



THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

JUNE 2008

VOLUME 16 • ISSUE 5

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH • PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

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June Parish Calendar

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QUICK NEWS



Holy Trinity GOYA honored its graduates at the annual GOYA Senior Recognition Dinner on May 19, 2008. See photos of this and other recent events in the Community Life Photo Journal on pages 7-11 of this issue of the Herald. Also available online at www.HolyTrinityPgh.org!

REMEMBER, STARTING APRIL 1:
DIVINE LITURGY BEGINS AT

9:30 A.M.



The Holy Apostles ~ Feast Days June 29 & 30

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

THE HOLY TRINITY
HERALD

About the Herald

The Herald is the Monthly Newsletter of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

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About the Parish

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Holy Trinity Church is a parish of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh (www.odpgh.org) and Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America (www.goarch.org) under the Spiritual Jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church Parish Administration

Clergy

Rev. Fr. John Touloumes, Proistamenos

Rev. Fr. Radu Bordeianu, Assistant Priest

Parish Council

Louis T. Loomis, President

Chris T. Balouris Dean J. Balouris

Sondra A. Balouris George Dickos

Anthony Loomis Robert Marsh

John Phillips Nicholas Sarandou

Vasilios Scoumis Alex Trilivas

Gerri Valliant Louis G. Zozos

Ministries

Philoptochos Esther Ladakos, Pres.

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

ChoirJohn Nychis, Director

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

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

Cemetery..... Bill Fiedler, Chairman

Greek School....Effie Kilantonis, Coordinator

Social Hall.....Kathy Romanias, Coordinator

Bookstore Bill and Linda Areheart



Their voice has gone out to all the world, and their words to the ends of the universe.

Communion Hymn
Feast of the Holy Apostles

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Each time we celebrate a Divine Liturgy, we proclaim in the Creed of our Faith, "In One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church." It is a powerful, affirming and sustaining statement. It reminds us that we are not an independent or trend-inspired collection of believers, but ontologically One as the Body of Christ, the Church. It also affirms us and challenges us to be Holy, which refers to the innermost unity of Christ and the Church, for in the words of Saint Paul, "Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her" (Eph. 5.25-26). The next reference to "Catholic" lays true and historic claim for the Church to, according to St. Cyril of Jerusalem, expand into the whole universe, from one end to the other, that all people may be saved."

And then there is the issue of "Apostolic." At first blush, it seems many of us rush to the validation and comfort we find in the refuge of being the "Apostolic Church" by virtue of a spiritual bloodline. First is the affirmation of Saint Paul, who reminds us that the Church is "built upon the foundation of the Apostles, Jesus Christ Himself being the cornerstone" (Eph. 2:20). Then there is the issue of "Apostolic Succession," which means the hierarchs of our Church today are direct descendents by the laying on of hands of the Apostles. As stated in "The Orthodox Faith" on www.goarch.org, "Apostolic succession is fundamental to the Church. Without it there can be no continuity of the Church."

Finally, while we cannot be who and what we are without such foundations, when left to rest on them instead of build and work upon them, we remain in a dangerous state: "Apostolic by inheritance" ... apathetic by behavior. Each of us, starting always with myself, need only to review the list of the Holy Apostles on the back page of this issue of *The Herald* to understand what it means. If we are to lay claim to the epithet, "Apostolic," then we must also be willing to don the mantle of sacrifice and love for Christ, even unto our very life. Many of our ancestors and great grandparents living under oppression understood this. We must never forget it. And likewise, the Communion Hymn above clearly bears witness to the Apostles undying dedication to taking the Good News of Jesus Christ to all the world. For us at Holy Trinity, that starts right here in Pittsburgh as we prepare to "take their words" at least to the ends of the North Hills!

This is our challenge, brothers and sisters. Whether here in Pittsburgh, to Mexico, to Montana or to wherever the Lord opens the doors of opportunity to us, if we are indeed to be the "Apostolic Church" in the fullness of that title, we must also be Apostles. May Jesus Christ, the "the pioneer and perfecter of our faith" (Heb 12.2) strengthen us to always rightly earn that which we have received.

Herald Personal Sponsor for this Issue:

Gus and Vickie Bellios in memory of their departed parents and relatives

WORSHIP LIFE

Feast Day Weekend.....June 14-16

Please note the schedule of services for the Feast Day Weekend of our parish, June 14-16 this year. First is the annual Saturday of Souls Liturgy at the St. George Chapel at Holy Trinity Cemetery. Pentecost Sunday features the Divine Liturgy and the "Kneeling Service" (Feast Day Vespers). Monday will offer the celebration the Feast Day Liturgy of our Church, the Monday of the Holy Spirit. Here is the complete schedule:



Saturday, June 14 - 8:30 am Orthros/9:30 am Liturgy:

Saturday of the Souls Liturgy at St. George Chapel at Holy Trinity Cemetery. Experience the timelessness of Orthodoxy with your family, while honoring and remembering all of those who have preceded us.

