



# THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

JUNE - JULY 2007

VOLUME 15 • ISSUE 6

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH • PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

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## QUICK NEWS



On Sunday, June 3, enthusiastic players and fans gathered at Bellevue Memorial Park for the now-annual "All Ages Baseball Game" during the Holy Trinity Community Picnic. Both the picnic and the ball game gave everyone an opportunity to experience one of the best parts of life around Holy Trinity Church: community fellowship. For more photos of this and other Holy Trinity community events, see the Community Life Photo Journal, pages 9 to 16.



**SAINT PAUL THE APOSTLE - FEAST DAY: JUNE 29**  
14TH CENTURY MOSAIC ICON FROM  
THE MONASTERY OF CHORA IN CONSTANTINOPLE

PHOTOGRAPHED BY JAMES PORTELLOS ON APRIL 12 DURING THE RECENT PILGRIMAGE

**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 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                  Nikki Marsh

John Phillips                         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



June is here this morning, and the sun is shining hot;  
Oh! let us fill our hearts up with the glory of the day,  
And banish ev'ry doubt and care and sorrow far away.

James Whitcomb Riley

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In a slight departure from the usual scriptural or patristic quote at the top of my letter, I have chosen a pericope from a famous Indiana writer and poet. Why? Simple: to celebrate the month of June! Indeed, June of the year 2007 at Holy Trinity Church is indeed a month in which we can rejoice.

Perhaps one of the best reasons is the delightful community fellowship experience of the picnic on Sunday, June 3rd; or maybe it was walking into the festival cooking evening on Tuesday, June 5th and finding such an enthusiastic and ambitious group of Holy Trinity family members offering of themselves with such joy. Either way, as the poem above states, the sun is shining hot at Holy Trinity if we understand it to be the warmth of the Holy Spirit and the divine illumination of our gracious and loving God.

But it goes further. The Lord is not simply shining that sun upon us, but using it to illumine the path and brightening the future of Holy Trinity Church with some very significant and historic events during the month of June. Among them are the following, some of which have been publicly announced and others of which are works-in-progress which need our prayers and support:

- 1. Taking Ownership of New Property:** In what is the largest single financial and geographical event in Holy Trinity Church's 84-year history, a check for the balance of the \$1,050,000.00 price will be presented this month when the closing on the new property takes place and Holy Trinity Church becomes the new owner of 10 magnificent acres of land at the corner of Babcock Blvd. and Cumberland Road.
- 2. The Selection of the Chapel Iconographer:** After a lengthy search and interview process, an iconographer has been chosen for the holy endeavor of completing the iconography at the Saint George Chapel at Holy Trinity Cemetery. Many people have been waiting patiently for information on iconography plans and prices. Now that the iconographer has been engaged, plans will be forthcoming shortly.
- 3. The Selection of the New Church Architect:** The Vision Committee and Parish Council have been working fervently and cooperatively to keep the various timelines for the new property synchronized, and a keystone item to be decided this month is the selection of an architect. This very significant decision will lay a foundation upon which the entire new church project is built (literally!) and is a choice that will form the visible image of Holy Trinity Church for generations to come. Please pray for the Lord's wisdom to guide the choice.

Why are all these so important? June is often portrayed as a month for weddings. Well, in a very real way this generation is this month wedding Holy Trinity Church to a future filled with much promise, hope and brightness. It will not be easy; no great strides are. But, by the grace of God and standing in the light of His love, we will do it. So, this month, this June, and in every month from here on, "let us fill our hearts up with the glory of the day, and banish ev'ry doubt and care and sorrow far away." Remember, "they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles" (Isaiah 40.31).

Herald Personal Sponsor for this Issue:

**In Loving Memory of Gus Hareras (1927-1983)  
May His Memory Be Eternal!**

**WORSHIP LIFE**

**9:30 Regular Divine Liturgy Hours . . . . . Now in Effect**

Don't forget, regular 9:30 Divine Liturgy hours have resumed effective April 1. Orthros is at 8:30 a.m. and Divine Liturgy starts at 9:30 a.m. for both Sunday and weekday services through October. Please set your clocks and your personal schedules to be there on time.



**Summer Sermons Reminder**

Please don't forget that during the summer months, when there is no Church School, the sermon is offered at its proper liturgical place following the Gospel. Much as we are all reminded how important it is to arrive for the start of Divine Liturgy, perhaps there are times of genuine, urgent need that prohibit our personal on-time arrival. If you arrive during the sermon, please remember to quietly enter through the Narthex to the BACK of the Nave (the interior section of the church) and wait there until the sermon is over. If there is room in the back row to sit, you may do so, but please do NOT distract others by walking forward to your pew during the sermon. Also, please do make your late arrival a double-penalty by missing the entire sermon waiting in the Narthex. The Narthex doors are to remain open during the sermon so that all may benefit from the lessons about our Faith. Thank you for your cooperation.

**Summer Worship Attire**

Please remember that even during the summer months when many people like to keep things "casual," entering the Holy Church is still a sacred experience which our preparation and attire should reflect. Everyone should refrain from wearing shorts and t-shirts and women are asked, as usual, to wear dresses or skirts instead of pants. While we will not impress the Lord with clothing, we will honor Him with our modesty and piety. As the scriptures say, "Holiness befits Your house, O Lord, for evermore" (Psalm 93.5).



**SACRAMENTAL REGISTRY**

**Baptisms**

**Marsh:** The servant of God, Ourania Marsh, daughter of Robert and Nikki Marsh, was received into the Holy Orthodox Christian Faith through the Holy Mystery of Baptism on May 5, 2007. The Godmother was Denise Proakis. May God grant her many years!

**Guimond:** The servant of God, Demitria Guimond, daughter of Guy and Stephanie Guimond, was received into the Holy Orthodox Christian Faith through the Holy Mystery of Baptism on May 26, 2007. The Godmother was Kelly Karavolos. May God grant her many years!



**COMMUNITY LIFE**

**Philoptochos Meeting**

The Philoptochos will hold its last meeting of the season on Sunday, June 24. All members are asked to attend.

**Stewardship Pledges Due**

This issue of *The Herald* contains important Stewardship information: an article by Stewardship Chairman Michael Kriotis and a complete list of 2007 Holy Trinity Stewards. Please read Mike's article carefully and be sure your name is on the list of pledges received.

**Festival Cooking . . . . . Through August**

An updated schedule for Festival Pastry Cooking is enclosed in this issue of *The Herald*. Please note the dates on your schedule and step up to your place as a Holy Trinity steward. Everyone is invited and asked to help. Bring a friend and pack a snack. Call Joyce Athanasiou (412-322-6002) regarding pastry preparation, Paula Valliant (412-487-3977) for dolmathes or Kay Balouris (412-766-1263) for other food cooking dates. Most importantly, keep in mind that each of us has an important part in this very large labor of love. Please don't wait for a phone call: consider yourself invited!



**Holy Trinity Day at the Pirates. . . . . July 1**

Join your fellow parishioners, family and friends for Holy Trinity day at the Pirates, Sunday July 1. Tickets are only \$9.00 for the game. There will also be a pre-game tailgate in the church parking lot, then save on parking, too, by just walking to the game!



Buy your tickets during Coffee Hour or contact Greg Morris at 412-952-1556.

**Festival Dates . . . . . August 29-September 2**

Don't forget to keep August 29-September 2 free to work at, eat at, bring your friends to and enjoy the Holy Trinity Greek Festival. Please don't wait until the last minute to help: please show up for cooking now and sign up to help at the Festival as soon as the sign-up boards appear at Coffee hour.

Also, there are important Festival documents in this issue. There is a Festival Ad Book form, which is a great way to support the event. There is also a flyer you can share with your friends and co-workers. Don't forget, word-of-mouth is the best form of advertising! Thanks for your help.

