



THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

NOVEMBER 2014 VOLUME 22 • ISSUE 9

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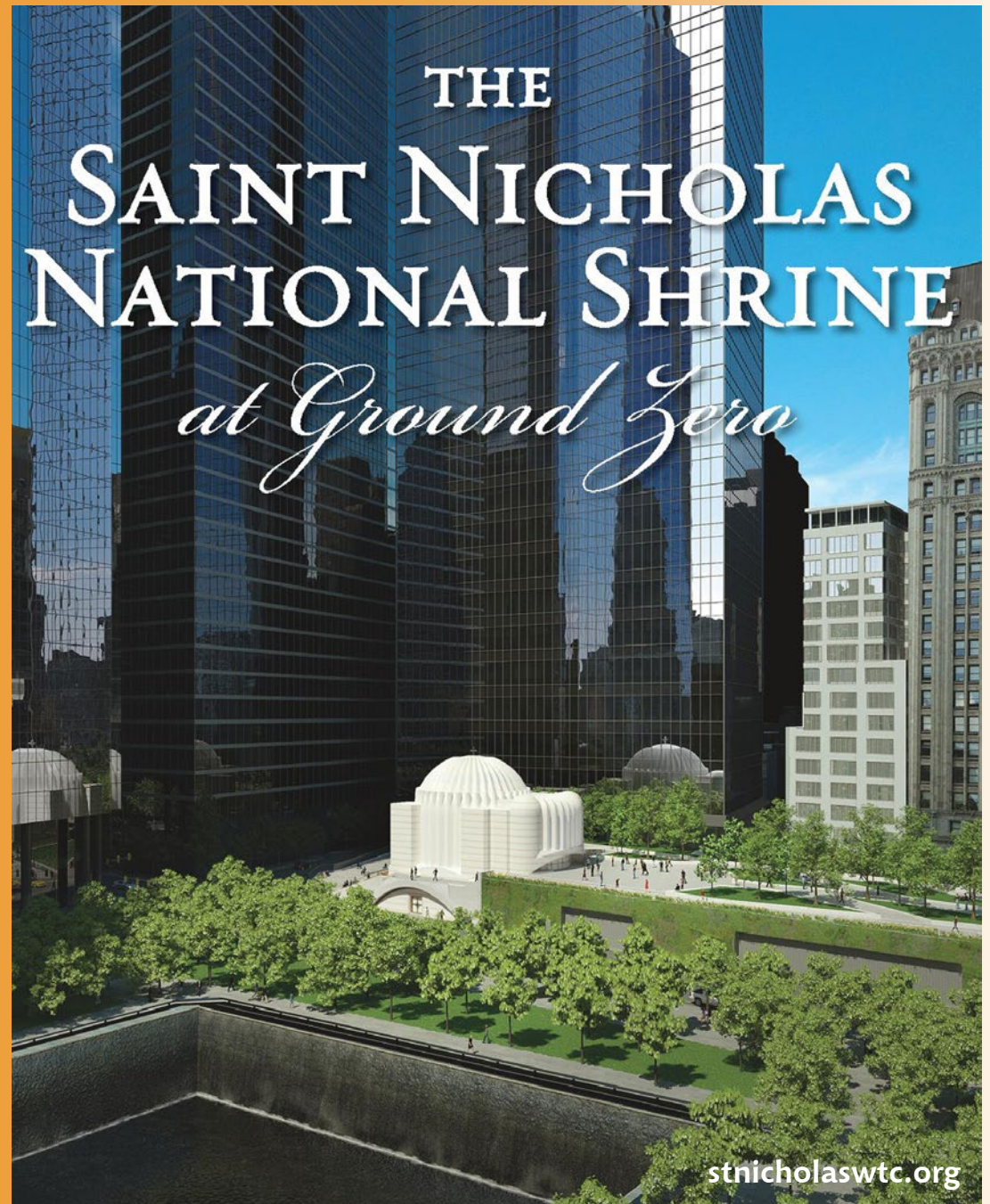
**NOVEMBER 16, 2014
FALL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
NOTICE, AGENDA &
PC NOMINATIONS FORM!**

QUICK NEWS



Young people enjoy an activity session at Faith and Family Wednesdays. Want to see more photos of this exciting annual event and others in the life and ministries of Holy Trinity Church? See the Community Life Photo Journal on pages 8-12 or visit our online photo gallery site at photos.HolyTrinityPgh.org.

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH • PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA
OUR VISION: "FAITH. FAMILY. COMMUNITY."



October 18, 2014, Ground Zero, New York City: "Just as the Greek Orthodox Church celebrates the birth, mourns the death and praises the Resurrection, today we celebrate the rebuilding and the blessing of the hallowed land on which it will stand." (From a speech by Patrick J. Foye, Executive Director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.)

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

2014 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!



**"O Champion General, I your City now ascribe to
you triumphant anthems as the tokens of my grati-
tude, being rescued from the terrors, O Theotokos."**

From the hymn, "Ti Ipermaho"

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In the memorable words of Yogi Berra, "It's like déjà vu all over again." Of the many emotions and personal feelings I experienced at the Ground Blessing Service for Saint Nicholas Church at Ground Zero on October 18, déjà vu was one of them. Defined as "the feeling that you have already experienced something that is actually happening for the first time," I knew it wasn't possible to have actually experienced what was going on that day before, because in the history of the country and of the Church in America, it was a singularly momentous day: the establishment of an Orthodox Christian Church in the heart of one of the most famous cities in the world that would become a National Shrine overlooking one of the most visited destinations in the world. Those are a lot of firsts!