Pentecost Sunday, June 15 - 8:30 am Orthros/9:30 am Liturgy:

Pentecost Sunday Liturgy, followed by the "Kneeling Vespers" of the Holy Spirit. This is an important blessing for each of to receive. It is the culmination of the Paschal/Pentecostal season and has been placed here by the Holy Fathers who so intimately understood the need for the active reception and presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Some have even called it an experience akin to baptism. Don't miss it!

Monday, June 16 - 8:30 am Orthros/9:30 am Liturgy:

Monday of the Holy Spirit/Official Feast Day of our Church.

Weekday Services June

Please take note of the following weekday Liturgies for the feast days this month. Unless otherwise indicated, Orthros is at 8:30 a.m., followed by Divine Liturgy at 9:30.

Thu. June 5..... The Ascension of the Lord

Wed. June 11, 6:00 pm.... Paracletis to the Theotokos

Sat. June 14..... Saturday of the Souls

NOTE LOCATION: This service will be held at the Saint George Chapel at Holy Trinity Cemetery in the North Hills.

Mon. June 16..... Monday of the Holy Spirit

Tue. June 24..... Nativity of St. John the Baptist

Mon. June 30..... Synaxis of the Holy Apostles

9:30 Regular Divine Liturgy Hours Now in Effect

Don't forget, regular 9:30 Divine Liturgy hours are now in effect. 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 also 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, so please be on time. 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. 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.

New Opportunity: Summer Q&A

Have questions about the Orthodox Faith? Wish Father John or Father Radu would talk about this or that in a sermon? Here's your chance! This summer, our priests will take 5 minutes (stopwatch volunteers needed!) at the end of each Divine Liturgy to answer your questions. Question forms will be placed in the Narthex all summer. Please write down your question and simply drop the form off in the box indicated near the antidoron. Remember, this is not the forum for questions about current parish issues or building program questions (submit those to the Parish Council and Vision Committee, please), but it is your opportunity to ask about anything else regarding the faith, its worship, positions on issues, history, saints and more. Thanks for participating!



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 LIFE

Baptism: Arkalis

The servant of God, Zoe Arkalis, child of Peter and Dana Arkalis, was received into the Holy Orthodox Christian Faith through the Holy Mystery of Baptism on May 3, 2008. The sponsor was Vasilios Scoumis. May God grant her many years!

Baptism: Sfanos

The servant of God, Niki Sfanos, child of Paul and Maria Sfanos, was received into the Holy Orthodox Christian Faith through the Holy Mystery of Baptism on May 24, 2008. The sponsors were Andrew and Angie Pappas. May God grant her many years!

FUNERALS & MEMORIALS

Funeral: George Pantelas

The servant of God, George Pantelas, fell asleep in the Lord on April 4, 2008. The Funeral service was held at Saint George Chapel on April 8, followed by interment at Holy Trinity Cemetery. May his memory be eternal!

Funeral: John Retetagos

The servant of God, John Retetagos, fell asleep in the Lord in Florida on May 7, 2008. The Funeral service was held at Holy Trinity Church on May 13, followed by interment at Holy Trinity Cemetery. May his memory be eternal!

Upcoming Memorial & Trisagion Services

June 8: John Retetagos (40 days); Julia Welsh (2 years); Demetria Frankos (4 years); George Fescanin (4 years); James Hartig (5 years); James Paras (7 years). July 6: Stavroula Repana (2 years).

FESTIVAL NEWS

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!

Main Festival Dates August 27-31

Don't forget to also keep August 27-31 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.

REGIONAL NEWS

Metropolitan Maximos Anniversary June 21

Saint Nicholas Cathedral in Oakland is hosting a special event to honor His Eminence Metropolitan Maximos on the 50th Anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood and 30th Anniversary of his elevation as a Hierarch. Orthros begins at 8:30 a.m., followed by Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m. and a reception in the Saint Nicholas Community Center.

Looking for an Orthodox Church to attend on while on vacation? Easy! Visit:

www.goarch.org

or

www.OrthodoxyInAmerica.org

HOLY TRINITY PARISHIONERS HONORED

Mary-Magdalene Welsh 50 Years of Service

In addition to the Church School Graduation observation on May 18, 2008, it was also a day to congratulate and thank Mary-Magdalene Welsh for 50 years of service to the Church School Ministry: 42 years as a teacher and 8 years as founder and "Head Mousekeeper" of the Saint Spyridon Children's Lending Library. "Axia!" Thank you for your dedication and love for Holy Trinity Church and all God's precious children!



