



THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

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IMPORTANT NOTICE:

**SEPTEMBER 15, 2013
SPRING GENERAL ASSEMBLY
NOTICE & AGENDA
ENCLOSED**

QUICK NEWS



Holy Trinity's Project Mexico missionary team completes and presents a new home to a needy Mexican family in August. Want to see more photos of the life and ministries of Holy Trinity Church? See the Community Life Photo Journal on pages 8-11 or visit our **NEW** online photo gallery site at photos.HolyTrinityPgh.org.



Elevation of the Holy Cross - Feast Day: September 14

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

THE HOLY TRINITY **HERALD**

About the Herald

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

Editor

Father John Touloumes, Economos

Church: 412-366-8700

Home: 412-831-3574

E-mail: fjt@HolyTrinityPgh.org

Production

Mary Portellos, Secretary/Office Administrator

E-mail: office@HolyTrinityPgh.org

Contributors

Voula Hareras

Vickie Bellios

Rev. Fr. John Androutsopoulos

Rev. Fr. Radu Bordeianu

Photographers

Mary-Magdalene Welsh

Peter Gagianas

Theanne Gagianas

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About the Parish

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

985 Providence Boulevard

Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Phone: 412-366-8700 • Fax: 412-366-8710

Web site: www.HolyTrinityPgh.org

Email: office@HolyTrinityPgh.org

Holy Trinity Church is a parish of the
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh
(www.odpgh.org) 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

2013 Parish Council

George Dickos, President

Dean A. Balouris

Marios Kritiotis

George Danis

Charles Petredis

Andrew Janis

Joyce Athanasiou

Jason Farmakis

Stephanie Sedor

Louis Kort

Alex Trilivas

Leo Loomis

Gerri Valliant

Ministries

Please visit the Holy Trinity website at www.HolyTrinityPgh.org for descriptions and contact information on Holy Trinity Church's ministries, including educations, youth, senior, family and cultural opportunities. There is something for everyone, so please get involved today!



How awesome is this place!
This is none other than the
house of God, and this is the
gate of heaven.

Genesis 28.17

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Over the summer, I had the joy and honor of being part of two Holy Trinity teams that opened two houses: one in Pittsburgh and one in Mexico. On June 22, the new Holy Trinity Church opened after many years of planning and 17 months of construction. And on the opening day, that house was presented to God as His. On August 5, a new home in an impoverished suburb of Tijuana called Rosarito was opened. Though the key to that home was presented to the needy family by one of our team members, Susan Zikos (see photo, page 8), that house was also presented to God as His through the blessing service that concluded the project. The first house was over 26,000 square feet with air conditioning, magnificent iconography, and industrial-strength kitchen and a beautiful green lawn surrounding it. Walking into it was like walking through the gate of Heaven for its new inhabitants. The second house wasn't even 200 square feet, it had no air conditioning—in fact there wasn't even running water or electricity—the interior walls were unfinished lumber and a barren plot of dusty earth surrounded it. Walking into it, too, was like walking into gate of Heaven for its new inhabitants.

Both houses were built through pure and selfless offerings. Both are safe places for those who dwell there. Both belong to God, for He dwells there through His love. Glory to God!

In the bazaar we visited during our Sunday afternoon outing in Rosarito, there were many locally-made crafts like blankets and pottery. One particular ceramic item seemed to be everywhere: signs of various shapes in colorful Mexican styles that read, "Mi casa es su casa." (Translated: "My house is your house.") In so many ways, that turned out to be the dominant theme of the summer at home and abroad. When we as a community invited His Eminence Metropolitan Savas to receive this beautiful new facility as a new church, it was in large part an express of "Mi casa es su casa." And when His Eminence offered it to God, it was his own way of saying, "Mi casa es su casa" by his episcopal authority. And God continually offers it back to us. Though we refer to it as the "House of God," He makes it ours again each time we enter and embrace His sacrificial love and hospitality as He says, "Mi casa es su casa." Likewise, tafter having built the Project Mexico house, we were also able to offer it not simply to the family, but to God, as we once again reaped the fruits of His blessings and put them to work. And as they walk through that door, rest securely under a solid roof and are protected from the harsh elements and realities of their poverty, our Mexican family recipients are certainly also experiencing the love and hospitality of the Lord in Whose house they dwell and Who says to them, "Mi casa es su casa."

Many thanks to all who have made both houses possible. May they stand throughout the ages as testimonies to the power and love of the One who made the heavens and the earth and all that is in them, and Who "so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3.16, also quoted in the Gheronda column on page 5 this month).

Paternally yours in Christ,



WORSHIP LIFE

Weekday Services September

Please take note of the following weekday Liturgies and services this month. Unless otherwise indicated, Orthros is at 8:15 a.m., followed by Divine Liturgy at 9:30 at the St. George Chapel (SG).

Sept. 7, 6:00pm: Nativity of Theotokos Vespers & Vigil

Sept. 8, 9:00am: Nativity of Theotokos Divine Liturgy

The above two services will be held at the Nativity of the Theotokos Monastery in Saxonburg, PA, but the Liturgy will also be held at Holy Trinity Church as it falls on a Sunday.

Sept. 11, 6:30pm: Monthly Paraclesis Service (Second Wednesday of each month) AND September 11 Memorial Service (SG)

Sept. 13, 7:00pm: Exaltation of the Holy Cross Vespers

Sept. 14, 9:00am: Exaltation of the Holy Cross Orthros/Liturgy
The above two services will be held at the Holy Cross Church in Mount Lebanon.