There was good cause, however, for the feelings of having been there before. First, on my 18th birthday, my family took me to New York and we enjoyed brunch at the famous, "Windows on the World" restaurant on the 107th floor of North Tower of the World Trade Center. It was heralded as "The Most Spectacular Restaurant in the World" for many reasons, but especially for the views. 37 years later, it was no wonder I felt like I had been there before, as the reception following the Ground Blessing Service was held on the 68th floor of the Freedom Tower, the new World Trade Center skyscraper. Architecturally suspended so high above the same space only yards from where we enjoyed that meal many years ago truly amazed me.

Second, being at a "Ground Blessing Service" also gave me powerful memories of the October 19, 2008, Ground Blessing Service at the site of our new Holy Trinity Church, which was at the time an empty lot. As I stood in New York surrounded by the Metropolitans of the Holy Synod of the Archdiocese, it took me back to that beautiful experience surrounded by the love of our then-archpastor, His Eminence Metropolitan Maximos, as he presided over the service that put us on our new property for the first time liturgically.

But finally, as the verses of the banner Orthodox Christian hymn, "Ti Ipermaho" ("O Champion General") began, I was transported to so many places in the life and history of the Orthodox Church that I could not keep track of them. This hymn, sung at the Services of Salutations and the Akathist Hymn during Lent, as well as at many special occasions of celebration throughout the year, is the Church's melodious and victorious proclamation of the Holy Protection of the Theotokos and Mother of God, even in the most challenging times. It reminded me of my 2007 visit to the Church of Vlahernae, where the hymn was first sung in honor of the Theotokos in 626 A.D. As one pilgrim described its historical origins, "While the Byzantine army was fighting a battle away from Constantinople, the Avars attacked the queen city. The Christians turned to the Theotokos for protection, and here for the first time the Akathist Hymn was chanted in gratitude to the Mother of God for saving the city." So as I stood during the Ground Blessing at the heart of the pre-eminent city in the United States, 5,027 miles from Constantinople and 1,388 years later, the strands of that hymn re-wove a tapestry of history which once again showed the mercy of God, the love of the Theotokos and the victory in Christ for all believers.

I encourage all our parishioners to experience those historic moments by watching the video online at stnicholaswtc.org, and I look forward to our first community pilgrimage to the completed church. I thank you for your prayers for safe travels and a peaceful event that day, as well as for your encouragement in everything we, your priests, do to further the work of the ministry, the growth of the Church and the development of your relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. "To him belong glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen" (1 Peter 4.11).

Pastorally yours in the love of Christ,



HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS TO MAKE HISTORIC FIRST ARCHPASTORAL VISIT TO HOLY TRINITY CHURCH ON NOVEMBER 9, 2014 NOTE EARLIER START TIME FOR LITURGY: 9:00 AM. PLEASE ARRIVE EARLY!

We are honored to host His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios for his first visit to our new Holy Trinity Church on Sunday, November 9. His Eminence will be accompanied by His Eminence Metropolitan Savas and will offer an Archpastoral Greeting and Homily following the Gospel at the Divine Liturgy.

IMPORTANT CHANGE: Due to His Eminence's travel schedule, WE WILL START DIVINE LITURGY AT 9:00 AM ON THAT DAY. With the homily being delivered following the Gospel, that means he will be speaking by 9:15am, so the only way to receive the full blessings of the day is to arrive by 9:00 for the start of the service. Thank you for honoring our beloved hierarchs by arriving on time!

WORSHIP LIFE

Weekday Services November

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).

Nov. 21: Entrance of the Theotokos (SG)

Nov. 25: St. Katherine the Great Martyr (SG)

Nov. 26, 6:30pm: Vespertal Liturgy for Thanksgiving (HT)

All Saints, Canonsburg, Consecration Weekend .. Nov. 7-9

Our sister parish of All Saints in Canonsburg is holding her historic Consecration weekend from November 7-9. All the faithful of the area are invited to participate in these most sacred events, presided over by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios and His Eminence Metropolitan Savas. The services for the weekend are as follows:

Nov. 7: 6:30pm, Hierarchical Consecration Great Vespers of the Holy Archangels at All Saints Church, Canonsburg

Nov. 8: 8:00am Orthros/9:00am Consecration Service and Divine Liturgy

These are inspiring and once-in-a-lifetime experiences for a church. Everyone is encouraged to attend. We offer our congratulations to the All Saints community for the great step forward in the life of their beloved parish. For more information, visit www.AllSaintsCbg.org.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MINISTRIES

Oratorical Festival Pizza Party..... November 9

The Church School ministry will be hosting a pizza party for all Church School students who will be participating in this year's St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival. Students must have chosen their category and their topic. See last month's *Herald* for an insert with the list of topics. See your Church School teacher for more information.