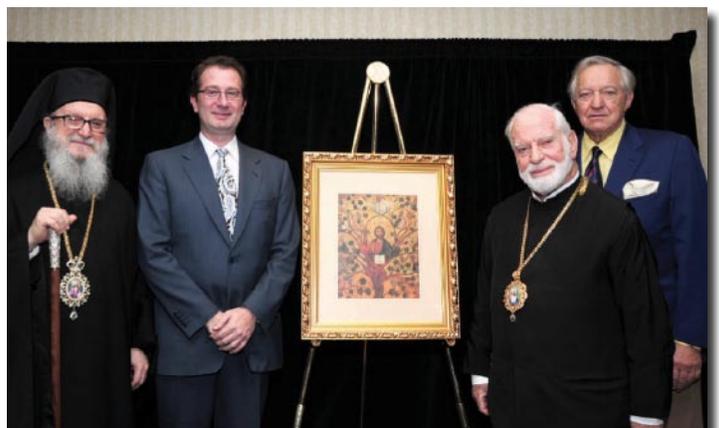
Matthew Ferrari Tonsured a Reader

On Monday, April 23, His Eminence Metropolitan Maximos joined the faithful of our community to celebrate the combined feasts of Bright Monday and Saint George the Great Martyr, the namesake of our parish's chapel at Holy Trinity Cemetery. On that day, His Eminence also tonsured Matthew Ferrari with the ecclesiastical office of Reader. "Axios!" May God grant you many years in His service!



Gregory Pappas Leadership 100

Holy Trinity Church was honored in February when Gregory Pappas became the first Holy Trinity parishioner to become a participating member of the Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Endowment Fund, an endowment of the Archdiocese designed to "maintain the life-sustaining ministries of the Church." He is pictured here with His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos of Chicago and George Behrakis, Leadership 100 Chairman.



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



Father John Androutsopoulos

**THE DAY OF PENTECOST:
THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES!**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

At that time: Jesus said to His disciples: "When the Paraclete comes, Whom I will send you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, Who proceeds from the Father, He shall testify of me." (John 15: 26)

The Holy Spirit is called Paraclete—Comforter—that is, one that consoles, because He gives consolation to all who suffer for the sake of Justice. Thus, He consoled the apostles and other saints of God, so that they rejoiced even when scourged and persecuted. He also gives testimony that Christ is the only begotten Son of God.

Fifty days after Pascha and ten days after our Lord and Savior ascended into heaven, the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles and disciples just as Jesus had promised. Before His Ascension, Jesus told the apostles to go to Jerusalem to wait for the Holy Spirit. And while waiting, "A sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And, there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each of them. And, they were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." (Acts 2: 1-4)

The Holy Spirit came upon the apostles in the form of fiery tongues, to indicate that the apostles, by the light of the teachings of Jesus, we were to enlighten the world and to kindle in it the fire of divine love.

The Acts of the Apostles is full of the manifestation of the Holy Spirit's presence. In everything which the Church did, it was conscious of having the Spirit's presence and guidance (Acts 15: 28)

Pentecost tells us that all is now fulfilled. God's action begun in the first Advent, has now been completed. The act of incarnation has been completed. The promise of the Holy Spirit has been fulfilled.

The Spirit has now come. God's action in Christ is complete. It is a day of joy and gladness. We celebrate the final act of God's invasion to restore sinful man to righteousness and to conquer the enemies of Spiritual life.

On this day of Pentecost, the Church is born. It seems

that many Christians neglect this great Feast. The Orthodox Church, on the other hand, considers this feast day of supreme importance. The Church—Holy, Catholic and Apostolic—was born through the coming of the Holy Spirit.

What is the real meaning of the birth of the Church?

Most simply, it is the event in which God implanted faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God, in the hearts of Jesus' followers, who could then say with one voice, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." (Matthew 16:16)

In this confession by the power of the Holy Spirit, the Church came into being as a new and living body. Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter won 3000 souls to Christ on the day of Pentecost. Filled with the Holy Spirit, Paul of Tarsus extended the Kingdom of God among the Gentiles.

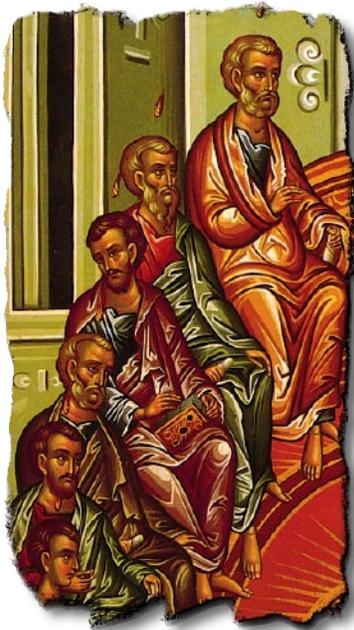
Those of us who want to attempt and accomplish great things for God must allow Christ to be within us and we must be empowered by the Holy Spirit. When we bear fruit of the Holy Spirit, we glorify God. "The fruit of the Holy Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance." (Galatians 5: 22 -23)

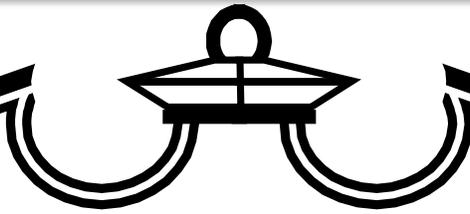
This Feast Day of Pentecost was instituted by the Church in memory of the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and disciples, who with Mary, the Mother of Jesus, were assembled in prayer in a house in Jerusalem. (Acts 2) We celebrate the Great Feast Day of Pentecost in memory of and in thanksgiving for the sending of the Holy Spirit, by whom the world in enlightened and instructed.

