practiced together with the Sacrament of Repentance.

Fasting should free us up to concentrate on more important matters than food and drink. These include works of charity and caring.

If you are concentrating more on food and food preparation in the Lenten seasons, you might ask yourselves what purpose your fasting is achieving.

*This space available
for your business or
annual commemora-
tive listing. Contact the
Church Office for
information.*

Thank You

to these patrons and
businesses for sponsoring this
issue of the *Herald*. If you would
like information on becoming a
Herald patron, please contact
the church office. To become a
Personal Sponsor on special
occasions, see the form below.



21460 1 STREET SUITE 102
CARLEO E. PA 15134



Spinnaker Group
Samuel William Spinnaker, CFP, CFPA
First Vice President
Senior Residential Director
Wealth Management Advisor
Jill L. Spinnaker, CFP, CFPA
Financial Advisor
Todd C. Todorich, CFP
Financial Advisor
Robert M. Lewis, CFP
Financial Advisor

Global Private Client Group
4467 Third Street
Des Moines, Pennsylvania 15009
724.773.8700
800.813.5191
FAX 724.773.7060
<http://www.merrill.com>
The_Spinnaker_Group

STEPHEN M. BRADY FUNERAL HOME

412-321-0495

920 Cedar Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA
Expert **Pre-Need** Planning & Funding

Salonika Imports

Food Importer and Distributor

Chris T. Balouris

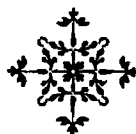
3509 Smallman St, Pittsburgh, PA 15201

Phone: 412.682.2700 www.salonika.net

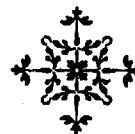
retail store hours:

Mon to Fri 9am-4pm & Sat. 10am-3pm

In loving memory
of my brother,



Michael



Louis Manesiotis
and family

EYE PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS, LTD.

Christ A. Balouris, M.D.

Comprehensive Ophthalmology

Downtown Center City Tower 412-281-5876

N. Hills Pgh. Office and Research Park 412-364-5282

Fox Chapel St. Margaret Medical Arts Bldg. 412-784-9060

Shadyside Aiken Professional Building 412-621-9060

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cemetery

McCandless Township, North Hills

Serving the needs of our community since 1945. Please,
consider Holy Trinity Cemetery in your estate planning.
Many lots are available at the very reasonable price of
\$500 each.

Contact Cemetery Chairman Bill Fiedler
412-364-1545

HERALD PERSONAL SPONSOR FORM

Please enclose a donation of at least \$20.00

NAME:

PHONE:

ADDRESS:

I/we wish to sponsor a *Herald*. Please include the following message:

☐ In memory of... ☐ For the health of... ☐ In thanksgiving for... ☐ In honor of... ☐ To the Glory of God...

☐ other: ()

(list names or further information here):



2007 Holy Trinity House/Business Blessing Request Form	
	Name
	Address
	City, State, Zip
	Daytime phone: Evening phone:
	Notes, directions or special information
<p align="center">(NOTE: You may also EMAIL this information to: fjt@HolyTrinityPgh.org)</p>	
<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 blessing for your family, home or business, please mail or deliver this form to the church office <u>by January 5</u>. Your date and time will be confirmed the day before your visit. Note: Please be available at the time indicated on the schedule. Re-scheduling will only be done in cases of inclement weather. Thanks!</p>	

Scripture of the Month: “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” (Joshua 24.15)