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



Father John Androutsopoulos

THE FEAST DAY OF THE GLORIOUS SAINTS AND HEADS OF THE APOSTLES, SAINTS PETER & PAUL: JUNE 29

Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

The Apostle Paul, writing to the Romans, declared that Jesus Christ suffered death upon the Cross for our redemption and reconciliation. Paul could not spurn the love of God and refuse His saving grace. By the one offering of Himself, Jesus Christ gave a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. "God shows His love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). (For the story of the conversion of Saul (Paul), read Acts 9:1-26.)

Filled by God's Love

"To know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that you might be filled with all the fullness of God." (Ephesians 3:19).

The Apostle Paul tells us that God's love can be fully experienced in all its dimensions "with all saints"—as a community. Many of us can witness to the wonderful revelation of God's love and guidance granted to the Church and its faithful in times of peril and persecution. United in Him, our hearts are open to a fuller understanding of Christ's love, which surpasses knowledge.

Responding to God's Love

"We know that in everything God works for good with those who love Him, who are called according to His purpose" (Romans 8: 28).

Many centuries ago, the Apostle Paul expressed a heartening insight about God's love when he wrote: "In everything God works for good with those who love Him." He learned that even the darkest experiences of life can be filled with blessings and joy because God loves us and works with those who love Him.

How much more radiant the lives of many of us would be if we loved God deeply enough to trust in Him, never doubting His love for us! How much more meaningful our lives if

we trusted the working of God's good purpose even in our darkest experiences!

"Now our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and God, even our Father, who has loved us, and has given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts, and fortify you in every good deed and work" (2 Thessalonians 2:16-17).

Trusting God's Love

Because God loves us, we can trust Him when life appears to have more shadow than sunshine. We know that nothing can come into life to separate us from the love of God. There are times when difficulties, problems, and distresses of life seem to shut out the love of God from our view. Yet whether we can see the love of God in our daily lives or not, it is there just the same. His love never fails us.

"Love never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away" (1 Corinthians 13:8). St. Paul, the Apostle, had abundant opportunity to test God's love, and his verdict was: "Love never faileth."

The Abundance of God's Love

It was out of the abundance of God's love that Jesus offered "living water" not only to the woman at the well at Sychar, but to all persons everywhere.

"But the solid foundation that God has laid cannot be shaken; and these words are written on it. "The Lord knows those who are His;" and, "Whoever says that he belongs to the Lord must turn away from wrongdoing " (2 Timothy 2:19).

Standing on God's Love

In our lives, everything shifts continually, but Jesus Christ stands more secure with every passing storm. We can build safely on Him as our sure foundation. Let us rely more upon Christ that He may depend more on us. Thus we can make our actions, prayers,

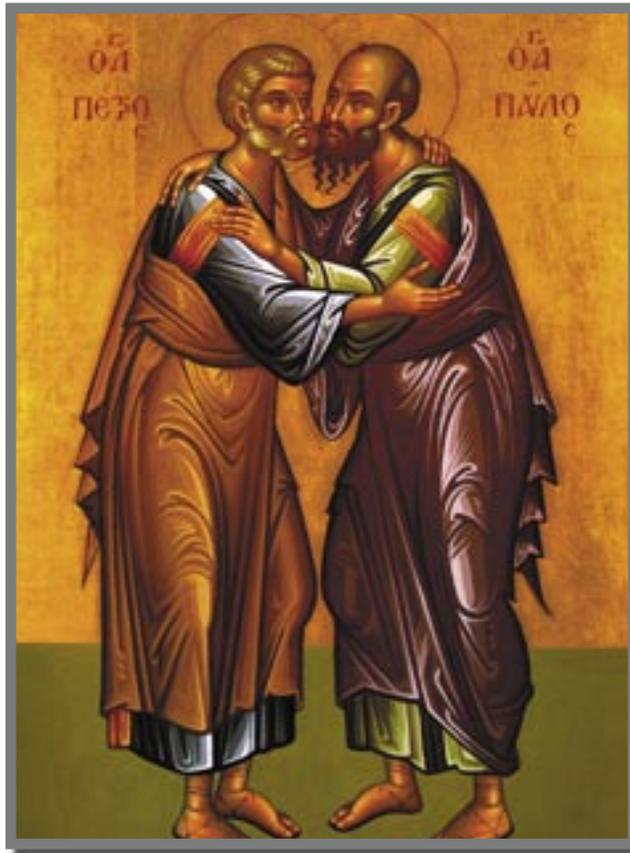
and thoughts to be "rooted and grounded in love."

Orthodox Christians all over the world are proving daily that the foundation of God stands sure. He knows then who are His.

Are we His?

With His Love,

Rev. Fr. John K. Androutsopoulos





Voula Hareras

## Για Τα 150 Χρόνια του Θανάτου του Διονυσίου Σολώμου

Οι Ελευθεροί Πολιορκημένοι  
στο αλώνιακι του Σολώμου

Οι γραμμές που ακολουθούν  
σ' αυτό το σημείωμα, επιδι-  
ώκουν να παρουσιάσουν το  
υψος ή το βάθος ή το απροσίτο  
καλλός μέσα στο οποίο ο Σολ-  
ώμος ετοποθετήσε ως υπερκοσ-

μιο ανθοδεσμη ιδεών την παρουσία της παγκοσμίας  
ελευθερίας της ανθρωπίνης ψυχής, χάριν της οποίας  
αξιίζει πάσα θυσία εκ μέρους του ανθρώπου τουτού

το εγχείρημα θα απαιτούσε ένα δεύτερο  
Σολώμο — και μακαρι να μπορούσε  
να βρεθή στις ημέρες μας — για να  
κατορθώση αυτός ο αξίος ερμηνευτής  
να αναστηλώση στο δοξασμένο αλώνιακι  
της θυσίας το πανανθρώπινο καλυ-  
βάκι της Ελευθερίας. Γιατί περί αυτού  
προκειται με τους Ελευθερούς Πολιορκ-  
ημένους, που ξεκίνησε να ενθρονισή  
ο Ποιητής — Έλληνας ήταν — στο  
παγκόσμιο μέγαρο της ελευθερίας του  
ανθρώπου.

Σκοπός μας και χρέος μας είναι, στην  
αναμνησί των 150 χρόνων του θανάτου  
του, να σταθούμε με σεβασμό μπροστά  
στα σύμβολα, που ο ίδιος ο Διονύσιος Σολώμος έστησε  
στο ατελείωτο αριστούργημά του, για να παρουσιάση  
λίτα, αληθινά και με πανανθρώπινη παραδοχή και θαυ-  
μάσμο τις αξεπεραστές αξίες — ιδέες του ανθρώπου.

Είναι αξιοθαύμασμο το γεγονός ότι ο κορυφαίος  
μας Ποιητής ένωσε με τα πιο απλά στοιχεία της καθη-  
μερινής ζωής ιδέες μεγάλης, πανανθρώπινης αξίας,  
που αναλαμβάνουν να υπερασπισθούν είτε ο, τι έχει  
βαρυτητα στη ζωή, είτε αυτό που είναι απαραίτητο να  
σταθή ορθό, όπως και η ίδια η ζωή.

Τον τόπο της θυσίας, την πόλι που η Ιστορία θα  
την ονομάση ιεράν πόλιν, όπου θα διαδραματισθή η  
μεγάλη αιματηρή προσφορά του Ελληνικού θαύματος  
της παλιγγενεσίας, θα τον ονομάση: το αλώνιακι. Κι  
είναι αυτό το Μεσολόγγι! Δεν διαλέγει τις πιο σποψ-  
δαίες λέξεις για να εντυπωσιάση με υπερβολές ο  
Σολώμος. Αν το έργο είναι μεγάλο, ούτε ο τόπος ούτε  
ο άνθρωπος, που το επιτελεί, του φορεί περικεφάλαια  
ή αξία του εγκείται σ' αυτό που είναι. Αρκεί να ξερή  
κάνεις τι είναι το κάθε τι και να νοιώθη να το ονο-  
μάση.