Who is the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit is God, the third person of the Holy Trinity. This is something that we will never understand -- this mystery of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. We worship Him as one God; yet, He is in three persons. A mystery is a truth which we cannot understand, but we accept it by faith. He is called Holy, because he makes the souls of men holy, that is, keeps them from evil and brings them to perfection, or rather to APPROACH the Perfect which is our destination in this life.

May the Grace of the Holy Spirit enlighten and sanctify all of us. Amen.

*With His love,
Rev. Fr. John Androutsopoulos*





CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!

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!



Eleni Balouris
Upper St. Clair High School

Eleni is graduating with honors and was a member of Students Against Destructive Decisions. She also received art awards. Eleni has been an active participant in GOYA, serving as Recording Secretary, Activities Coordinator and Vice-President. She has also been active in Church School Summer Camp, Retreats and will participate in the Mission Trip to Montana this summer. She will be attending Ohio University.

Charissa Sedor
North Hills High School

Charissa participated in many creative activities at North Hills High School, including Graphics, Pottery, Astronomy and French clubs, and she enjoys music and literature. She was also involved with school theatrical productions and musicals every year. Charissa has been active in Church School and GOYA at Holy Trinity Church. She plans to attend Community College of Allegheny County and major in Physics.



John Fitzpatrick
Seneca Valley High School

John is graduating with high honors and was a member of the National Honor Society. He was a three-year letterman, Captain of the Varsity Basketball Team and he played on the Volleyball Team. John was also named to the WPIAL All-Star Basketball Team in his senior year. He has been active at Holy Trinity Church in all youth ministry programs, including serving as GOYA Treasurer. He will attend Penn State Main Campus to major in Civil Engineering.

Maria Valliant
Hampton High School

Maria is graduating with high honors and is Senior Class Vice-President and a member of the Student Council, Future Business Leaders of America, the National Latin Honors Society and Art Club. She played on the Hampton and GOYA Girls Basketball teams. She is currently Holy Trinity GOYA President, has been very active in many ministries and programs at Holy Trinity Church, including serving twice as a Project Mexico missionary. She will be attending the University of Dayton and will major in Business.



Nicholas Paras
North Hills High School

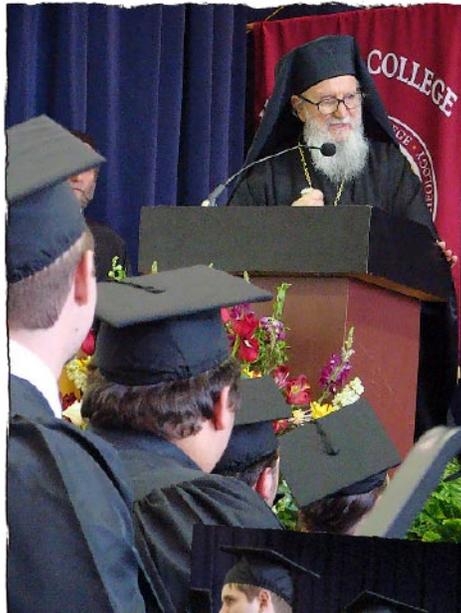
Nicholas is graduating with honors from North Hills High School. During his years at Holy Trinity Church, he participated in Greek School, Church School and served as an Acolyte. He plans to attend Technical School in the fall.

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

(Matthew 5.16)

Son of Holy Trinity Graduates Hellenic College / Heads to Holy Cross Seminary

May 17: George Athanasiou, a long-time son of Holy Trinity Church and active participant in her many ministries, received his Bachelor's Degree from Hellenic College, the official college of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. George's achievement of his undergraduate degree moves him a step closer to his calling of ordination to the Holy Priesthood as he enters the graduate program at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in the fall. Pictured here joining in the celebration are Father John, Parish Council President Leo Loomis, George's immediate family Harry and Joyce Athanasiou (parents) and Andrew (brother), as well as his grandmothers and other members of his extended family. Also pictured on the graduation stage is His Eminence Metropolitan Maximos, who honored George with his presence. The entire Holy Trinity Community extends its congratulations to George and offers prayers for his continued progress in Christ at this momentous occasion in his life.