Sept. 17: Saint Sophia and her Daughters (SG) (Note earlier time for this Liturgy only: 8:00am Orthros/9:00am Liturgy.)

Holy Trinity Church Services Now Live on the Internet

One of the wonderful new outreach opportunities our new facilities provide is the ability to stream our services live on the Internet. We are now officially listed on the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese list of live broadcasts and are the first parish in the Metropolis of Pittsburgh to be listed there. The official list can be found at www.goarch.org/chapel/live.

How to access Holy Trinity live: Unable to attend Sunday services because of travels, illness or otherwise home bound? To follow the services online go to:

www.HolyTrinityPgh.org/live

If that link does not work due to server traffic, try directly accessing the Archdiocese streaming server at:

realserver.goarch.org/live/index_pittsburgh.html

Legal Notice: "Holy Trinity Church now broadcasts its Sunday services live on the Internet. Your presence in the Church is subject to audio and video recording."

Hearing Impaired Audio Devices Available for Services

As part of the construction of our new facilities, Holy Trinity Church has installed assistive listening technology that provides audio support for the hearing impaired. These devices will be available in the Narthex starting in mid-September in accordance with policies set forth by the Parish Council. As a result, those with hearing impairments will be able to hear everything produced by the church's new sound system through a receiver and into an earpiece clearly and loudly. Those with advanced technology hearing aids may also be able to tune directly to the broadcast frequency. Look for information in the Narthex or call the Church Office during regular hours.

Infant and Child Resources Available

In an effort to continue to promote a family-friendly worship and community environment, Holy Trinity's new Church has a number of facilities and opportunities for parents to

provide care for the needs of their children. While we encourage all families to include children in worship services at every age, please feel free to make use of these facilities whenever your children are in need of them:

The Family and Pastoral Care Room: Located in the Narthex with large windows looking into the Church, this room allows parents who need to tend to the needs of their children to stay in the worship service while giving their children the freedom to move around or fuss without worrying about disturbing others. The view looks directly into the service and sound is provided via a speaker in the room.

Rest Rooms: There is a unisex rest room located in the Narthex and there are larger men's and women's rest rooms located in the hallway at the entrance to the Gallery.

Changing Tables: The rest rooms in the Narthex and the Gallery hallway all contain sturdy fold-down changing tables to provide a safe and clean place to change infants.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Church School Begins.....September 9

The first day of classes for Church School is Sunday, September 9 at 9:30 with Divine Liturgy and the children's sermon, followed by classes after Holy Communion. If you have not yet registered, take your child to class first then register during Coffee Hour.

New Education/Fellowship Ministries October

Looking for adult religious education? Fellowship groups? Inquirers classes about the Orthodox Christian Faith? Womens' and Mens' Study groups? Watch for information in the next few weeks about an exciting new series of these opportunities and more coming to Holy Trinity Church as we continue to seek new and effective ways to fulfill our mission to "proclaim and live the Orthodox Christian Faith in its fullness as faithful members of the Body of Christ."

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Holy Trinity Combined Youth Ministries Kick-Off...Sep. 15

Holy Trinity will host a combined Youth and Family Ministries "Kick-off Tailgate Party" on Sunday, September 15 following Divine Liturgy at the Church. This picnic and fun event will be the first event of the season for HOPE (Kindergarten through 2nd grades), JOY (3rd through 6th grades), GOYA (7th-12 grades) and the Young Adult Ministry (age 18 and over). Combining the event provides a convenient one-stop destination for families with children in multiple age groups; it also reminds us that even though each group has its own identity and will have its own meeting during the event that day, we worship, live and cooperate as one Holy Trinity family, from the very youngest to the oldest. RSVP: Please sign up at church after Liturgy during Coffee Hour or contact Presvytera Becky at 412-874-5195 or PresBecky@HolyTrinityPgh.org to RSVP and bring a main course, side dish, dessert or drinks for 30 people. Parents, please be sure to be there with all your children, from kindergarteners through seniors!

Congratulations GOYA Officers 2013/2014

Congratulations to our newly-elected GOYA officers for 2013/2014. They are: President - Georgia Gagianas; Vice-President - Andoni Balouris; Treasurer - Alexa Mermigas; Corresponding Secretary - Melanie Berexa; Recording Secretary - Yanni Balouris; Outreach Coordinator - Rebecca Georgiadis. May God bless and guide you and all our Holy Trinity GOYAns!

MINISTRY NEWS

GOYA Meeting September 29

The GOYA teen ministry will hold a meeting on Sunday, September 29, following the Divine Liturgy. All GOYA teens are asked to attend to help make plans for the coming year.

Thank You from Holy Trinity Project Mexico Missionaries

Our Project Mexico missionaries (see photos, page 8) offer their deep thanks to the Holy Trinity community for the spiritual and financial support that helped them successfully complete this year's mission. Not only were they able to present a new home to a needy family, they were also, with your donations, able to provide a meaningful gift to the Saint Innocent Chapel at the Orphanage and treat the boys and staff at the Orphanage to a wonderful night out - something they have not done with a missionary team for many years. We look forward to a continuing and rewarding relationship with this valuable institution and ministry with your continued help.