Αλώνιακι λοιπόν ο τόπος της θυσίας κι ο ηρωικός  
υπερασπιστής της: ο άντρας, που κλαίει όχι που

καμαρώνει, που μεγαλαυχεί, που προκαλεί. Τα έχει  
δώσει όλα για την Ελευθερία. Και τώρα πεινάει, αλλά  
δεν κλαίει γι' αυτό. Κλαίει διότι η πείνα του πήρε  
τις δυνάμεις και δεν μπορεί να σηκώση το ντουφεκι...  
να πολεμήση.

Στέκει ο Σουλιώτης ο καλός παραμερά και κλαίει  
έρμο τουφεκι σκοτεινό, τι σ' έχω εγώ στο χέρι; — όπου  
συ μωγίνες βαρύ, κι ο Αγαρήνος το ξέρει. Τιποτά  
άλλο, δεν χρειάζονται λόγια.

Να και η μαννα στη σκηνή! Η μαννα η Μεσολογ-  
γιτίσσα που τα χεί βαλεί όχι με τους Τούρκους, αλλά  
με το πουλάκι. Γιατί; Γιατί αυτό, το πουλάκι, βρίσκει  
σπείρακι — ίσως για το δικό του παιδί — κι η Μαννα  
η ηρωίδα το φρονεί αυτή δεν έχει να δώση στα δικα-  
της παιδιά ούτε ένα σπείρι. Του ανθρω-  
που τα παιδιά φθαρμένα και μαύρα, σαν  
ησκίους ονείρου σκίζουν της Μαννας  
την καρδιά! — Ποσο πραγματικά ανθρ-  
ωπίνα εκφράζεται ο Σολώμος! Και μετά,  
ο πικρός αντιλαλός των ξένων — αλλο-  
μόνον! — θεατών.

Φοβούνται γυρού τα νησιά παρα-  
καλούν και κλαίνε, κι οι ξένοι ναυκ-  
ληροί μακριά πικραίνονται και λένε.  
Αραπίας ατι, Γάλλου νους, σπαθί  
Τουρκίας μολυβί, πελαγο μέγα βράζ ο  
εχθρός προς το φτώχο καλυβί. Με ποση  
συμπυκνωμένη λιτοτητα περιγράφεται  
ο χαλασμός! Και η θυσία: Ετούτειν η  
υστερή νυχτιά όλα τ' αστέρια βγάνει  
ολονυχτίς ανεβάνει η δεήσις, το λιβάνι.

Γλυκεία κ' ελευθερή ψυχή σα να τάνε βγαλμένη,  
κ' υψώναν με χαμογέλο την οψί τη φθαρμένη.

Είναι ετοιμά στην ασπονδή πλημμυρά των  
αρμάτων δρόμο να σχίσουν τα σπαθία, κ' ελευθεροί  
να μείνουν, εκείθε με τους αδελφούς, εδώθε με το  
Χαρό.

Μνησθητι, Κυριε — είναι κοντά.

Μνησθητι, Κυριε, εφανή!

Επαψαν τα φίλια στη γη!...

στα στήθια και στο πρόσωπο,

στα χέρια και στα πόδια.

Μια φουχτά χωμά να κρατώ και να σωθώ μ' εκείνο.

Ο Σολώμος ξέρει τι είναι Πατριδα, τι είναι Τέχνη, τι  
είναι Ζωή και προ πάντος τι είναι δοξα ανθρώπου και  
τι είναι αθανασία.

Γι' αυτό τόλμα να παρουσιάση λίτα την θυσία του  
λαού, για να μείνη ακριβώς αυτό  
που είναι ο λαός αυτός δηλαδή ενθεός.

*Προς Την Νίκη*





**Father Radu Bordeianu**

## "Has Orthodoxy Triumphed?"

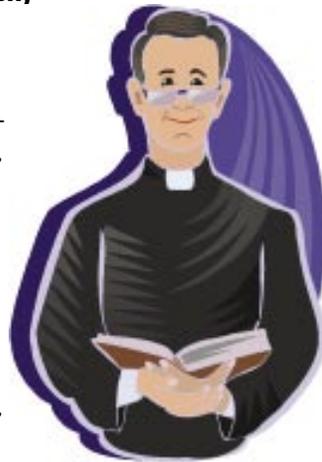
Homily by Father Radu

May 13, 2007

In my sermon today, I will speak about the ways in which Orthodoxy is a meaningful presence in American society. It is important to know this, since these are the things that we should say first, when asked "who are you, the Orthodox?" When responding, we should concentrate on our sense of tradition, our history, our worship, and our good Christian lives. So, what do we answer when asked about the Orthodox faith?

### The Dilemma: Explaining Orthodoxy

About two years ago, I was at a function at Stefan's school, in Raleigh, NC. I was wearing my clerical shirt, and I started a conversation with a lady who was, of course, surprised that a priest had the nerve to show up in public with his kid, assuming that I am a Catholic priest. So, talking about 5 minutes, I explained to her who we are, as Orthodox. I started with us being the Church that she read about in the NT, how we preserved that tradition throughout the centuries, the ecumenical councils that defined our faith, why there was a schism between us and the Catholics in the 11th century, and then finally a little bit about the Protestant reformation in the 16th century and onwards. Thus, the Orthodox Church is the continuation of the Church of the New Testament, up to nowadays. I thought I gave her a pretty good explanation, until she replied, "I have been once to a bar-mitzvah." She thought I was Jewish.



### Are You Like the Catholics?

I am sure this happened to all of you, where somebody would ask you who you are as Orthodox, how are you compared to the Jewish faith, and, "Are you some sort of Catholics?" Many times, when we confess our belonging to the Orthodox Church, people do not have even a basic knowledge of who we are, so we have to explain it to them. But what do we tell them? We only have about five minutes of their attention, and we have to give them a meaningful answer, considering that they live in 21st century America.

### Hot to Present the Faith?

I obviously failed in my presentation of Orthodoxy in America, so what am I going to tell you today? Certainly not my own thoughts. I actually taught a class on Eastern Christianity this semester to American students, none of which were Orthodox. For their Final Exam essay, they had to respond the

following question: "How should the Orthodox faithful present their faith in today's American context? What elements of their history, faith, and worship should they emphasize in order to prove that Orthodoxy can bring a contribution to today's society? What would "catch the ear" of Americans today? Most importantly, WHY? What are the grounds for agreement and tension between American mentality and Orthodoxy, so that they would become interested in Orthodoxy?" Pretty easy, most of them got A's. In the following minutes, I will share with you some of their answers.

### The Heritage of Witness and Martyrdom

Some of my students wrote about the history of our Church; not the elements that I would have expected, but others, more meaningful. One emphasized the ability of the Church to endure throughout the centuries, despite "the terror that almost destroyed them during the tyranny of the Bolshevik Revolution and the rule of Stalin" who killed over 30 million people. This endurance "is a huge contribution that has been given to our society today. Orthodox faith never gave up on what they believed in, it wouldn't take no as an answer. It was and forever will be a possible dream. And so often in our society people are willing to give up and take the back seat of mediocrity. People need to look at what the Orthodox did and have that as a reminder that with a mixture of hope and hard work, nothing can stop a dream from becoming a reality."