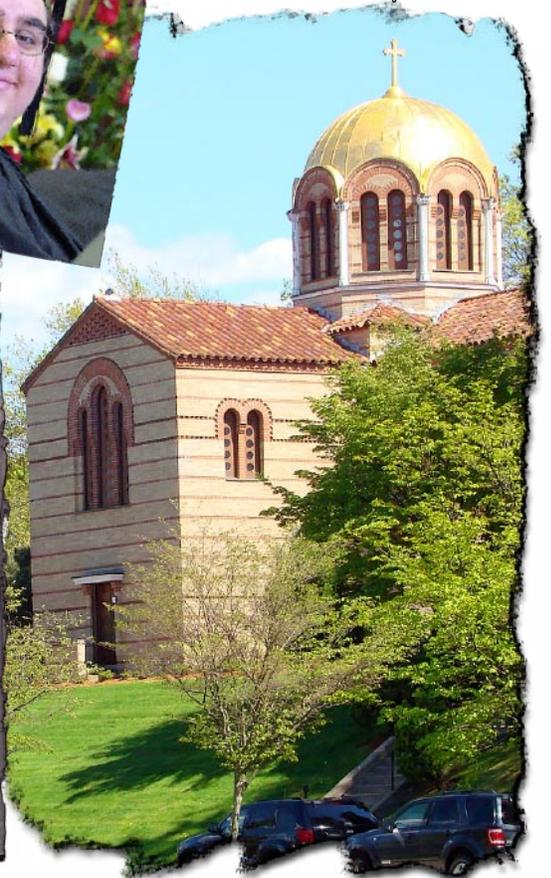
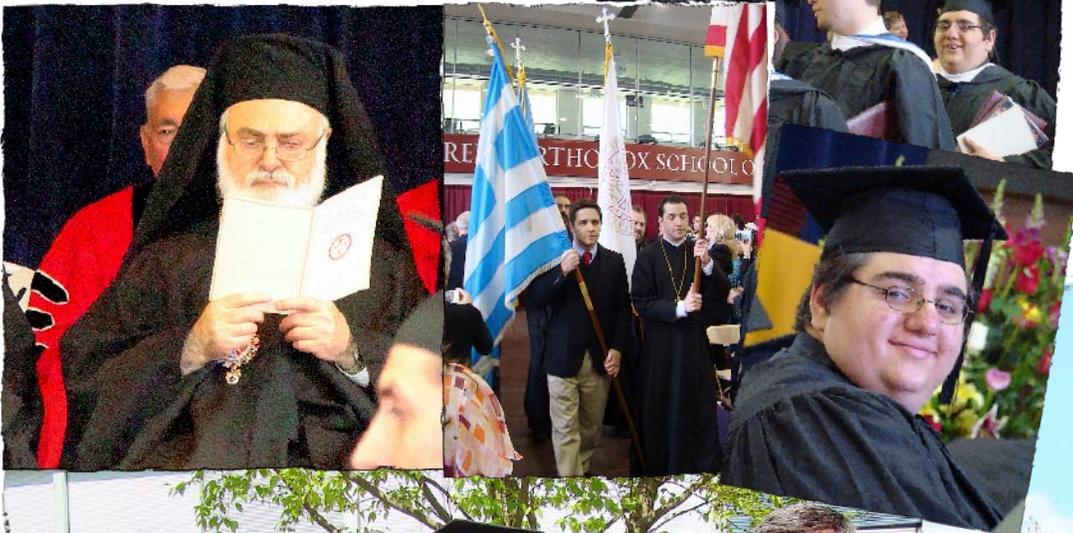


To My Beloved Parish of Holy Trinity,

I would like to thank you for your generous gift on the occasion of my graduation from Hellenic College. These books written by the Holy Fathers have inspired many clergy and Orthodox faithful and I hope and pray that they will assist me in my education and in enlightening the people that I will come into contact with in my future ministries and endeavors.

I would also like to thank Fr. John and Leo Loomis for making the trip to Boston and for their representation of the parish at such an important event in my life. It meant so much to me and my family. Please continue to pray for me as I move forward in my studies at Holy Cross Seminary. No matter where I may end up in the future, Holy Trinity will always be my first home and hold a special place in my heart.

With all my love,
George Athanasiou
Hellenic College '08





April 20-27: Holy Trinity parishioners gathered faithfully to participate in the spiritual journey of the Great and Holy Week, culminating with the bright and beautiful celebration of the glorious Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Pictured here are scenes of the Holy Week and Pascha services and celebrations. On the top and bottom of the pages are some of the many readers who participated in the Lenten services as well. Thank you to our chanters, choir, Parish Council, Philoptochos, readers, prosforo-makers and donors of the many items needed during these holy days.







May 18, 2008: Holy Trinity Church School held its annual graduation ceremony, presenting certificates to all the students and staff who participated in the ministry during the 2007-2008 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!