National Philoptochos Outreach for Greek Crisis

The impact of the European economic crisis has severely affected Greece and Cyprus. The crisis is expanding and deepening, affecting all sectors of the population. Both countries require humanitarian aid and the need increases daily. In an effort to assist in giving aid The Greek Orthodox Philoptochos Society has designated September 22 as Fellowship Sunday. On this day a special tray will be passed for donations. Also coffee hour contributions will be added to the funds raised. We thank you in advance for your always generous donations.

Sign Up For the Holy Trinity Email!

Want to receive the Sunday Bulletin directly via email each week and keep up to date with the latest Holy Trinity news or weather cancellations? Sign up at www.HolyTrinityPgh.org.

COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS

"Taste of Greece" Festival. August 28-September 1

Though it may be starting by the time you receive this issue, don't forget about the Festival! Wednesday, August 28, through Sunday, September 1, will be the inaugural "Taste of Greece" at our new Church location at Providence Boulevard. The Festival Committee has repeatedly reached out to everyone to join in helping at what will be an unprecedented and historic event at our new Church, and our Parish Council has challenged us with the goal of holding our parish's most successful festival ever!

Volunteers Needed by the Day, Not Just the Hour: The Festival Committee is looking for parishioners to fulfill a variety of roles—there is something for everyone and everyone's

help will be needed! And rather than signing up for just a few hours as in the past, the magnitude of this event will require parishioners to dedicate more time than ever. Please consider donating your day (or days!) as your offering of stewardship to Holy Trinity Church. Many of our parishioners use their vacation days from work, as we will need lots of help during the weekday lunches on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. To learn about how to help, please contact Stephanie Sedor at 412-780-6183 or stephsedor@gmail.com. Thank you, good stewards!

Facilities Reservations Requirements for All Ministries

Important news for all Holy Trinity ministries and organizations! Want to hold a meeting or an event at Holy Trinity Church? You must reserve the facilities you need through the Church Office ahead of time! Whether it is a special event or a regularly-scheduled meeting, you must contact our Office Administrator, Mary Portellos, at 412-366-8700 or office@HolyTrinityPgh.org to reserve your space. This is important for a number of reasons:

- The heating and air conditioning utilities are on programs to conserve energy and must be set to accommodate your event. On-site controls are not available to unauthorized users. Your event will be programmed ahead and the facility will be ready when you arrive.
- Our buildings have security-controlled access and you must be sure that an authorized ministry or organizational representative has access for your event.
- Even though the new campus is large and has many usable spaces, our ministries and organizations are growing and someone else may have the same space in mind, so advance reservations will guarantee your desired time and space. In addition to the larger spaces such as the Grand Room and Gallery, this includes all meeting rooms and cooking facilities!
- The caterer has many bookings and even though church ministries come first, we must avoid situations of conflict of use as we work together cooperatively.

Our Church Office is maintaining a centralized calendar for the Church and Center, so thank for your cooperation in helping make sure everyone has use of this wonderful new facility when needed and nobody conflicts with one another.

Holy Trinity to Host Metropolis Clergy-Laity . . Sept. 26-28

Holy Trinity Church has been honored by His Eminence Metropolitan Savas as the host parish and site for the 2013 Metropolis of Pittsburgh Clergy-Laity Assembly. The event will take place September 26-28 in our Church and Center. We look forward to hosting the representatives from around the Metropolis at our beautiful new facility and thank them for the opportunity to serve the larger Church in this manner. Look for information in the Sunday Bulletin.

New Office Staff Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30am-4:30pm

A reminder: Effective Monday, July 1, we welcomed Mary Portellos, our Church Secretary/Office Administrator to full-time status! Our new office hours are now Monday-Friday, 8:30am-4:30pm. Mary can be reached at 412-366-8700 or via email at ["office@HolyTrinityPgh.org"](mailto:office@HolyTrinityPgh.org).

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

SEPTEMBER 2013 – "THE VOICE OF HOLY TRINITY CHURCH"



Father John Androutsopoulos

Beginning of the New Year

September 1st marks the beginning of the Ecclesiastical New Year. What does God say to us for this day and every day? "Turn to me and be saved." Isaiah 45:22)

Turn Around

God says turn! Have we got the nerve to turn around and change our lives, to turn from sin to salvation, from darkness to light, from

hatred to love? That means to repent, to resolve to be better Christians, to remember what Jesus did on the cross for us. Jesus gave his life as a ransom for many.

Changing our lives around could involve getting out of bed every Sunday and going to Church. It could mean giving up a few of our favorite luxuries and giving to someone less fortunate. It might mean showing a great deal of love to someone we do not even like. The thing is, we cannot turn and face Christ and accept Him and still go on living our lives in the old ways. He commands love and sacrifice and devotion. And once we do turn to Him, the astounding thing is that we find we want to change to His strange truth and ways.

When we think about what he did for us, gratitude fills our hearts and lives and we have to spread it around. It is not something we can keep to ourselves. Do not be content doing your own thing. It is not good enough. Turn around, face Christ, accept His love and then with joy in your hearts, about-face to the world.

September 8: The Nativity Of The Theotokos

On Sunday, September 8, our Church honors the birth of the Theotokos, the Virgin Mary.

The Troparion of the Feast:

Thy Nativity O Theotokos, hath proclaimed joy to the whole universe; for from thee did shine forth the Sun of justice, Christ our God, annulling the curse, and bestowing the blessing, abolishing death and granting us life everlasting.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). This verse is from the Gospel reading for the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos (John 3:13-17).