Saint Lydia Women's Study Ministry November 4, 18

Attention women of all ages: you are invited to participate in the 16th year of Holy Trinity Church's St Lydia Women's Study. The group will continue its series on "Women of Faith" this month led by Father John on November 4 & 18

at 9:30am. Each week the group will learn about a different woman from the history of the Church and her life in Christ. In our "troubled times," we need the encouragement of those who have gone before us, whether they are faithful women of the Old Testament, New Testament or recent saints. We also need the encouragement, love and prayers of one another. This is not just about learning, it is also about sharing, in our uniqueness as women, the journey we are on toward our own salvation and sainthood. Meetings are held every other Tuesday in the Fireside Room. The church is open for personal prayer and coffee will be served in the Fireside room at 9:30 am. The study begins at 10:00 and ends at 11:15. Here is the list of remaining dates for 2014/15: Nov 4,18; Dec 2,16; Jan 20; Feb 3,17; Mar 3,17; April 14, 28; May 12. Come often and invite others!

Faith and Family Wednesdays..... November

Plasesee page 7 of this issue for the monthly schedule of this important faith and learning weekly ministry.

YOUTH MINISTRIES

GOYA Meeting November 9

The GOYA teen ministry will hold a brief meeting following Church School on Sunday, November 9, in the Conference Room. All GOYAns are asked to attend.

GOYA Dinner & Movie Evening November 16

The GOYA will host a dinner and movie night for teens on Sunday, November 16. Details will be sent on the GOYA list-serv. Watch for details!

Metropolis GOYA Fall Retreat November 21-23

The Metropolis will sponsor its annual GOYA Fall Retreat from November 21-23 at Camp Nazareth in Mercer, PA. The Metropolis is honored to have His Grace Bishop Gregory of Nyssa (American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of the U.S.A.) as the retreat speaker. Information and an online registration link has been sent directly to all GOYAns. ALL Holy Trinity GOYAns are asked to attend as part of their overall commitment to the youth ministries of our parish and Metropolis.

GOYA Turkey Bowl November 30

The GOYA will hold its annual Turkey Bowl Thanksgiving

Weekend Football Game on Sunday, November 30, following Divine Liturgy. This is a fun and friendly GOYA tradition, and everyone is invited: players, non-players, cheerleaders, parents and fans! The game will be played on the main lawn at the church. Players should bring a change of clothes and shoes for play. Sign up at the November GOYA meeting. The flag football game will be followed by hot chocolate, meatless "walking tacos" and other goodies. Yum!

Not into football? We have something fun for you, too! We will also be preparing cards for troops, sending holiday greetings to our brave men and women on the front lines of freedom. What a great way to send love and thanks to those who will not be home for the holidays because they are out there keeping us safe. All materials will be provided.

HOPE and JOY Iconography Project. November 23

The young children of our parish will be doing an iconography-making project on Sunday, November 23, following the Divine Liturgy. The children will be painting icons on glass. Presvytera Lordana will be providing instructions and teachings on iconography.

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Philoptochos Sunday. November 2

Holy Trinity Church and Philoptochos will join parishes and Philoptochos chapters throughout the Archdiocese in celebrating Philoptochos Sunday. There will be a special coffee hour as well as the SABIKA Jewelry event. A special tray will also be passed on that day to benefit the Ecumenical Patriarchate, of which the National Philoptochos is a major benefactor. Thank you for your support of our Philoptochos members, their chapter and their important philanthropic work!

SABIKA Jewelry Philoptochos Fundraiser. . . . November 2

Our Holy Trinity Ladies Philoptochos invites you to a special afternoon Fundraiser featuring SABIKA Austrian Crystal Jewelry, on Sunday, November 2, following Divine Liturgy through 1:00pm. The Fundraiser will showcase the new Fall/Winter 2014 Collection and the Classics Collection. Please come and enjoy refreshments while you shop the Beautiful Collections. Create your own style! Begin your Christmas shopping early!! Our own Alexandra Mayr-Gracik, Vice President of Design at Sabika, will be there to help you select a timeless design. All proceeds benefit the Philanthropic work of our Philoptochos. Call Jan Petredis at 724-935-0805 for more information, and thank you for supporting our Ladies Philoptochos.

Philoptochos Seniors Christmas Celebration. Dec. 4

Holy Trinity Philoptochos is hosting its annual Seniors Christmas celebration on Thursday, December 4. The morning will start with the Divine Liturgy of Saint Barbara, followed by the Christmas luncheon. See the enclosed flyer for details

COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS

Fall General Assembly. November 16

Please plan to attend the regular Fall General Assembly on Sunday, November 16. An agenda is enclosed in this issue of

Herald. This Assembly is to review parish life, nominate candidates for the Parish Council and other important committees and hear reports on important parish matters. It is vital to the life of a healthy community that all members attend, as these meetings are quite important in the day-to-day life of the parish.

Please remember, to vote at an assembly or in elections, you must be a member in good standing as defined in the Uniform Parish Regulations. Also, the requirements to run for Parish Council according to the UPR and the Holy Trinity By-Laws are indicated in the enclosed nomination form. These include, but are not limited to, being an enrolled member in good standing for three years prior to the date of nomination, having a signed 2014 Holy Trinity Stewardship Pledge card submitted and attending the Metropolis Regional Parish Council Nominees Seminar on November 25, 2014. Whether it is attending assemblies, being voted on council, taking in a leadership role in a ministry or just getting involved more, the Lord has a calling and a role for every one of us at Holy Trinity Church because you are a part of the Body of Christ and have an important contribution to offer. God has already equipped you with it and is waiting for you to step up and use it. Consider it. Pray about it. What's yours?