In addition to the Church School Graduation observation, it was also a day to congratulate and thank Mary-Magdalene Welsh for 50 years of service to the Church School Ministry: 42 years as a teach and 8 years at the Library's "Head Mousekeeper" "Axia!"





May 19, 2008: Holy Trinity GOYA held its annual Senior Recognition Dinner, this year at the Willow Restaurant. This year's graduates were: Eleni Balouris, John Fitzpatrick, Nicholas Paras, Charissa Sedor and Maria Valliant. GOYA families enjoyed an evening of good fellowship, presentation of some fun senior gifts and a multi-media presentation with scenes from the lives and community involvement of the seniors. May God bless them all!



Thank You | 2008 Lenten and Paschal Donations

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
-
- Anthony & Susan Zikos, in memory of their loved ones
- Theologia Rigas, in memory of John Rigas
- Stella Kourakos, in memory of the departed members of her family
- Olga Regakis, in memory of all the deceased
- Nick, Joy, Margo & Ted Loomis, in loving memory of Mary Kokoros
- John & Georgia Franciscus
- 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..... Peter & Mary Panos, in memory of the Panos & Peters families
- Annunciation Processional Icon Kelly Manning, in memory of all her family
- Processional Icon for Palm Sunday Frank & Katina Erdeljac, in memory of Michael & Theologia Alexiadis
- Bridegroom (*Nymphios*) Icon Sophia Regas, for the health of her family
- Holy Wednesday Holy Unction Supplies..... Fr. John & Presvytera Becky Touloumes, for the health of our children & Godchildren
- Lenten and Holy Week Wine for Holy Communion Joanne Pappas, in memory of Chris Pappas
- Prosforon (Offering Bread) Joanne Pappas, 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
 - John and Tula Giannoutsos
 - Archie & Mary Selevos, for the health of their family
 - 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
 - Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Fraley, in memory of Nick Amorganos & C. Tim Mavros
 - Vasiliki Kourouklis, in memory of Achille Kourouklis & Stavroula Repana
 - George & Canella Lalikos, in memory of their beloved departed
 - Bessie Cocheres Sicalias
 - Gabe & Johanna Cocheres, in memory of their loved ones
 - Connie Fries, for the health of her family & friends
 - James Statheas, in memory of 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..... Tessie Frankos, in loving memory of her husband, James, and her daughter, Demitria
- 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, for the health of their parents, Mary Kalodikis and Peter & Mary Georgiadis
- Bay Leaves/Petals for Holy Saturday Morning Gus & Penny Georgiadis, in memory of their Father and Papou, George Kalidikis
- Lilies Holy Trinity Offering Envelopes, plus the following:
- Judith Fulton, in memory of her parents, Robert and Bella (Fortes) Fulton
 - Dr. & Mrs. Mark Georgiadis, for the health of their parents
 - Paul and Sally Hionides



Voula Hareras

ΤΑ ΜΥΡΑ

Σέ όλόκληρη τή ζωή του πάνω στην γή τέσσερες φορές Τού προσέφεραν μύρα. Καί τίς τέσσερες προσφορές τίς παρακολουθούμε νά έκτυλίσονται μέσα στό διάστημα μιάς εβδομάδας τής Μεγάλης Εβδομάδας...

Στή Γαλιλαία, στό σπίτι τού Φαρισαίου Σίμωνα, μιά άμαρτωλή

γυναίκα κάνει τήν έμφανισή της τήν ώρα πού ό Κύριος βρίσκεται στό Τραπέζι.

Μέ συντριβή καρδιάς άρχίζει νά βρέχει τά πόδια Του μέ τά δάκρυα της καί συγχρόνως νά τά άλείφει μέ τό μύρο της.

Ό Κύριος τή διαβεβαιώνει γιά τή συγχώρηση τών άμαρτιών της. Ολη ή έκκλησιαστική ύμνολογία τό άπόγευμα τής Μ. Τρίτης σέ αυτό τό περιστατικό αναφέρεται.

Είναι τό Μύρο τής μετανοίας...

Στό εύαγγελικό ανάγνωσμα τής Κυριακής τών Βαίων καί τής Μ. Τετάρτης [πρωί] ό Κύριος φιλοξενείται στή βηθανία, στό σπίτι τού λεπρού, όπου παρευρίσκεται καί ό άναστημένος Λάζαρος. Κάποια στιγμή ή άδελφή τού Λαζάρου Μαρία εισέρχεται στό δωμάτιο κρατώντας ένα άλαβάστρινο δοχείο γεμάτο άπό πανάκριβο ίνδικό άρωμα. Σπάζει τό δοχείο, καί ένα μέρος τού περιεχομένου του τό χύνει στό κεφάλι τού Κυρίου καί τό υπόλοιπο στά πόδια Του. Ό Κύριος τή βραβεύει γιά τήν πράξη της...