Sometimes we wonder if God really loves us. There are so many things in life that make us question it. Disappointment, heartaches, injustices, failures – all sometimes make us doubt the love of God. But when we go to the Bible for an answer to our doubts, the one verse which gives us our assurance that we are dear to the heart of God is John 3: 16. The wonder of this Gospel is not that God loved the world, but that he loved it with so great a love, a love which only the sacrifice of an only Son could interpret. God must have known that only in such a sacrifice would you and I understand His great love for

us, and only through it would we see that which can make us whole.

This verse does not say that "God loved" but that "God SO loved." Love knows no bounds. No waters can quench it, no tongue can explain it. When a husband says to his wife, "I love you," that is fine. But when he says, "I love you SO much," that is different. That is what Jesus is saying here. He is telling us that God loves us so much, and because God loved, He gave. He had only one Son and He gave Him up for us all.

As we sing in the Divine Liturgy, "By the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, save us." Beloved, HER intercessions are shaking the Heavens (as translated from Greek).

September 14: The Elevation Of The Holy Cross

On Saturday, September 14th, the Holy Orthodox Catholic and Apostolic Church celebrates the feast of the Elevation of the precious and life-giving Cross of the Lord.

From the Divine Liturgy of the feast: "Thy Cross, our Master, we adore, and Thy Holy Resurrection do we glorify." Lord Jesus Christ, we adore and bless You; for through Your Cross You have redeemed the world. What proves that God loves us is that "Christ died for us while we were still sinners" (Romans 5:8).

The Cross is our assurance that we are loved by God, because in the death of Christ, death itself has been overcome. Christ did not abolish death; we still must die. But because he underwent death for us, we can now be certain that death is but following him into the Father's presence. Similarly, our sufferings are not abolished, but they are transformed and given meaning in God's plan. The cross is the sign of the victory Christ has



given us over suffering and death.

How has suffering touched my life? Has it strengthened my patience and hope? "Lord Jesus, I believe that on the cross you took on yourself my suffering and death. Thank you for having such great love for me."

Beloved, the feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross is equal to the Holy and Great Good Friday. Therefore, our Holy Church prescribes a strict fast day.

May the new Ecclesiastical year be fruitful in the vineyard of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*With His Love,
Rev. Fr. John K. Androutsopoulos, Protopresbyter*

Hello, my precious children!

I, Spero, your fa..a..a..vorite mouse, am back from summer vacation. Boy, did I miss all of you! It is getting time for fall and all of the beautiful colors that it brings. I just love walking through the woods and looking at all of the foliage and God's wonders that He creates for this special season. It never ceases to amaze me that He never gets tired and never lets us down with the creation of all of this colorful beauty. It sure doesn't sound like asking much in return to simply please Him and try to never let Him down, does it?

We have a DVD from the series "Hermie and Friends" by Max Lucado. The name of the DVD is "Buzby the Misbehaving Bee." This DVD is all about following the rules. My precious little ones, when your parents or teachers tell you what to do, please do your best to listen to them. But many times we may wonder why there are so many rules in school and in our house. Why is everyone telling us what to do? The reason rules are put into place is to keep us safe. In this DVD, Buzby learns that our Heavenly Father's rules are the best to follow when he is kicked out of his hive for not following the rules. Buzby's attitude is that he does not need them. He says, "I am king of the bees, King; that's right ... KING! I will start my own hive—"Buzby's Bee Hive"—and bees will come from all over and say 'this is a marvelous bee hive!'" Now Buzby the misbehaving bee is to bring his mischief to Herman and his friend's garden. They try to teach him the garden's "golden rules." The first rule is to "always listen to God." The second rule is "don't open the gate." The third rule is, "listen to your parents." The fourth rule is, "help others." The fifth rule is, "love others." The sixth rule is "do not hurt another bugs' feelings." The seventh rule is, "do not make a mess." The eighth rule is, "do not cause others to do wrong." The ninth rule is, "no speeding." The tenth rule is, "no loud noise after bedtime." Buzby says that the rules are not for him and breaks one of the garden's golden rules, causing a major problem. However, the ant shows him an act of kindness that changes his life. He learns the hard way that God is the King of everything. He says he is sorry and asks for forgiveness. But most of all Buzby learns that following the rules is cool. God gives us Ten Commandments so that we know how to live and love. He is not trying to take away our fun. He wants our lives to be joyful, happy and to treat others with kindness. God's rule is a way to say, "I love you!"

Also included in this video is a bonus cartoon based on Proverbs 3:5-6. It says "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your path straight." These are words to remember.

God wants us to strive everyday to follow the rules and listen to our parents because they know how to take care of us. Have a great School year!



Hey, guess what THIS is? It's my **NEW LIBRARY!** That's right: all the great books and DVD's from the old church, now in an awesome new location on the second floor Education Center. You will be able to visit during Church School and, of course, take some fantastic stuff home. Stop by often...I'll be waiting for you!!

Love in Christ, Spero

A word to students: "For You Who Are Starting," and "Do Not Be Insatiable In Your Life," a story adapted from author Leo Tolstoy.



Voula Hareras

ΕΣΥ ΠΟΥ ΞΕΚΙΝΑΣ (Στους άποφοίτους μας)

Το ρυάκι τού χρόνου τί γοργά πού κυλά! Πόσο γρήγορα πέρασαν τά πρόσχαρα, τά ξέγνοιαστα παιδικά χρόνια. Μαθητής τής τελευταίας τάξεως τού Λυκείου χθές, αφήνεις σήμερα τά μαθητικά θρανία, γιά νά κάνεις πραγματικότητα τά σχέδιά σου γιά τή ζωή.