### The Victory of Hope

Along the same lines, another student wrote: "Orthodoxy should emphasize the longevity of the Church's existence despite persecution because it illustrates how strong faith is. This would be a major contribution to an American society that is plagued with depression; because it demonstrates how this hope and trust is greater than any circumstance no matter how oppressive. When reading The Orthodox Church, the saints that were mentioned did not seem to be depressed or sad about experiencing some difficulty because they knew there was something greater than the trouble around them. I think American society sometimes overemphasizes problems instead of spending more time coming to some resolve." This idea resurfaced in another essay that affirmed that, because Orthodoxy emphasizes the Resurrection of Jesus, rather than on his victimization, Orthodoxy is similar to the history of the United States who accomplished something that was seemingly impossible, that is, the settlers came to this new land, then there was the revolt against the British rule, etc.. America today focuses not on the oppressed, but on overcoming oppression. However, Orthodoxy needs to teach American society that with a great victory come responsibilities of all who are part of it to make the united Body the best it can be." This is a wonderful, deeply spiritual message of hope. It is also quite an accomplishment if someone comes to us and sees hope in the midst of their hardships.

### The Apostolic Faith Preserved

Another student concentrated on the teachings of the Orthodox Church, which were guarded and transmitted faithfully from the beginnings of Christianity. Moreover, she

appreciated the fact that it is not the bishops alone who proclaim the true faith, but their proclamation has to be received through the centuries by the entire Church. She wrote: "the bishop acts as the proclaimer of truth while all the people are guardians of the truth. I think it is important to note that the whole laity is involved in the faith and guarding it, and not the clergy alone. It is not exactly a democracy per se, but the people are involved in the faith and the proceedings surrounding it, which makes it almost like a religion of the people and in a democracy like America, this makes Orthodoxy very likeable and easy to relate to." It is also important to show that Orthodoxy preserved these teachings without addition or omission from the faith of the Apostolic Church.

### **Icons: An Emotional and Spiritual Experience**

Here is what they said in regard to our worship: "As Presbyterians, my church does not use icons, but I see them as a very powerful tool. At one point, Ware says that icons are designed to arouse emotions as well as provide a vision of the spiritual world. Any time I have ever seen an icon or even pictures of churches with elaborate architecture, I was filled with the sense of awe as Ware said. Part of being at a church service is being emotionally and spiritually involved. Icons represent both. Moreover, icons are meant to be spiritual representations. They can provide constant reminders of the faith and its history."



### **Orthodox Unity and Diversity**

Another aspect of our worship is its diversity. As another student wrote, "the Orthodox Churches provide much diversity in worship, customs, and traditions. While the worship in the Russian Orthodox Church may dictate that one stands still throughout the Liturgy, in the churches in Africa the faithful sing loudly and even dance throughout their worship. This diversity respects the different cultures and traditions of all the different groups which make up the Orthodox Church. The Orthodox churches do not require all of the different ethnicities to change parts of their cultures in order to worship. In allowing for such ritual diversity, Orthodoxy allows each follower to worship according to their native culture. The language of the Liturgy is even in the vernacular, the language of the people. This diversity is very important to American society, where as a democratic nation, all people and all forms of belief are equal in value. In the United States it does not matter what one's race or background is, all people are equal, and all have various contributions to society. This attitude is also prevalent in Orthodoxy, where all forms of cultural worship are seen to have value and build up the Body of Christ."

### **Come and See**

So our iconography, architecture, and the Divine Liturgy are powerful testimonies to who we are as Orthodox. This argument seems to be more effective than any theological

discourse. When we do speak theologically, however, one student recommends: "an Orthodox person should always explain his or her religion with patience and love. Finally, the Orthodox person should invite a non-Orthodox person to church with him or her, so that the non-Orthodox can truly experience that which cannot be justly described with words." Thus, we should not be shy in inviting our friends to experience our worship.

### **Making It Real**

All of these, however, are meaningless if we do not live up to our faith. We need to be Orthodox in actions. Another student wrote: "the Orthodox should first expose the character of Christ outside of the church by their actions; especially by genuinely caring for people. People may not understand all of the traditions of Orthodoxy, but people can recognize and are drawn to places that have a genuine love for them. This means creating outreach ministries that will draw people into the structure and order of the church. Presenting words can be effective, but presenting actions is even more powerful."

### **Bringing It All Together**

In conclusion, we all need to be prepared to proclaim our faith in a way that would be meaningful to our partners of discussion. We need to present them with aspects that are relevant to them as Americans, and our answers will differ depending on the person we are talking to. However, we should emphasize our history that shows our faithfulness to Jesus and the Apostles throughout 2000 years of Church history, which shows our endurance and sends a message of hope in the midst of hardships. We should emphasize the truthfulness of our teachings, showing that this is the responsibility of the entire Church, not only of the hierarchy. We should invite them to experience our worship, which is a wonderful, deeply spiritual, way of saying who we are. Most important of all, we need to live as good Christians, worthy heirs of the great treasure that is our faith, Orthodoxy. Amen.

Looking for information on Orthodoxy?  
Want to send inquiring friends to a trustworthy web site for articles, videos and lots more? Check out the award-winning site of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese:  
**[www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)**



Michael Kritiotis

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

**TIYC—TMAY!**

(Curious? Any guesses? You'll need to read on to find the answer...)

The more I study the Gospel reading that is the basis of our Stewardship theme this year—the feeding of thousands with just five loaves and two fish—the more it becomes a great Stewardship lesson.

tional development and stewardship.”

**Stewardship = Personal Discipleship**

So, our purpose is not to create a program to meet certain needs, it is to create discipleship in ourselves. It isn't need-based, it is asset-based. We must ask the question “What do I have and what has God intended for me to do with it?” Not addressing only money, but the whole person, the being that has been put here in God's image to do His work. Just like the disciples, we must take an inventory and make the offering to God with faith in Him.

**Almost 85 Years Old And Still “Growing Up”**

We as a congregation are at a turning point in how we think about and address the challenges we face and the call to mission that is ours. We are about to celebrate our 85th Anniversary next year, yet we are in the midst of a maturation process—we are still “growing up”—when it comes to understanding the connection between our faith and the way we use our resources and gifts to do God's will. I pray that we continue to gain that understanding along our journey and gain so much more: to walk with God, to lend a helping hand to someone in need, to be a friend, to give back.

**A Fresh Look at Stewardship**

One detail that is part of the story has become an epiphany for me that, hopefully, in the coming months I will attempt to relate to you as well as I can—and perhaps re-shape our state and understanding of Christian Stewardship Holy Trinity Church as a result—is this: When the disciples got nervous as the crowd got hungry, they pleaded with Jesus to send them all away. He instead asked a simple but important Stewardship question (Mark 6:38): “How many loaves do you have?”

**Work With What You Have**

He didn't ask “how many loaves do we need?” He determined what was available and made it work. Jesus shows us that stewardship begins with what we have been given as gifts from God. In those gifts are clues to what God is calling us to do with them. Jesus' instruction to go and see what is available is an invitation to all of us to recognize the gifts we have and to discover the mission for which God intends us to use them.

**“Asset-Based Stewardship”**

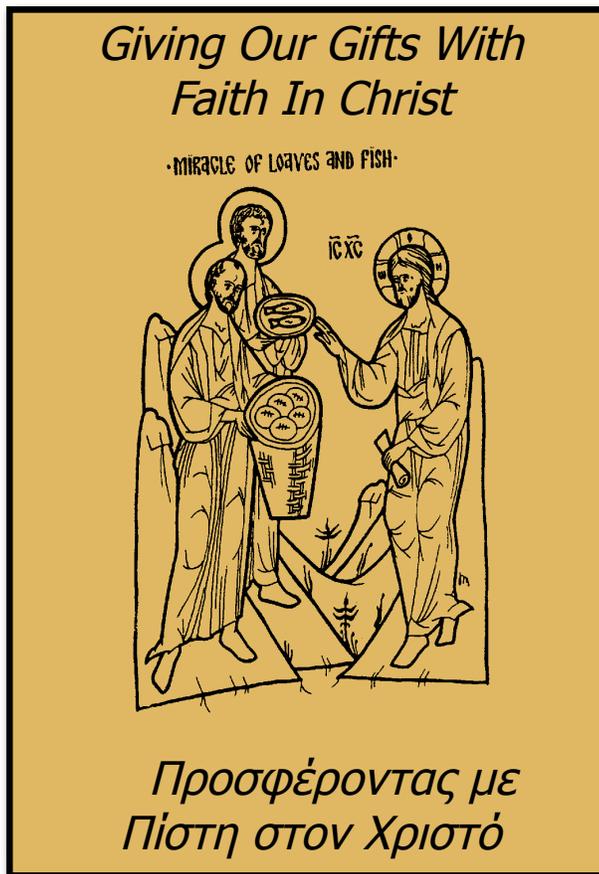
Unfortunately (as noted stewardship writer Barb Fullerton points out), “so much of our Stewardship strategy language focuses on needs. Rather than discovering what God is calling us to do and then finding ways to do it, we sometimes get hung up on what we don't have. Church stewardship is then perceived to be a program--what we do to raise money to meet our needs. The goal of Christian stewardship is conversion of lives and transformation of faith communities. It is about growing disciples whose life decisions, including those about money, are faith-based. It is about developing faithful communities with a vision that emerges from gratitude for God's gifts and discerning in those gifts God's call to mission. This becomes the basis of an asset-based approach to congrega-

though you may not always be around, TIYC—TMAY:

**This  
Is  
Your  
Church –  
Twelve  
Months  
A  
Year!**

Have a blessed and safe summer,

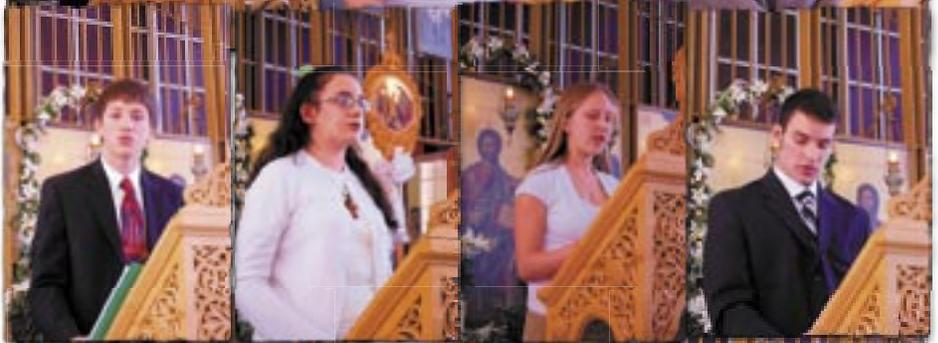
Michael A. Kritiotis  
Stewardship Chairperson



**April 15, 2007:** (Below) Holy Trinity Church held its Parish level Saint John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival. The participants were Konstantine Fekos in the Senior Division, who spoke on Saint Romanos the Melodist, and Marielena Balouris in the Junior Division, who spoke on Saint Katherine. Both participants advanced to the District Festival, which was also hosted by Holy Trinity Church. They are pictured here with Father Radu Bordeianu, Holy Trinity's Assistant Priest. Also below are the evaluators, Dimitris Kraniou, Maria Kraniou and Pennie Hareras.



**April 21, 2007:** (Below) Holy Trinity Church was also the site of the Metropolis Central Region District Finals for the Saint John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival. There were eleven participants from five parishes. Our own Konstantine Fekos was a Senior Division finalist and also participated on May 15th at the Metropolis festival. Marielena Balouris was the 3rd place participant in the Junior Division. The evaluators were Kathryn Myers and Jack Swick, both from Mellon Financial.



Many thanks to Holy Trinity parishioner Amanda Hulse (below), who performed a wonderful act of stewardship to our parish and the Metropolis by chairing both the Holy Trinity and the Metropolis Central Region Oratorical Festivals. Thank you also to Father Radu for his spiritual guidance and George Hulse for the great photos!





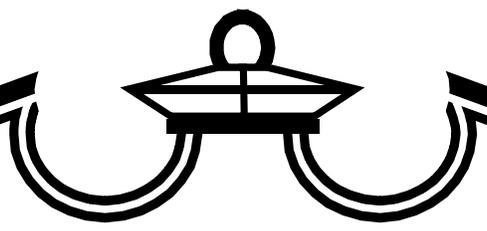
**May 13, 2007:** The Holy Trinity Social Committee hosted the annual Mother's Day Luncheon following Divine Liturgy. Each mother was treated to a complimentary lunch as a sign of love and respect from the parish for the many blessings they bring into our lives. May God grant them all many years and His divine strength in all they do!



# Pentecost Weekend Saturday of Souls | Community Life Photo Journal

**May 26, 2007:** On the annual Pentecost Feast Day Weekend, many faithful parishioners gathered at Holy Trinity Cemetery for the morning Divine Liturgy for the Saturday of Souls at the Saint George Chapel, followed by a day of cleaning, weeding, trimming and planting as acts of love and respect for those hallowed grounds and the beloved souls laid to eternal rest there. Thank you for Cemetary Chairman Bill Fiedler for coordinating the day and to everyone who offered their time, talents and labors for the glory of God!





# HOLY TRINITY CHURCH CLASS OF 2007

Please join us in celebrating the talents and God-given gifts of the students from Holy Trinity Church who are graduating from high school and college this year. We also thank God for the families, relatives and community which have nurtured them in the rich soil of the Holy Orthodox Faith. May God be with them!



**Matthew Balouris**  
Shaler Area High School

During his tenure at Shaler Area High School, Matthew was a WPIAL-qualifier in Track (Javelin), a member of the Model United Nations and winner of the Junior Stock Market contest. He was also voted Best Personality in his senior class. In GOYA he served as Vice-President, played basketball and served on the Hosannah Industries Project. He will be attending La Roche College and majoring in Nursing.

**Rebecca Dickos**  
North Allegheny High School



Rebecca is graduating in the top 5% of her class and is a member of the National Honor Society. She was also a member of the Junior Classical League and participated in the High School Choir. At Holy Trinity Church she has been a Greek dancer, has served as GOYA secretary and has been a Project Mexico missionary. She will be attending Virginia Tech University Honors College and will be majoring in Engineering.



**Helena Erdeljac**  
Vincentian Academy

Helena is graduating with honors from Vincentian Academy, where she was a member of the National Honor Society and participated in the newspaper, Chorus, Chapel Choir and tennis team; she also played leads in various productions in the Musical Theatre. She has been active in GOYA and Church School, including basketball and festivals. She will be attending Duquesne University to major in Business.

**Konstantine Fekos**  
Montour High School



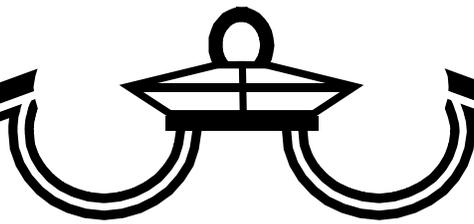
Konstantine has been a long-time participant in the Gifted and Talented Education Program at Mountour and participated in many academic and service programs. He was the news editor of the school paper and he acted in various musicals. He has been an active participant and student with the Byzantine Choir of Pittsburgh, a member of GOYA and recently participated in the Oratorical Festival. He will attend Edinboro College and will major in Journalism.



**Andrew Georgiadis**  
Sewickley Academy

Andrew is graduating with academic honors from Sewickley and was a three-year varsity letterman on the Academy's soccer team. He was also on the tennis team and treasurer of the Young Republicans' Club. He has been very involved with Church School, Acolytes and GOYA, serving as GOYA president this year. He is also a two-time Project Mexico missionary. He will be attending Wooster College to study biology.

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven.  
(Matthew 5.16)



# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!



**Brian Jewell**  
North Allegheny High School

Brian will be graduating from North Allegheny, where he was active in Lacrosse and Soccer. He was the captain of Varsity Men's Soccer during his senior year and a three year soccer letterman. Brian was also involved with the GOAL program and received scholar athlete recognition. He was also a member of Key Club. He will be studying engineering and business at either Colorado, Dayton or Ohio University.