Community Christmas Card Form. Due Dec. 6

If you would like to include your name in this annual community tradition, please be sure to submit your form and donation to the Church Office by December 6. Thank you!

Holiday Poinsettias Form. Due Dec. 6

The current issue of the *Herald* contains a form for the sponsoring of holiday poinsettias for use in the church during the Christmas and Theophany season. If you would like to donate one or more flowers in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special person or event, please complete the form and return it to the Church Office with your donation by December 6. And remember: we have a lot bigger church to decorate this year, so please be generous. Thank you!

Save the Date: New Year's Eve!

Looking for a great way to start the New Year? Join your friends and family at Holy Trinity Church! The evening starts with the Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil at 6:00pm, followed by a night of live Greek music, dancing and food. A flyer is enclosed. Start off the New Year right: with God's blessings, surrounded by your Holy Trinity family!

In the Hospital? Home-Bound? Let Us Know!

In today's age of information privacy, churches are not notified when parishioners are admitted to hospitals, nursing homes or other care facilities. Both those facilities and your church depend on having the church notified by a friend or family member so pastoral care and outreach can be offered. The same goes for those homebound. If you or any of your loved ones are in any of these situations, please contact the Church Office at 412-366-8700 to request a visit from our priests or visitation ministry. Interested in helping reach out to fellow parishioners in those situations? Please contact the Church Office and offer your time as a visitation volunteer.

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

NOVEMBER 2014 – "THE VOICE OF HOLY TRINITY CHURCH"



**Father John
Androutsopoulos**

A Thanksgiving Prayer

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ: Rejoice in the Lord Always!

On Saturday, November 15, the Nativity Fast, "Advent", begins. Thursday, November 27, is Thanksgiving Day. "In everything give thanks for this is the will of God, in Christ Jesus concerning you." (1 Thessalonians 5-15).

Prayer: Our Heavenly Father, we worship you with thankful hearts, for Thou are our God, our Creator, and giver of every good and precious gift. All that is within us today cries out to bless and magnify your Holy Name. In the midst of Thanksgiving, we do not forget our sin and shortcomings. May your great love and goodness ever lead us to repentance. We thank you that you have made us so that our hearts are restless till they find rest in You. Amen.

Prophets Proclaim the Messiah's Coming

"The voice of him who crieth in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it" (Isaiah 40:3-5).

"And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge, and of the fear of the Lord" (Isaiah 11:1-3).

"Behold, the days come saith the Lord that I will raise unto David, a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth" (Jeremiah 23:5).

"Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall call his name Emmanuel" (Isaiah 7:14).

"Behold I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me; and the Lord, whom ye seek shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, who ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts" (Malachi 3:1).

"Behold I will bring forth my servant the Branch" (Zechariah 3:8).

"Behold the man whose name is The Branch: and he shall grow out of his place and he shall build the temple of the Lord" (Zechariah 6:12).

"But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth who is to be ruler of Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting" (Micah 5:2).

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name

shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever" (Isaiah 9: 6-7).

Preparation for God's Messiah

Jesus began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4:21).

It takes the entire Old Testament to tell of the preparation made for the birth of God's Messiah. The Church needs the entire Bible. It needs the Old Testament story of how God was raised up, and guided, and preserved a people so that, in the "fullness of time", he might send forth His son to be cradled in their midst. The Church needs the New Testament to preserve the story of Jesus and His teaching, and to encourage it to continue its witness of all that Jesus said and did.

The Season of Spiritual Expectation

"Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness" (Isaiah 32:1).

To be a season of spiritual expectations, Advent (Nativity Fast) requires preparation. During the centuries when Israel was expecting a king, few persons looked for the kind of king God finally sent to them—a king of righteousness. The King was born in a stable. He lived and walked with men where they lived. He died the death of a criminal. Though He died on a Cross, His Kingdom continued to grow. It has continued to increase as men's hearts have opened to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ is reigning in righteousness now. Prophecy is still being fulfilled.

Advent is a time of reflection; it is a time to recall how God emptied Himself. It is a time to straighten out what is crooked and level off any pitfalls in our human existence. The great truth that God came as a Child to accomplish our deliverance and our salvation should also be food for our reflection as we spend the days of this Holy season preparing for His Nativity. May we learn this truth of love well!

Advent—a season of expectation and preparation? Yes, but even more it is a holy time—a time of dedication or rededication – of our lives to Christ the King.

Are you and I part of His Kingdom? Have we let Him become our King so that righteousness, peace and joy may be ours?

Thoughts for the Day

Look at the Cross: it is the disclosure of God's love. It takes dedication to put our time, abilities, and possessions under divine control.

May you have a Happy Thanksgiving Day!

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



Hello to All My Precious Children and Happy Thanksgiving to everyone!

My little sister, Zoe, is always asking me many questions and sometimes they are tough to answer! (She thinks just because I am the "Big Cheese" I know everything!) Well, I, Spero, am happy to tell you, my precious children, about a series of books by Joel Anderson that uses simple stories and pictures to talk about big subjects. The series is called, "Big Topics for Little Kids."