Τώρα ή καρδιά χτυπάει διαφορετικά. Μπροστά σου

άνοίγονται άπέραντες οί έκτάσεις τής ζωής. Μύριες μυστικές φωνές σέ καλούν νά τίς κατακτήσεις. Ξεκινάς κι έσύ από τό γαληνό μουράγιο. Σέ παρακολουθούν μέ στοργή πολλά μάτια. Κάποιων τό βλέμμα έχει σφραγίσει ή πείρα χρόνων πολλών, πού άνταμώνει μέ τήν αγάπη και άντιφεγγίζει στά μάτια ενός πατέρα, μιάς μάνας, ενός δασκάλου. Είναι και τά μάτια τών μικροτέρων. Τά άδέλφια και οί φίλοι σέ βλέπουν μέ θαυμασμό.

Κι έσύ φεύγεις! Πρωτοτάξιδος άνοίγεις τά πανιά και λύνεις τά σκοινιά, θάμβος γιά τούς καινούργιους όρίζοντες αλλά συνάμα κι ένα παράξενο δέος, ένα άγγιγμα πόνου γιά κάποιους άποχωρισμούς, όραματισμοί και λαχτάρα όπως τό τραγούδησε κι ό ποιητής. Καί λαχταράς, άμποτε άχ, νά φύγεις/στού πελάου τήν τρίσβαθη καρδιά. Γιατί Οί κάβοι οί γαλανοί μέ τ'άσπρα σπίτια/και τά μικρά λιμάνια άπανεμιάς/καλά δέν είναι γιά κείνον πού στά στήθεια/πνοή νοώθει μιάς θάλασσας πλατιάς!

Λοιπόν, καλοτάξιδος! Εύχή μου τήν πορεία σου νά μή τήν παράξει θύελλα καμμία. Ομως κι άν έρθει μή τήν φοβάσαι. Θά συναντήσεις σίγουρα τά δύσκολα, όμως μπορείς νά κρατήσεις άμετάθετη στήν πυξίδα σου τή γραμμή πλεύσεως. Μπορείς άρκεί μόνο νά έμπιστευέσαι και νά άκολουθείς τόν Αρχηγό τής πίστεώς μας, τόν λυτρωτή και σωτήρα Κύριο Ιησού Χριστό. Κι άν βρεθείς ποτέ σέ στιγμές δυσκολίας, άμφιβολίας, κοπώσεως, μήν άφήσεις τήν ψυχή σου νά ταραζεται μέσ'στό σκοτάδι. Επικαλέσου Τον, όπως ένα παιδί τρομαγμένο φωνάζει τόν πατέρα του.

Στάσου ξύπνιος και μή γελαστείς! Στό έπώνυμο και στό άνώνυμο πλήθος, είτε ζητάει νά σου έπιβληθή, είτε περνά άδιάφορο δίπλα σου, στό μωσαϊκό τών χαρακτήρων, τών συνειδήσεων και τών ιδεολογιών, πού σέ κυκλώνει, είσαι σύ

ό κυρίαρχος, γιατί έσύ και μόνο μπορείς νά έπιλέξεις.

Επιλέξε! Καί οί έπιλογές σου άς είναι μέ κριτήριο άλάνθαστο αυτό πού σέ δίδαξε ή παιδική και έφηβική σου πίστη, ή άδολη αγάπη τής οίκογένειας, ή ιστορία τής γαλανόλευκης πατρίδας.

Επιλέξε! Είναι ή ώρα σου. Δέν έχεις τίποτε νά φοβάσαι. Ισα'ίσα, μένεις έτσι αυτό πού είσαι, και ξεδιπλώνεις τήν προσωπικότητά σου μέσα στήν άπαιτητική έποχή πού τάχθηκες νά ζήσεις. Καί πραγματώνεις τόν ύψηλό σκοπό τού άνθρώπου μέσα σ'αυτή και πάνω άπ'αυτή. Οπως ταιριάζει στόν έλεύθερο άνθρωπο.

Και μή ξεχνάς: Μείνε έλεύθερος. Θέλει άρετή και τόλμη ή έλευθερία!

ΠΡΟΣ ΤΗΝ ΝΙΚΗΝ

ΜΗΝ ΕΙΣΑΙ ΑΧΟΡΤΑΓΟΣ ΣΤΗΝ ΖΩΗ ΣΟΥ

Ενας από τους μεγαλύτερους συγγραφείς που Εμφανίστηκαν ποτέ στη Γη ήταν ο Λέων Τολστόι. Ο Τολστόι ήταν βαθύς γνώστης της ανθρώπινης φύσης.

Σ'ένα από τα συγγράματά του γράφει για έναν Ρώσο αγρότη. Κάποιος πλούσιος γαιοκτήμονας υποσχέθηκε στον αγρότη αυτόν πως δική του θα γινόταν η γη που θα μπορούσε να διατρέξει σε μια μέρα, από την ανατολή του ήλιου μέχρι το ηλιοβασίλεμα. Αν ήσουν εσύ στή θέση εκείνου του αγρότη, τι θα έκανες: Εκείνος, το άλλο πρωί, μόλις είδε τον ήλιο να προβάλλει, χωρίς νά χάσει ούτε δευτερόλεπτο άρχισε να τρέχει αντί νά βαδίζει κανονικά. Γιατί, τρέχοντας θα μπορούσε να καλύψει περισσότερη έκταση γης παρά βαδίζοντας. Ομως ο πλούσιος γαιοκτήμονας είχε θέσει έναν όρο. Επρεπε ο αγρότης νά γυρίσει στο σημείο του ξεκινήματος πριν από το ηλιοβασίλεμα.