Τό μύρο τής εύγνωμοσύνης!

Τή Μ. Παρασκευή ό Ίωσήφ άπό τήν Αριμαθαία καί ό Νικόδημος μέ συντριβή καρδιάς καί έμπονη σιωπή ένταφιάζουν τό σώμα τού Κυρίου, άφού τό άλείφουν μέ τριάντα δύο κιλά άρωματικού μίγματος άπό σμύρνα καί άλόη...

Τό μύρο τής αγάπης!

Τήν πρώτη ήπέρα μετά τό Σάββατο ή Μαρία ή Μαγδαληνή μαζί μέ τίς άλλες άφοσιωμένες μαθήτριες, άξημέρωτα άκόμη, βαδίζουν πρός τόν τάφο τού Κυρίου κρατώντας στά χέρια μύρα, γιά νά ράνουν τό νεκρό σώμα Του...

Τά μύρα τής λατρείας!

Ας γίνει άκόμη μιά φορά νά δεχθεί ό Κύριος μύρα. Τά δικά μας μύρα. Καί είναι αυτά ή δική μας μετάνοια, ή δική μας εύγνωμοσύνη, ή δική μας αγάπη, ή δική μας λατρεία!

Τότε καί ή δική μας ζωή θά γεμίσει μέ τήν εύωδία τής Ανοιξης τών ψυχών, τήν εύωδία τής Ανάστασης!

ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ!

-Πρός τήν Νίκη -

ΜΑΙΟΣ

Μάιος ό Μήνας μέ τίς πρασινάδες, τά λουλούδια, τήν άναγέννηση τής φύσης. Πολύ καλά έκαμαν λοιπόν καί διάλεξαν αυτόν τόν Μήνα γιά τήν έορτή τής Μητέρας. Ταιριάζει άπόλυτα.. άς τής άφιαερώσουμε λοιπόν καί μείς ένα ποιηματάκι, μέ τήν αγάπη μας..

Έκυτόαξα ψηλά στόν ούρανό καί είδα Μάνα μου
μονάχα τήν μορφή σου
Δοκίμασα τό μέλι τό γλυκό , κί άμέσως ένοιωσα τή
γλύκα άπτό φιλί σου
Έκοίταξα τό κύμα στό γιαλό, καθώς χαιδεύει άπαλά
τά βοτσαλάκια
Κι' ένοιωσα δυό χέρια τρυφερά, νά μού χαιδεύουν μέ
αγάπη τά μαλάκια
Θέλω νά πώ σ' όλου τού κόσμου τά
παιδιά, πόσο μεγάλη είναι γιά μάς αυτή ή μέρα
Κι' άς πούμε όλoi μέ τραγούδια καί φιλιά, χρόνια
πολλά καί σ' αγαπώ πολύ ΜΗΤΕΡΑ.

Χρόνια πολλά Μητέρες όλου τού κόσμου..

ΙΟΥΝΙΟΣ

Σάν νάταν χθές πρωτοχρονιά, καί όμως πέρασε μισός χρόνος, Τί γρήγορα άλήθεια πού κυλά ό καιρός.

15 Ιουνίου, ή έορτή τού Πατέρα, αυτού τού άκούραστου αγαπημένου ήρωα, πού φροντίζει μέ τήν μεγάλη του αγάπη νά μήν λείψη τίποτε στήν αγαπημένη του Οίκογένεια. Ας τού άφιερώσουμε λοιπόν καί έμείς ένα ποιηματάκι δείχνοντας τήν αγάπη μας.

Πατέρα μου πολύ σέ αγαπώ, κιάν σάν παιδί κάποια
στιγμή σέ φαρμακώνω
Μού φέρεσαι μέ τετοια αγάπη καί στοργή πού
Πατερούλη μου άμέσως μετανοιώνω
Οταν παιδί μου μέ φωνάζεις, νοιώθω άπέραντη χαρά,
Καί ή δική σου ή αγάπη μού δίνει δύναμη χαρά
Καθώς σέ βλέπω μέ τό σπίτι, πώς μέ κυτάζεις μέ
στοργή
Καί προσπαθείς νά μέ μορφώσεις, όσο μπορείς καί πιό
πολύ

Γι' αυτό καί γώ σάν μεγαλώσω θέ νά σου μοιάσω όσο
μπορώ

Σήν καλωσύνη τής ψυχής σου , στό έργο σου τό ίερό.

Επίσης τόν Ιούνιο είναι ό Μήνας τών έξετάσεων, ό μήνας
πού τελειώνουν πολλοί Νέοι

Τά σχολεία καί είναι έτοιμοι νά βγούν στήν ζωή νά
παλέψουν γιά δουλιά γιά διμιοιργία

Γιά δράση,.. Ας εύχουθούμαι τό Αγιον Πνεύμα νά τούς
φωτίζεινά άκολουθούν πάντοτε τόν ίσιο δρόμο, καί
μέ τού Θεού τήν βοήθεια νά σταδιοδρομήσουν.