"Tell Me About Love," is one of the books in this series. It tells us that love is the greatest gift we can give anyone. You know, there are many kinds of love. The love of a friend is different than the way you love Mommy and Daddy or brother and sister. Our Heavenly Father's love is the most perfect love. In fact, Yiayia tells us that the Bible says, "God is love" (1 John 4.16) and that God loved us so much He sent His only-begotten Son to save us (John 3.16). This is how we know real love: that Jesus gave His life for us. So today, try to show someone you love them with a hug, some kind words, a good deed or even a small gift. It is a small way of sharing the love that our Heavenly Father has given us.

"Tell Me About Faith" is a story about a little girl named Faith, whose father is a soldier. She knows him only through his letters, but she trusts in his promises and believes in his love. This story will help my little ones understand the meaning of hope and trust. You know, one summer when I went to camp, the children learned about trust through fun exercise. They stood in front of another camper and closed their eyes and fell into the arms of the other camper. Why did they do this? Because they were putting their trust in someone who could see for them. That is how it is with our Heavenly Father. He sees and knows everything. He gives us commandments to help us through life



without stumbling along the road. But it takes faith to do what is right, not doing what others want you to do. It takes trust to follow His words.

The final book in this series I want to chat about is "Eternity." It shows us how life continues forever by talking about two births: the birth of a baby, which begins life on earth, and the eternal birth of an old man, as he enters his new home in heaven, which is for us life everlasting. We know God has no beginning or end. But each of us have a beginning when we were born on earth. Yiayia tells us little ones that Jesus said if we believe in Him and follow His Father's commandments, He will go ahead of us and prepare a place for each of us in Heaven, where we can be with Him for all eternity.

Boy, I am really looking forward to Heaven, because it will last forever and ever! (But I have to be patient, because the only way in is when Jesus opens the door for us!)



In Christ,
Love, Spero

WORSHIP — BYZANTINE MUSIC — LITURGICAL COOKING — ICONOGRAPHY — OUTREACH PROJECTS

FAITH AND Family Wednesdays AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Feel like you don't know enough about your Faith? Want to understand the Bible better? Like to learn more about living an Orthodox life? The "Faith and Family Wednesdays" ministry offers guides, teachers and practical experience in all these areas and more. It also provides a great opportunity to spend time around your Holy Trinity family and enjoy worship, fellowship, growth and sometimes just fun! It's a great way to live and learn your faith between Sundays!

ABOUT THE SERIES

The most important thing about the schedule is simple: be there at 6:30 and there will be both a blessing and an opportunity for you. And bring the entire family, because there is something for them, too! The worship service goes from 6:30-7:15pm. After a brief fellowship break, there is a series of simultaneous learning, growth and activity sessions from 7:15-8:30pm. All sessions will take place in the various facilities of Holy Trinity Center. There are three tracks each week: Studies, Growth and Orthodox Family Life. Topics and specific activities will vary from month to month, and information will be published in the Herald, the Bulletin on the email list and on the website.

As we open the second year of this exciting new ministry, many thanks are due to all the teachers, contributors and special guests who have made this series possible. Welcome back to all the participants as well, whose feedback from last season was essential to making adjustments that the Spiritual Life Ministry hopes will make this experience even better this year.

COMPLETE GUIDE THE TO NOVEMBER 2014 "FAITH AND FAMILY WEDNESDAYS"

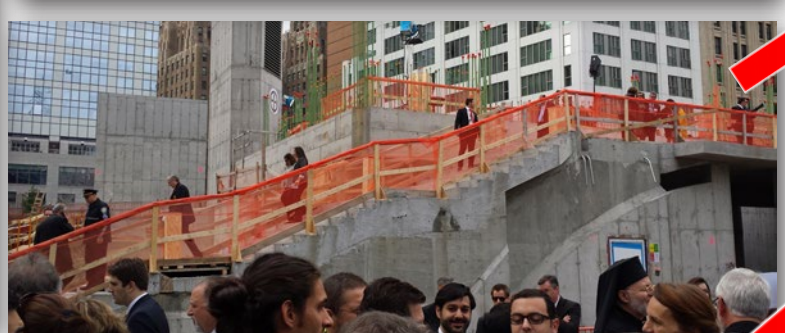
| TRACK | WORSHIP | STUDIES | GROWTH | ORTHODOX FAMILY LIFE |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| DATE/TIME | 6:30pm | 7:15-8:30pm | | |
| Nov. 5 First Wednesday of the month | Blessing of the Waters and Blessing of the Loaves (Artoclasia) | Orthodox Book Club: "The Illustrated Jesus Through the Centuries" Father Radu | Understanding Orthodoxy Ted Cherpas | "Making Marriage Better" (Marriage Enrichment for Married Couples) Father John |
| Nov. 12 Second Wednesday of the month | No services or session this evening. Metropolis Clergy Retreat. | | | |
| Nov. 19 Third Wednesday of the month | Service of the Hours/ Confession also available | Orthodox Book Club "The Illustrated Jesus Through the Centuries" Father Radu | Orthodoxy Today Guest Speaker | "Journey to Marriage" (Preparation for Pre-Marriage Couples) Father John |
| Nov. 26 Fourth Wednesday of the month | Special Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service: 6:30pm Vespers Liturgy. Thanksgiving message: "Give thanks to the Lord for He is good." Come join for worship, then enjoy the holiday with family and friends. No sessions offered after services. | | | |