Ετρεχε λοιπόν λέγοντας συνέχεια: Ας καλύψω λίγη ακόμα έκταση γης, λίγη ακόμα, λίγη ακόμα. Στο γυρισμό θα βάλω τα δυνατά μου και θα τρέξω περισσότερο, για να προλάβω. Πέρασε το μεσημέρι. Ηρθε το απόγευμα. Ο αγρότης ακόμα έτρεχε χωρίς να πάρει το δρόμο της επιστροφής.

Οταν τελικά αποφάσισε να γυρίσει πίσω τα βρήκε σκούρα. Είδε ότι δε θα πρόφτανε. Αρχισε να τρέχει όσο μπορούσε πιο γρήγορα. Τελικά κατάφερε να φτάσει λαχανιασμένος ακριβώς την ώρα που είχε αρχίσει ο ήλιος να κρύβεται πίσω στον ορίζοντα. Μα τη στιγμή που άγγιζαν τα πόδια του στην αφετηρία, έπεσε νεκρός. Η καρδιά δεν άντεξε στην κούραση.

Τι κέρδισε τελικά: Δυο μέτρα γης για το νεκρό του σώμα.

New Church Information | Our New Address & How to Get There

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
985 Providence Boulevard, Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Note: While Providence Boulevard is still being constructed, it is not yet on GPS units or mapping sites (even though our mail is being delivered!). For driving directions, we are at "Cumberland Road and Babcock Boulevard" or opposite "La Roche College, 9000 Babcock Boulevard, Pittsburgh."



July 31-August 6, 2013 (Rosarito, Mexico): For the fifth time, a team of missionaries to build a home for a needy Mexican family (the team arrives and prepares the worksite. The entire project, including tools. **Row 2:** The concrete pad is completed and groups begin to be assembled and the house takes shape. **Row 4:** A layer of ch... stucco and the stucco is applied using trowels and hocks. **Row 5:** is attached. Children from the neighborhood even pitched in for the completion of the work and Susan Zikos presents the key to the house. Finally, it wasn't all work: daily services and Sunday Liturgy were held.



See photos online at: photos.HolyTrinityPgh.org



...me and to the glory of God, Holy Trinity Church sent a team (center photo) with the Project Mexico ministry. **Top row:** The ... including the mixing of cement, is done by hand with no power ... build the wall frames on the ground. **Row 3:** Wall frames are ... chicken wire and tarpaper are attached to create a base for the ... **Row 5:** Stucco is completed and a roof of plywood and shingles ... in! **Bottom row:** Father John offers a house blessing at the ... the house to the family on behalf of the entire mission team. ... were held in the Chapel, and they even made it to the beach!






July 28, 2013: Over 1,500 friends and visitors from nearby and all around Pittsburgh attended Holy Trinity Church's Community Open House on Sunday, July 28, from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m. Guests included local McCandless Township officials and many of the sisters from the Divine Providence Mother House across the street. Hosted jointly by the Holy Trinity parish and Arista Catering and Event Planning, the event featured guided tours of Holy Trinity Church and Center, and samplings of food by Arista, live entertainment and information booths from Arista's preferred vendors. The Grand Room was also set up with sample table settings with various themes. It was in every way a tremendous success warmly received by the local community.




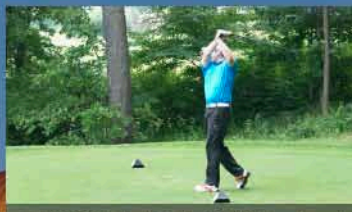





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Project Mexico 2013 2013 Holy Trinity Golf Classic - J Thyranoixia - June 22, 2013

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Community Life Ministries Missions Greek Festival




Holy Trinity Church is pleased to announce the opening of its new Photo site, photos.HolyTrinityPgh.org. This new resource already contains photos of the Thyranoixia, Golf Outing, Youth Ministry events and more. It will be filled over the coming months with tens of thousands of photos from the past 10 years of Holy Trinity life. Pictured here are screenshots of the Home Page (top), a Gallery with thumbnails of images (left), an individual photo preview (bottom left) and a look at how to use the "Get a Link" option to share with Facebook, Twitter or download various size photos. Stop by soon. There is a lot there already, with lots more to come!

photos.HolyTrinityPgh.org



Get a Link: A Taste of Greece 2013

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Holy Trinity Church's Thyranoixia and "Taste of Greece" festival have generated lots of interest in the local print and broadcast media.

post-gazette.COM Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Holy Trinity Greek Food Festival to Be Held at Church's New Home

Taste of Greece to be held Wednesday through Sept. 1

By Jill Cueni-Cohen. August 22, 2013

Starting Wednesday, the folks at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church will host their largest Greek food festival—Taste of Greece—in their brand new home at Babcock Boulevard and Cumberland Road in McCandless. It's the third location in four years for the traditional festival, which moved from the North Side to the former Northway Elementary School in Ross in 2011 and in June into the church's permanent home adjacent to La Roche College and UPMC Passavant.