**Veronica Panagiotou**  
North Allegheny High School



Veronica is graduating from North Allegheny with a strong record of serving her community. She was involved in Key Club Int'l. as President of the PA Board of Trustees and participated in Zonta Club, Future Career and Community Leaders of America, Peer Mediation and Pittsburgh Cares. She has been involved in GOYA, Church School and Summer Camp. She will attend Point Park University to study Psychology.



**Jeremy Thomas**  
North Hills High School

Jeremy graduates from North Hills High School with high honors. While there, he was a member of the Science Club, the Computer-Aided Drafting Club and the National Honor Society. He has participated in GOYA, including the basketball and volleyball teams. He plans to attend the University of Pittsburgh in the fall, where he will be enrolled in the School of Engineering.

**Alesandra Trivilas**  
North Hills High School



Alesandra graduated North Hills High School as a member of the National Honor Society and received the North Hills Excellence Award in 2004. She has also participated in German and Spanish Clubs and participated in soccer and school theatre. She played on the GOYA Basketball team in 9th grade. She will be attending Washington and Jefferson College, majoring in Spanish and German.



**Christina Zikos**  
North Allegheny High School

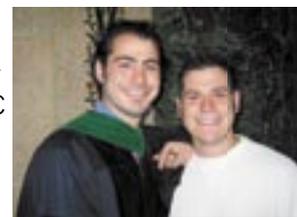
Christina is graduating from North Allegheny, where she participated in cross-country, track, Future Business Leaders of America and the Z-Club. She has also been a volunteer at Allegheny General Hospital. Christina has been actively involved in the GOYA and Church School ministries at Holy Trinity Church. She will be attending the A.J. Palumbo School of Business at Duquesne University to major in finance.

## COLLEGE GRADUATES

**Christopher Bonfield**  
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

**Jonathan Bonfield**  
Washington & Jefferson College

Christopher Bonfield has graduated Cum Laude and will start a residency in neurosurgery at UPMC in June. Jonathan Bonfield has graduated with a degree in Accounting and was a member of the soccer team. Congratulations to these Holy Trinity brothers, sons of Reggie and Marianne Bonfield.



**May 19, 2007:** Holy Trinity GOYA combined its May fellowship meeting with a surprise farewell celebration for Jason Hodge, whose family is moving to Michigan. After a barbeque and outdoor fun, the teens took their turns at whacking open a piñata filled with candy. Below right shows the group's farewell and thank-you gift: a custom Holy Trinity logo basketball!



**May 30, 2007:** The annual GOYA Senior Recognition Dinner was held at the Oxford Athletic Club this year. Graduates (see the names and schools on pages 12-13) were presented with fun gifts prepared by the juniors and honored by their parents and peers. Lower right, the seniors cut the graduation cake before serving it themselves as part of a reminder of their call to service.





**June 3, 2007:** This one's just for the fun of it! The annual Holy Trinity Community Picnic was held at Bellevue park once again, with an old-fashioned barbeque, good company and, of course, the annual baseball game. Above, the entire group gathers in front of the pavillion. Below are scenes from the day, including the all-ages ball game. Thanks to the Social Committee and everyone who came!





**May 20, 2007:** Holy Trinity Church School held its annual graduation ceremony, presenting certificates to all the students and staff who participated in the ministry during the 2006-2007 year. Many thanks to the parents for their support and the staff for their selfless dedication of time and talents for the nurturing and raising of these precious souls in the garden of the Holy Church!

**June 3, 2007:** (Lower left corner) The Greek School also held its graduation ceremony, with presentations of certificates as well as scholarships awarded by local Greek organizations. The awards were presented by Greek School Coordinator Effie Kilantonis.



**Kennywood**

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DAY**

**Music & Dancing  
Ethnic Food**

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**70 + Super Senior Pass ( \$6.00 )**

**Guest ages 3-54 after 5:00 PM \$12.00 (Regularly \$16.00)**

**For Tickets/ Information Phone**

**(412) 824-9188 or (412) 824-4859**

**Tuesday  
July 24, 2007**

Something new and exciting is happening in Pittsburgh ...and beyond! In September 2006, Orthodoxy Now was launched as a weekly 30-minute local access cable television and Internet-based program designed to educate and inform audiences about Orthodox Christianity.

### A Powerful New Outreach Ministry

Orthodoxy Now endeavors to reach a variety of audiences, including: 1) people who are Orthodox Christians through Baptism or Chrismation, 2) elderly or infirm Orthodox Christians who are unable to attend Church services and events, and 3) Orthodox Christians who are not members of a particular parish or community. The program also seeks to address the needs of non-Orthodox and/or non-Christians who may be on a faith journey or otherwise interested in the teachings of the Orthodox Church.

### The Program Format

Each episode of Orthodoxy Now is presented in three major segments—two that feature conversations with noted Orthodox experts or local clergy and one that provides a testimony of experience by an Orthodox Christian. The goal of this approach is to provide viewers with practical applications of Orthodox theological teachings, so that the viewers, in turn, can attempt to incorporate those teachings into their daily lives.

### Where To Find It

Orthodoxy Now airs twice a day on a local access cable television channel that is sponsored by Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania. On Monday of each week, a different episode of Orthodoxy Now is aired. For the next seven days, this same episode is made available “24-hours a day” throughout much of Western Pennsylvania via Comcast On-Demand, a service that enables Comcast digital cable customers to select from a menu of movies and television shows. In addition, episodes of Orthodoxy Now will be made available (in DVD format) to any individuals, organizations, or parishes that wish to purchase them. Archived episodes of Orthodoxy Now are also available (in QuickTime format) on the Internet at [www.OrthodoxyNowTV.com](http://www.OrthodoxyNowTV.com).

### Topics and Guests Featured

At the time of this article’s publication, the following episodes were available on-line: “Christmas” (2006), “End of Life,” “The Incarnation,” “Preaching,” “Sexuality,” “Spiritual Direction,” “Theophany,” “The Theotokos,” and “Vocations.” Other episodes that have been filmed, but are not yet available on the Internet, include “Becoming a god (Theosis),” “Christian Stewardship and the Environment,” “The Crucifixion,” “Pascha,” “Second Chances (St. Mary of Egypt),” and

“The Symbol of the Cross.”

Orthodoxy Now is in production through the efforts of the Orthodox Christian Communications Committee (“OCCC”), a ministry of the Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood of Greater Pittsburgh. The OCCC includes laypeople and clergy with special interest, education, and training in media. All of the program’s hosts, production staff members and guests are volunteers. Guests who have taped segments to date include Father Thomas Hopko, Father Joseph Allen and Mother Magdalena of Holy Transfiguration Monastery in Ellwood City. The program’s hosts are Kweilin Nassar, a familiar television personality in the Pittsburgh viewing area, John Righetti, a veteran Pittsburgh marketing and public relations professional and Father John Abdallah of St. George Antiochian Orthodox Cathedral in Pittsburgh.

### A Paragon of Orthodox Cooperation

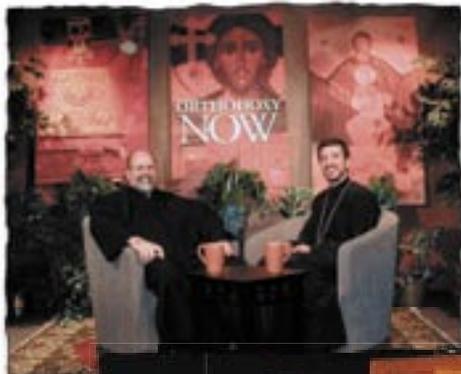
Orthodoxy Now resulted from the cooperation of many different persons and organizations involved in its production, as demonstrated in the following two ways.