BIBLE STUDY — BOOK CLUB — JOURNEY TO MARRIAGE — UNDERSTANDING ORTHODOXY — CONFESSION

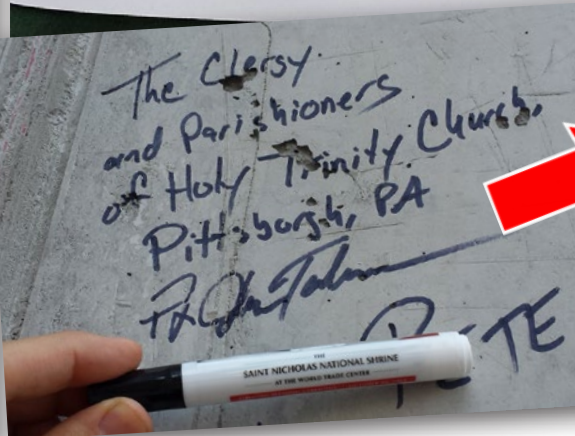
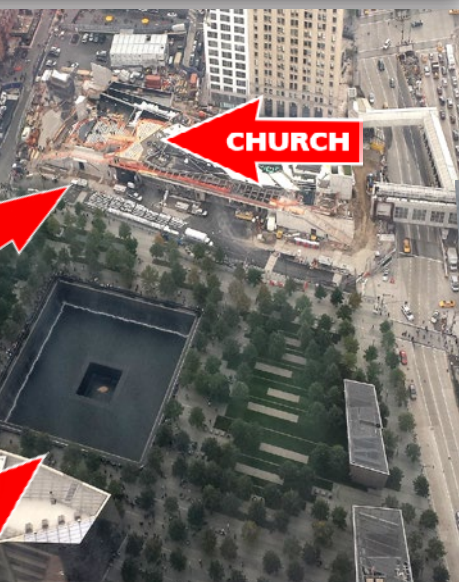
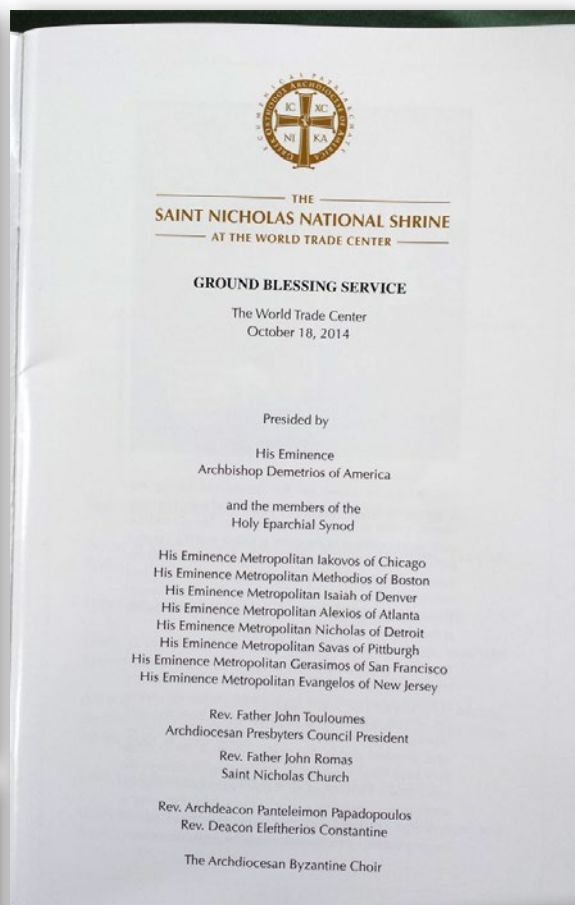
GROUND BLESSING SERVICE

Saint Nicholas National Shrine at the World Trade Center

Watch the Video of the Service at stnicholaswtc.org



October
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Blessin
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around
the for
building
floor o
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er 18, 2014: Just over 13 years from the tragic day when over 3,000 people lost their lives in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese celebrated the Ground Blessing for the new Saint Nicholas Church, which will replace the original Saint Nicholas Church destroyed in the attacks. **Top left:** Architect Santiago Calatrava's design; Archbishop Demetrios presided over the Ground Blessing Service. **Middle left:** Members of the Holy Synod and clergy process in the service; former NY Governor George Pataki lays a memorial stone in place; steps ascend to the overlook on which the St. Nicholas Church will perch. **Lower left:** Hundreds of people gathered around one of the twin Memorial Pools at the Ground Zero Memorial which occupy the footprints of the former World Trade Center towers. **Above:** The 94-story Freedom Tower, or 1 World Trade Center, rising from the site; The Ground Blessing booklet title page; A view of the WTC Memorial Park from the 68th floor of the Freedom Tower, with red arrows indicating the locations of the memorial pools, the church site and the future site of St. Nicholas Church. **Top right:** Architect's rendition of the luminous design of the church; Father John Touloumes with His Eminence Metropolitan Savas. **Right and bottom:** Father John inscribed the name of Holy Trinity Church on the base of the church as the thought of participants in the ceremony were offered the opportunity to write their names into history.