Festival co-chairman Gerri Valliant said this will be the largest—and longest—festival Holy Trinity has ever hosted. This year's event will extend five days, Wednesday through Sept. 1.

"We've increased our food amounts 68 percent across the board," said Mr. Valliant, adding that the congregation is gearing up to offer the North Hills community customary Greek fare such as shish kebab, gyros, souvlaki, wine and pastries galore -- enough to stretch along one of the walls inside the church's spacious dining hall.

Greek food festivals have been a time-tested way of fundraising and garnering community support for the century-old congregation, which was on the North Side for 80 years. "We've gone through many labors and sacrifices to get to this point," said Mr. Valliant, who also serves as board vice president. A Hampton resident, he said many members of the congregation live in the North Hills, which is one reason the site at McCandless Crossing was chosen.

The new church opened June 22. The congregation, led by the Rev. John Touloumes, the pastor, held an open house, which attracted more than 1,000 people. But the food festival will be the congregation's "coming-out" party, said Mr. Valliant, noting that the festival will utilize as much of the church's 10-acre site as possible. "The Babcock [Boulevard] side will be under tents," he said. "This is where you'll find the finger foods, like gyros, calamari, Greek fries and our new feature, the Baklava Blizzard."

He said there also will be a variety of activities, live entertainment, vendors, Greek wine and specialty coffee. Inside the church hall, festival-goers can dine on souvlaki over rice, lemon chicken, Greek lasagna and a dessert from 200 trays of spanakopita, a Greek pastry.

Every week since January, festival volunteers have met in preparation for the big event. "There are a lot of unknowns, and it's scary, but we should have plenty of food for all," said Mr. Valliant, noting that preparing for the festival is half the fun. "We put everyone to work, including the kids, because that's how it is growing up in the church. The emphasis is on traditional values, foods and wines, and we want to see our traditional values continue."

Festival chairwoman Stephanie Sedor, 28, of West View represents the future of Holy Trinity as she learns from festival-savvy experts like Mr. Valliant and incorporates new ideas from her peers. According to Ms. Sedor, everyone volunteering in the gyro tent will be age 25 and younger. "They came up with the idea for a new gyro. We're calling it 'The Yinzer,'" said Ms. Sedor, explaining that in Greece it's customary to put French fries on a gyro. "So, we're giving it a Pittsburgh twist," she said.

Source: <http://www.post-gazette.com/stories/local/neighborhoods-north/holy-trinity-greek-food-festival-to-be-held-at-churchs-new-home-700348>

Volume 39

August 2013

McCandless Town Crier

Holy Trinity Opens Doors to Parishioners and Public

The Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church held their "Door Opening Service" on June 22, 2013 to officially mark the beginning of services in the North Hills.

"We look forward to being an integral part of the North Hills Community. We welcome people to come see our new church and to join us to worship," said George Dickos, President of the Parish Council at Holy Trinity.

The "Door Opening Service" is a tradition the entire church community participates in. Before the service, everyone gathers outside of the building in order for the bishop to bless the church, according to Dickos. The bishop then opens the doors and parishioners enter together.

The church also welcomed the public to "Come and See," a grand opening event on July 28. Light refreshments were provided as well as an opportunity to see the newest church in McCandless.

The 28,500-square-foot facility is equipped with four offices, six classrooms, conference room, "family" room, community center and two kitchens. The structure is fashioned closely in a Byzantine architectural style, with a traditional dome and facilities that are fundamental

ly formed in the shape of a cross. Bridge Construction broke ground in January 2012 and CJK Design Group was used as the Planning and Architectural Firm.

The original Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church was founded 90 years ago, located in the North Side of Pittsburgh. In the early 1900s, the congregation moved

North Hills: McCandless, Hampton, Fox Chapel and Ross Township.

to 302 West North Avenue, where it remained until recent relocation to McCandless.

"Our goal was to provide a seven-day-a-week church. The prior location had physical constraints, pragmatic issues and was energy inefficient. We wanted classrooms, offices and more meeting space. Not to mention we wanted to bring the church closer to the homes of its parishioners. This was a perfect fit," said Dickos.

Many of the parishioners are from the

The church was funded by donations raised by its own church members and from friends of the church.

At this location, the church will be able to hold its annual food festival inside this year, which is scheduled August 28 through September 1.

For more information about the church or upcoming festivities, visit its website at www.holytrinitypg.org or by calling 412-366-8700. For more church photos, turn to page 13.

Holy Trinity Construction: Start to Finish

Above: The altar just a week before completion.

Summer 2012

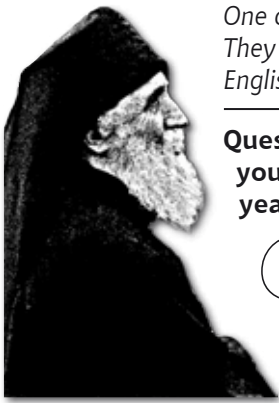
Spring 2013

June 2013

The "Family" room will be used for "family" church between parishioners and the priest. It can also be used to view service.

(Above) Tile artwork on the floor inside of the reception area

(Right) The Door Opening Service was held on June 22, 2013.



Elder Paisios

One of the great blessings of Orthodoxy is the presence, prayers and inspired words of the Holy Elders of the Faith. They have been referred as “precious vessels of the Holy Spirit.” In recent years, many book have been published in English with their writings and talks. This column provides an opportunity for each of us to blessed by their words.