First, without the support of non-Orthodox Christians in Pittsburgh, Orthodoxy Now would not have become what it is today. In 2005, Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania—an organization that serves many needs of a variety of Christian communities in the greater Pittsburgh metropolitan area—offered the Orthodox Christian community in Greater Pittsburgh the opportunity to produce and air a television program utilizing the Christian Associates cable channel and television studio (complete with equipment). Christian Associates made a genuine “no strings attached” offer—the Orthodox community could exercise full editorial control and would maintain full ownership of and responsibility for each broadcast. As a result,

Orthodoxy Now was positioned from the beginning to be a multi-media program distributed through television, Internet, and DVD formats.

Second, the start-up and continuing production of Orthodoxy Now is the product of inter-jurisdictional cooperation among the Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood of Greater Pittsburgh. Indicative of this is the composition of Orthodoxy Now’s volunteer staff, which includes representatives from several of the Orthodox jurisdictions within the Greater Pittsburgh area—Carpatho-Russian, Greek, Antiochian, Ukrainian and the Orthodox Church in America. Coincidentally, these Orthodox jurisdictions also participate in the Christian Associates organization.

*This article was excerpted from the June, 2007, issue of “The Word” Magazine, a publication of the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of America. The original article was written by Deacon Andrew Cross, a graduate of the St. Stephen’s Program of Antiochian House of Studies. Used by permission.*



**Top:** Father John Touloumes on an episode of Orthodoxy Now, interviewed by Father John Abdallah. **Bottom:** Holy Trinity parishioner John Fries (left), working with other area Orthodox Christian volunteers on the set of Orthodoxy Now.

Thank you to the many parishioners and friends who offered donations for Lent and Holy Week through the envelope system. Thank you also to the following donors of special flowers and items used during this holy season:

**Salutations to the Theotokos Services**  
**Flowers for the processional and iconostasion icons of the Theotokos**

- Anonymous
- Katherine M. Balouris, for the health of her family
- Peter and Mary Panos
- Anthony & Susan Zikos, in memory of Efthimios Zikos
- Theologia Rigas, in memory of John Rigas
- Stella Kourakos, in memory of Stanley, Irene, Goerge, Chris & Marie Kourakos
- Olga Regakis, in memory of all the deceased
- Nick, Joy, Margo & Ted Loomis, in memory of Mary Kokoros
- Carol Anestis, in memory of Maria and Gus Anestis
- Angie Roman, in memory of Gus Roman

**Lenten, Holy Week & Resurrection Services**

- Iconostasion Flower for the Holy Archangels..... Anonymous
- Processional Flowers for the Veneration of the Cross ..... Holy Trinity Philoptochos
- Annunciation Iconostasion Icon..... Connie Fries, for the health of her family and friends
- Annunciation Processional Icon ..... Kelly Manning, in memory of all her family
- Processional Icon for Palm Sunday ..... Cynthia Criss, in memory of Dora Morris
- Bridegroom (*Nymphios*) Icon.....Sophia Regas, in memory of John Regas and Demetrios Danis
- Holy Wednesday Holy Unction Supplies..... Fr. John & Presvytera Becky Touloumes, for the health of our children & Godchildren
- Lent and Holy Week Wine for Holy Communion ..... Joanne Pappas, in memory of Chris Pappas
- Prosforon (Offering Bread) ..... Joanne Pappas, Martha Lambou, Evdoxia Danis, Katherine Balouris, Mary-Magdalene Welsh, Theologia Rigas and Chrysoula Balouris
- Crucifix Wreath of Flowers ..... John and Tula Giannoutsos
- Crucifix Candles.....Charles & Melanie Black, in memory of Mary Mihalopoulos, Nicholas & Eugenia Roomeliotis
- Holy Friday Rosewater and Rose Petals..... Elaine Georgiades, in loving memory of Koula Roomeliotis
- Flowers for the Epitaphion..... Holy Trinity Offering Trays, Envelopes, plus the following:
  - Bob & Harriet Navarro, for the health of their family
  - Betty Dickos, in memory of Frank & Fannie Dickos
  - Pauline Pontikos
  - Archie & Mary Selevos
  - Tom Morris
  - Helen Chapas
  - Vasiliki Kourouklis
  - Bob & Harriet Navarro, in memory of Michael, Catherine, James & Andrew Karras
  - Helen DeMoss, in memory of John E. DeMoss & for the health of his family
  - Bessie Cocheres Sicalias
  - Gabe & Johanna Cocheres, for the health of their families
  - Gust & Katherine Passadis
  - George & Wendy Pantelas
  - Mary B. Charis, in memory of her beloved husband, Steve
  - Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Fraley
  - James Statheas, in memory fo Steve & Demetra Statheas
- Decoration of the Epitaphion ..... Holy Trinity Philoptochos and other Holy Trinity Women & Youth
- Palms for Palm Sunday ..... Thomas Geanopulos and family, in memory of their fathers
- Sheet for Burial Shroud..... Athanasia Geanopulos
- Resurrection Eggs ..... Katherine Balouris, in memory of Themistocles Balouris
- Dying and Preparation of the Red Eggs..... Holy Trinity Philoptochos
- Resurrection Processional Icon 1..... Irene Karavolos & Fanny Kostos, in memory of their beloved father, Steve Karavolos
- Resurrection Processional Icon 2..... Frank and Katina Erdeljac, in memory of Michael & Theologia Alexiadis
- Resurrection Banner Ribbons ..... Chrissie Georgiadis, in memory of George Georgiadis
- Priest's Resurrection Candles (3).....Georgia Manesiotis, for the health of her family and the congregation  
 Gus & Penny Georgiadis, in memory of their Father and Papou, George Kalidikis  
 Gus & Penny Georgiadis, for the health of their parents, Mary Kalodikis and Peter & Mary Georgiadis
- Bay Leaves/Petals for Holy Saturday Morning ..... Cynthia Morris Criss
- Lilies ..... Holy Trinity Offering Envelopes, plus the following:
  - Judith Fulton, in memory of her parents, Robert and Bella (Fortes) Fulton
  - Dr. & Mrs. Mark Georgiadis, in memory of George Kalidikis & George Sarris
  - Bill & Sophea Chapas & Family, in memory of John W. Chapas

## Holy Trinity Stewardship | 2007 Pledges Received

*Thank you to the following faithful stewards who have submitted their pledge cards for the 2007 pledge year as of this publication. Please join them in their support for the ministries of Holy Trinity and submit your pledge card today! Remember, a current, signed pledge card is required each year as part of maintaining your membership in good standing at Holy Trinity Church.*

Mrs. Teddy Adamczyk  
Mr & Mrs Victor Amurgis  
Mrs Harriet Amurgis  
Ms. Georgiana Anargyros  
Miss Victoria Andromalos-Dale  
Mrs. Christy Andromalos  
Mr & Mrs William Andromalos  
Ms. Marjorie Andromalos  
Mr & Mrs Michael Andromalos-Dale  
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Mrs Carol Anestis  
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Mr. George Athanasiou  
Mrs Stella Athanasiou

Mr & Mrs Alvin Backeris  
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Dr & Mrs Christ A. Balouris  
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Miss Penny Cocheres  
Mr Gabriel Cocheres  
Mrs Johanna Cocheres  
Mrs. Elenie Cocheres  
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Condos  
Mr & Mrs Andrew Countouris  
Ms. Cynthia Criss

Mr & Mrs George Danis  
Mrs Evdoxia Danis  
Mrs Fedra Dedousis  
Mrs. Helen DeMoss  
Miss Betty Dickos  
Mr. & Mrs. George Dickos  
Drs. George Dimitriou &  
Maria Tranto

Mr & Mrs Frank Erdeljac  
Mr. & Mrs. Christian Farmakis  
Mr. Jason Farmakis  
Mr & Mrs John Fekos  
Mrs Anna Festas  
Ms. Nicole Fiedler  
Mr & Mrs William Fiedler  
Mr. & Mrs. William L. Fiedler  
Mr & Mrs Constantine Fiffas  
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Fitzpatrick  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Fraley  
Mr. & Mrs. John Franciscus  
Mrs Tessie Frankos  
Miss Diana Fries  
Mr. John Fries  
Mrs Constance Fries

Mr & Mrs Kevin Garrity  
Mr Harry Geanopulos  
Mr & Mrs Thomas Geanopulos  
Mr. & Mrs. George Geanopulos  
Mr Troy Geanopulos  
Mrs Athanasia Geanopulos  
Mr & Mrs Nicholas Gelis  
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas George  
Mr & Mrs George Georges  
Mrs. Elizabeth Georges  
Mr. and Mrs. Gus Georgiadis  
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Georgiadis

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## 2007 Pledges Received | Holy Trinity Stewardship

Thank you to the following faithful stewards who have submitted their pledge cards for the 2007 pledge year as of this publication. Please join them in their support for the ministries of Holy Trinity and submit your pledge card today! Remember, a current, signed pledge card is required each year as part of maintaining your membership in good standing at Holy Trinity Church.