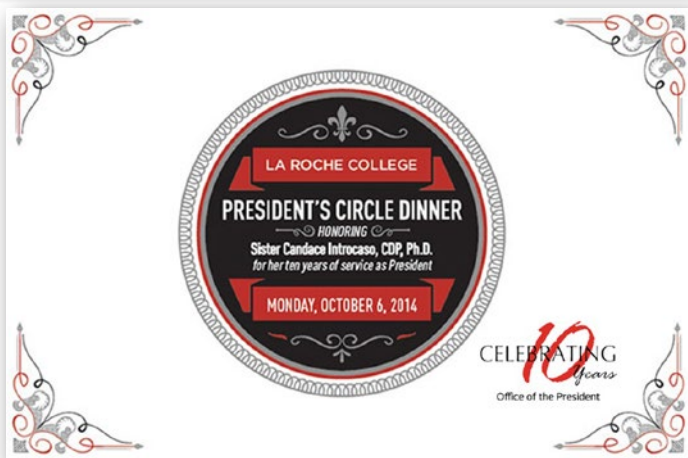


(Top) September 28, 2014: Holy Trinity Church School Staff members gather for a fall planning meeting in the Conference Room. **(Middle) October 10, 2014:** Participants in the bi-weekly Tuesday morning Saint Lydia Women's Study Fellowship Ministry gather in the Fireside Room to discuss this year's topic, "Women of Faith." **(Bottom) October 9, 2014:** Metropolitan Savas and local Orthodox clergy gather for a presentation by Father Jason Delvitto on the Eucharist during the fall meeting of the Saint Gregory Palamas Theological Society.



(Left) **October 22, 2014:** Attendees at the weekly "Faith and Family Wednesdays" hear guest speaker Nicholas Petrogeorge while children participate in a faith learning activity. (Below) **October 5, 2014:** General William Pagonis addresses the Church School upper classes on how his faith guided his military career. **October 18, 2014:** HOPE and JOY children and parents enjoy the annual fall hayride. **October 12, 2014:** GOYAns gather for a lunch, a Steelers game and a work project at the Bordeianu house. **October 23, 2014:** Visitors from St. Ferdinand Roman Catholic Church in Cranberry take a tour of Holy Trinity Church. **October 26, 2014:** Long-time Holy Trinity parishioners Steve and Athena Hodge receive a farewell presentation and icon from Father John and Father Radu.





October 6, 2014: La Roche College celebrated the Tenth Anniversary of the Presidency of Sister Candace Introcaso during the President's Circle Dinner. The event is held each year to thank major donors and scholarship underwriters. Holy Trinity Church was doubly-honored at the event by being featured in the video presentation and by having Father John Touloumes invited to offer the invocation for the dinner.

(Left) Two images from the celebration video: the title slide and a remembrance of the 2007 signing ceremony at which Metropolitan Maximos and Sister Candace met and signed ceremonial papers.

(Below) Program announcement of the recipients of the 2014/2015 "Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church Endowed Scholarship." This scholarship was established in 2007 as part of the purchase of the West Campus of La Roche College for the new location of Holy Trinity Church. It is offered to students of Hellenic heritage if possible, or for others if none are available. **(Bottom clockwise)** Father John and Presvytera Becky greet La Roche Board President Steven Massaro; Father John is welcomed by Sister Maria Fest and Sister Monique Dietz of the Sisters of Divine Providence; Father John offers the invocation for dinner; Sister Candace addresses the dinner attendees; a scene from the anniversary video featuring a bird's-eye fly-over panoramic view of the former La Roche West Campus, now the home of Holy Trinity Church and the McCandless Crossing development.



His Eminence Metropolitan Maximos of the Greek Orthodox, Metropolis of Pittsburgh (left), and La Roche President, Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D., at the land agreement signing in June 2007. Pictured, center, is Bill Pader of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church.



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Scholarship Recipients for Academic Year 2014/2015

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church Endowed Scholarship
Corinne Harris, Samantha Ramsey

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A Greek language offering on the Ionian "Seven Islands" of Greece and the many saints with which they have blessed the Church.



Voula Hareras

ΕΠΤΑΝΗΣΙΟ ΑΓΙΟΛΟΓΙΟ

Μία σειρά Αγίων κοσμούν με την άγιαστική, χαριτόβρυτη παρουσία τους τα Επτάνησα και δίνουν δύναμη στον τόπο και τους κατοίκους. Ακρίτες φύλακες της Ορθοδοξίας στα σύνορα Ανατολής και Δύσης.

Κέρκυρα

Ο Άγιος Σπυρίδων, είναι ο πολιούχος και προστάτης της Κέρκυρας, ο θαυματουργός Άγιος, που έσωσε πολλές φορές το νησί με τα θαύματά του από άρρώστιες και καταστροφές και στον οποίο προστρέχουν χιλιάδες πιστοί μέχρι και σήμερα, αναζητώντας παρηγοριά και βοήθεια. Ως Επίσκοπος Τριμυθούντος της Κύπρου πήρε μέρος στην Α' Οικουμενική Σύνοδο της Νίκαιας το 325 μ.Χ. Το σκήνωμά του άφθαρτο μεταφέρθηκε στην Κέρκυρα το 1456. Εορτάζεται στο νησί εκτός από τις 12 Δεκεμβρίου και άλλες 4 φορές μέσα στο χρόνο. Συμπολιούχος είναι και η 'Αγία Θεοδώρα, που αναστήλωσε τις εικόνες και κατέπαυσε έτσι η μεγάλη θρησκευτική έριδα της Εικονομαχίας. Το σκήνωμά της βρίσκεται άφθαρτο στο μητροπολιτικό ναό του νησιού. Το σημαντικότερο βυζαντινό μνημείο του νησιού είναι ο ναός - όπου και ο τάφος -, των αγίων Ιάσωνα και Σωσιπάτρου, μαθητών του αποστόλου Παύλου, που δίδαξαν τον χριστιανισμό στην Κέρκυρα.