Question: Geronda, I am troubled when you say we will go through difficult years.

You must love one another, be at peace with one another, train yourselves spiritually, be brave, remain united as one body and fear nothing. God will help. Cultivate love, the spiritual kind. Love one another like a mother loves her child. You should have a sense of brotherhood and a spirit of sacrifice. Soon we will go through difficult days.

Naturally, we monks and nuns leave this world and abandon relatives and friends in order to enter the large family of Adam—God’s family. But for the laity, who live in society, it is important that they maintain relationships with relatives and friends who live a spiritual life so that they will be helped. The Christian who is struggling in the world is helped when he has relationships with spiritual people. No matter how spiritually one lives, one needs—especially in our present time—good fellowship with others.

Contact with spiritual people is most beneficial—even more so than spiritual study—because the joy of this spiritual relationship provides a great impetus to one who struggles spiritually. Even at work, in a government department, for example, it is good to get to know other spiritual people for mutual assistance. A problem, say, could arise among colleagues and mutual support would be helpful, but they may hesitate to speak to one another, unless they have already established a fellowship.

Question: When someone refuses to help us in some need, is it right for us to hesitate to ask him again for something we may need?

No, you should not hesitate to ask again. Perhaps he did not have the ability to help at that time. It is like you asking me for a small cross and I give it to you. You ask me again at another time, but I do not have any to give you. Later on, I go and buy little crosses so that I can give them out to people, and you come along and do not ask me for one, while I am looking for an opportunity to give them out.

Today people can be living in the same apartment building and not know each other. In the past there was the neighborhood that allowed people to get acquainted and help each other in a time of need. Someone might be travelling with his horse and cart and meet an acquaintance on the road. “Where are you coming from? Where are you going?” They might ask each other. “I’m going there too. Come on, we’ll go together.” Or maybe if someone else had planned to go somewhere on his horse, he would tell his neighbor, “Where do you need to go? If you can wait, I’ll be going there in three hours by horse and I can take you with me.” Or, he might say to a neighbor, “Tomorrow I will be going that way, why don’t

you stay overnight with us and we can leave together early in the morning.” People thought of each other and whenever they could offer some help they did. They were curious, in a good way, and would ask if they could be of help in any situation whatsoever. They even had acquaintances from village to village.

Question: Geronda, how does it help people to have ties of spiritual friendship?

Nowadays, even if spiritual people do not want to be bonded together, they will be forced to do so by the devil. Through his abundant evil, the devil actually brings about a great good for the people today. For example, suppose that a believing father wants to have a tutor for his children. He will be obliged to find a good and believing teacher to provide this service in his household. A teacher, who is a believer but has not yet been assigned to a school, wants to tutor children and will want to find a good family to feel secure. A tradesman, who lives spiritually, be he a painter or electrician, or builder, will look to find work in a good family, to feel at ease and to avoid the troubles he would otherwise encounter in a worldly setting. By the same token, a Christian family man will seek to bring into his house a good tradesman who is also a believer. Thus, each will be looking to find another spiritual person with whom he can cooperate. Gradually, spiritual people will come to know one another through the various trades and professions.

In the end, the devil with his evil work actually does some good, without wanting to, by separating the sheep from the goats. The sheep and the goats will be separated and there shall become one flock, one shepherd.’ You see, in the past the villages had a shepherd, and each of the villagers would give him their sheep or goats, one five, another ten, and he would pasture the sheep and the goats together, because back then the goats were tame and did not butt the sheep with their horns. Now the goats have gone wild and are savagely butting Christ’s sheep. The sheep, in turn, are seeking a good shepherd and a flock made up of sheep only. For the world has now become fit only for those who live in sin. For this reason people will separate themselves—the sheep will be separated from the goats. Those who want to live a spiritual life will eventually find that they are not able to do it in this world; they will be searching to find people like themselves, people of God. They’ll want to have a Spiritual Father to guide them and they will distance themselves all the more from sin. And this good is now being achieved by the devil and his evil ways, without him wanting to. So, now we see in the cities and the villages, too, some people running to nightclubs and entertainment centres while others are going to Church for vigils, for supplication prayers, for spiritual gatherings, and these people are united among themselves.

Excerpted from Elder Paisios of Mount Athos, “Spiritual Counsels, Vol. II: Spiritual Awakening”

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**Please note new contact information for
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church**

**Address: 985 Providence Boulevard
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**GPS: Opposite 9000 Babcock Boulevard
or at corner of Cumberland & Babcock**

Phone: 412-366-8700

Fax: 412-366-8710

Internet: www.HolyTrinityPgh.org

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Cemetery**

McCandless Township, North Hills

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412-364-1545

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ABOVE EVERYTHING IS LOVE

Let us scatter our love selflessly to all, without regard to the way they act towards us. When the grace of God enters us, we will not be concerned about whether they love us or not or whether they speak to us politely or not. We will feel the need to love all people. It's egotism on our part to wish for others to speak to us politely. If they don't we shouldn't be upset. Let them speak to us as they wish. We needn't become beggars for love. Our aim should be to love them and pray for them with all our soul. Then we will become aware that all people love us without our seeking it and without our begging for their love. They will love us freely and sincerely from the depths of their heart without our blackmailing them. When we love without seeking to be loved, people will gather around us like bees. This is true for everyone.

Elder Porphyrios, "Wounded by Love"

Scripture of the Month: "Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God" (1 John 4.7)