ΚΑΛΗ ΕΠΙΤΥΧΙΑ ΠΑΙΔΙΑ.. σάς τό εύχομαι όλόψυχα.

Βούλα Χαρερά

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.

June/July 2008

Christ is risen! Truly He is risen!

Purse Party And Luncheon

We had our Purse Party and Luncheon on May 4th during the Special General Assembly. Everyone enjoyed the pasta and the hot dogs. If you did not come you missed out on a great day.

Congratulations

Congratulations to our sister Chapter, Saint Catherine's of East Pittsburgh, on a great Fashion Show presented on May 2nd. The hospitality was gracious, the food was delicious, and the fashions lovely! Joyce Countouris, Kay Balouris, and I represented Holy Trinity Philoptochos and had a great time.

Mini Festival

On Friday, May 30th and Saturday, May 31st, Holy Trinity Church is holding a Mini-Festival. As always, the Philoptochos plays a very important role. We need workers. Please come and help wherever you are needed.

Stewardship – Stewardship!

Philoptochos Stewardship is due ASAP. Our assessment to National Philoptochos is \$10.00 per person and \$7.00 per person to the Metropolis. This makes many of the National and Metropolis Philoptochos ministries possible. This is why we ask that you make a contribution of \$20.00. If you are not a member, won't you please join???? We need everyone to be a member.

Mothers Day Tea

Our sincere thanks to everyone who sent in a contribution for the Mothers Day Tea. To date we have collected \$1,650.00. If you have not sent in your contribution it is not too late to do so. This fundraising event sees us through the summer. Believe it or not, we have commitment every month

to National and the Metropolis beside our local charities, so every dollar raised helps us do the work of Philoptochos.

Cookbooks

The Philoptochos cookbooks are still available. They make great gifts for showers, weddings, graduation, and birthdays. Everyone must have a copy of the book in their kitchen. If you do not, please buy one and help support the Philoptochos.

Best Wishes

A long-time member of Holy Trinity Church and Philoptochos, Betty Dickos, has moved to the South Hills and will not be coming to Holy Trinity every Sunday. Her family hosted her on Sunday April 13th with cake and pastry. We will miss her. We wish her good luck and may God bless her!

Best Wishes

Don't forget to pray for our loved ones and for everyone in the community. We have so many members that are in nursing homes, or who are ill, or recovering from surgery. Prayer is powerful.

Coffee Hour

Everyone likes to come back for coffee after church on Sunday. Won't you consider sponsoring a coffee hour to honor a loved one for their birthday, anniversary, or Name Day. You may do it by yourself or with your family or friends.

Next Meeting - June 22

The next Philoptochos meeting will be held June 22, 2008 after church in the library. We have many things to discuss. Please plan to attend. It will be the last meeting until September.

Sincerely,
Esther Ladakos, Philoptochos President



Thank you to Philoptochos President Esther Ladakos for obtaining permission from the publisher to reprint this humorous but all-too-truthful child's view of the faith. Let's keep working as a community and as individual Christians to make sure this doesn't apply to us!

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On the Holy Apostles

On June 29 the Orthodox Church celebrates the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul, followed by the Feast of the Synaxis of the Holy Apostles on June 30. These missionaries, pioneers and “founding fathers” of the Christian Faith share much in common, including the fact that ALL BUT ONE of them (Saint John the Evangelist) was martyred for the faith in the Lord, Jesus Christ. Listed below are the names, feast days and manner of entry into eternal life. May they always intercede for us!



Saint Peter - Crucified head-down in 64/65 A.D. Feast: June 29.

Saint Andrew - Crucified on an “X” shaped Cross in Patras, Greece. Feast: November 30.

Saint James (Iakovos) - “Son of Zebedee” beheaded by Herod in 44 A.D. Feast: April 30.

Saint John (Brother of James) - Reposed in peace in Ephesus around 100 A.D. Feast: May 8 & September 26.

Saint Philip - Hanged from a pillar in Phrygia. Feast: November 14.

Saint James (Iakovos) of Alpheus, “Brother of the Lord” - Stoned to death in 62 A.D. Feast: October 23.

Saint Thomas - Martyred in India. Feast: October 6.

Saint Bartholomew (Nathaniel) - Flayed to death in Armenia. Feast: June 11.

Saint Matthew - Martyred in Ethiopia. Feast: November 16.

Saint Matthias - Martyred in Jerusalem. Feast: August 9.

Saint Jude (Thaddeus) - Martyred in Mesopotamia. Feast: June 19.

Saint Simon (the Zealot) - Crucified in Persia. Feast: May 10.

From “The Complete Book of Orthodoxy” by George Grube

Scripture of the Month: “That word is the good news which was preached to you. (1 Peter 1.25)”