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It is our duty to love God because He has given us such a large earth here to live temporarily: so many thousands of plants, springs, rivers, seas, air, day, night, sky, sun, etc. For whom did He create all of these if not for us? What did He owe us? Nothing. These are all gifts. He made us human beings; he didn't make us animals. He made us in His own image. Although we sin thousands of times an hour, He has compassion for us like a father, and He doesn't put us to death and place us in hell. But, He awaits for our repentance with open arms, so that He will embrace us to put us in paradise to rejoice forever.

Now, shouldn't we too love this sweetest God and Master?

St. Kosmas the Aitolian

### 2007 STEWARDSHIP QUICK LOOK

**2007 Pledges received: 217**

**Total amount pledged: \$136,122.00**

**Donated as of 5/31/07: \$71,609.00**

**Average pledge: \$627.00**

**Maximum pledge: \$12,000.00**

**Expenses to operate Holy Trinity Church in 2007: Over \$800 per day**

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](http://www.Philoptochos.org) or contact a local member.

## THANK YOU!

### Philoptochos Cookbook Update

To everyone who so graciously submitted recipes for our cookbook. At the beginning the response was slow, but as the deadline approached, many recipes were submitted. The Cookbook Committee tried to get at least one recipe in the book per family. We were limited on the amount we could include, because it would raise the cost of the book. It has now been sent to the publisher, and we are waiting for the finished product. But don't worry, the books will be here in plenty of time for the Holy Trinity Festival!

### Festival Cooking

The ladies will be making Tiropites, Spanakopites and Pastitsio for the festival. They will be working every Monday and Friday. Won't you please come and help?

### Please Keep This Date Open

Philoptochos will celebrate its 75th Anniversary on October 21, 2007. Plans are being made for a great day.

### Meeting

The last meeting before summer begins will be held on June 24, 2007 after church. Please come. I have been told that people do not know what Philoptochos is doing. I can only write so much. If you would like to know more, please come to the meeting.

### Thank You

Our sincere thanks to everyone who so generously sent in their donation for the Mother's Day Tea. This was a great year. The proceeds from this fund raiser will go to all the charities and the needy we support all summer. Thank you again.

### Elections

The election ballots have been sent to your homes. Please make sure you return it in the enclosed envelope so that we may receive it by May 31, 2007. The ballots will read on June 10th. If your Stewardship was not paid, your name will not appear on the ballot, nor will you be eligible to vote. Even though you cannot vote, please pay your Stewardship.

### Prayers

Please pray for all of our members who are ill or are in nursing homes. If you have not been to a nursing home, it is a powerful spiritual and personal awakening. You will go home and thank God for everything you have. We are trying to get a group of women who could make visits to the homes. If you are interested in helping, please see Sondra Balouris Brubaker.

Esther Ladakos  
Philoptochos President



### The History of Philoptochos (from [www.Philoptochos.org](http://www.Philoptochos.org))

The philanthropic endeavors of the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society during the past seven decades is a genuine expression of Christian charity, which has embraced an enormous manifestation of love. This manifestation of love has been evident in the multitude of meaningful programs and activities undertaken during the seventy years of its existence.

Philanthropia is a tradition of the Greek Orthodox Church, dating from the Byzantine Empire, which was the first State to offer philanthropic and charitable assistance to its citizens.

St. James, in his Epistle, Chapter 1, Verse 22, exhorts all Christians to be "Doers of the Word, and hearers only". The members of the Philoptochos are "doers". Their accomplishments are monumental and are recorded in the annals of every Chapter of the organization.

The beginning of the Philoptochos Society can be traced to the late nineteenth century when hundreds of immigrants were arriving daily in the United States from Greece, Asia Minor and Constantinople. In 1894, Father Paisios Ferentinos, who was serving the Holy Trinity Church in New York City, undertook, with the assistance of Mrs. Amalia Feramoschos and Mrs. Penelope Eleftheropoulos, the formidable task of welcoming the new immigrants and assist them to acclimate themselves to their new environment.

Throughout the nation women's clubs were being formed: in New York City, Chicago, Lowell, Philadelphia, Birmingham, Boston, San Francisco, Washington, D.C., St. Louis, Milwaukee, Newark, and wherever there were Greek Orthodox Churches.

In 1902, the first Ladies Philoptochos was officially established at the Holy Trinity Church in New York City, under the spiritual guidance of Father Methodios Kourkoulis, and the leadership of three prominent ladies in the Greek community: Mrs. Anthony Rallis, Mrs. Nicholas Calvocoresis and Mrs. George Galatis. The Society applied for a charter to the State of New York as a philanthropic agency engaged in charitable activities rendering services to the poor.

(To be continued...)

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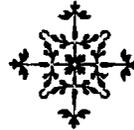
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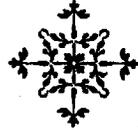
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## Why It Is Important To Arrive At Liturgy In Time for the Gospel!

**A**t the Divine Liturgy, we hear the voices of the Prophets in the [Old Testament verses before the scriptures]; we hear the voices of the Apostles in the daily Epistle reading; and in the Gospel reading we hear the voice of the Lord Jesus Christ. And because Christ, as God, is above all the Prophets, Patriarchs, Apostles, Angels and Archangels, the priest alerts the people when the Gospel is about to be read and prepares them, saying: "Wisdom; Stand and attend. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Peace be with you."

"Gospel" is an English word used in ancient times to mean "good, happy news." There are many different kinds of good news. For example, someone is imprisoned in a dark, wet jail. He suffers much. He awaits the time of his release. Unexpectedly, someone comes bringing news that the Governor of the State pardons him. The message is good news, which gladdens the convict. Another person is sick. He has been crippled for months, having contracted a terrible disease, for which there is no treatment. Unexpectedly, however, he hears news on the radio that a cure for his illness has been discovered, and all those suffering will be helped. Can you imagine the joy of this sick man? The news for this sick man, news that a cure was discovered, is indeed good news.

Of all the good news ever possible, one piece of good news is far better than all the rest. It is that Gospel which was heard one unforgettable night in one corner of the world, and thereafter spread throughout the whole world. [It was ] heavenly message that Christ was born, the Salvation of the world.

The Gospel is God's power for everyone who believes. Because the Gospel is so priceless, no one should be [absent from the service or] seated when it is being read. Even the bishop, when he celebrates, removes his Omophorion, stands in front of the Beautiful Gate, and listens to the Gospel with the rest of the people. But the Divine Liturgy is not the only place the Gospel should be heard. We should read it everyday. Let a day pass without bread, but not without the Gospel. "Wisdom! Let us stand!"

*Excerpted and adapted from the book "On the Divine Liturgy?" by Augoustinos Kantiotes, Bishop of Florina, Greece*

Scripture of the Month: "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to the whole creationx." (Mark 16.15)