Παξοί - Αντίπαξοι

Στους Παξούς τιμάται ο άγιος Γάιος, ένας από τους έβδομήκοντα που άσχολήθηκαν με τη μετάφραση της Παλαιάς Διαθήκης. Σύμφωνα με την παράδοση, ο Άγιος σέ ταξίδι του προς τη Ρώμη άσθένησε και σταμάτησε στο νησί. Εδώ κοιμήθηκε και έτάφη με τιμές. Πάνω στον τάφο του Αγίου είναι χτισμένος ο ναός ο αφιερωμένος στη μνήμη του.

Λευκάδα

Τό μοναστήρι της Παναγίας της Φανερωμένης, πολιούχου και προστάτιδας της Λευκάδας, σημείο αναφοράς των άπανταχού Λευκαδίων, βρίσκεται σέ ένα ύψωμα πάνω από την πόλη. Πανηγυρίζει με κάθε μεγαλοπρέπεια τη Δευτέρα του Αγίου Πνεύματος, με πλήθη προσκυνητών να συρρέουν από όλες τις γύρω περιοχές. Όσο και η Αγία Μεγαλομάρτυς Μαύρα από τον 14ο αιώνα (1331) θεωρείται και τιμάται ως πολιούχος της πόλης της Λευκάδας. Σήμερα, ένα μικρό εκκλησάκι προς τιμήν της Αγίας και του συζύγου της, Αγίου Τιμοθέου, υπάρχει στη θέση παλιού προμαχώνα του Φρουρίου.

Ιθάκη

Τό ξακουστό από την αρχαιότητα γραφικό νησί της Ιθάκης προσφέρει πλούσια τους πνευματικούς του θησαυρούς και στους φιλάγιους επισκέπτες και προσκυνητές, αφού προστατεύεται από τις πρεσβείες της πολιούχου Παναγίας Καθαριώτισσας. Τό όμνυμο ιστορικό μοναστήρι κοσμεύεται από αγιασμένες πνευματικές μορφές, που λαμπρύνουν την Ορθόδοξη Εκκλησία με τη φιλόθεη βιοτή και την άγιαστική

τους χάρη, όπως ο έξ Ιθάκης νεοφανής και θαυματουργός ιερομάρτυς Άγιος Ραφαήλ, που μαρτύρησε στη Μυτιλήνη στις 9 Απριλίου 1463 και ο Οσιος Ιωακείμ ο Παπουλάκης, που έκοιμήθη στις 2 Μαρτίου 1868 στο ιστορικό νησί της Ιθάκης.

Κεφαλλονιά

Η παρουσία του ιερού Σκηνώματος του Αγίου Γερασίμου στο νησί της Κεφαλλονιάς, είναι έκδηλη στην όμνυμη Ιερά Μονή. Αφθαρτο και αναλλοίωτο εύωδιάζει εδώ και τετρακόσια χρόνια. Ενα από τα πιο εύωδιαστά άνθη της Κεφαλλονιάς είναι και ο νεοφανής Οσιος Πατήρ Παναγής Μπασιάς. Ο άποχος της ζωής του, των θαυμάτων του και του προφητικού του χαρίσματος φτάνει μέχρι τις ημέρες μας. Στις 21 Μαΐου 1864 γεύεται τη χαρά της Ενώσεως της Επτανήσου με τη Μητέρα Ελλάδα, για την οποία εργάστηκε με τό δικό του τρόπο, διατηρώντας και καλλιεργώντας την Ορθόδοξη παράδοση σέ τόσο δύσκολες πολιτικές και κοινωνικές περιόδους. Ελεήμων, πατρικός και στοργικός αγκάλιασε με την αγάπη του και τις συμβουλές του όλα κερνοτό νησί.

Ζάκυνθος

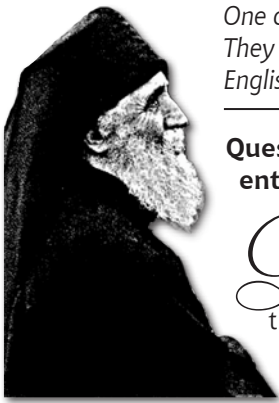
Προστάτης άγιος της Ζακύνθου είναι ο Άγιος Διονυσιος. Οί κάτοικοι τιμούν τη χάρη του δύο φορές τό χρόνο με λιτανείες του ιερού λειψάνου του σέ ιδιαίτερα κατανυκτική άτμόσφαιρα. Εγινε γνωστός ως Άγιος της Συγγνώμης, γιατί συγχώρεσε τό φονιά του αδερφού του. Τό Σεπτέμο σκήνωμά του άφθαρτο και μυροβόλο άποτελεί μέχρι σήμερα πόλο έλξης χιλιάδων προσκυνητών και πηγή συνεχών ίάσεων και θαυμάτων. Στις 24 Ιουλίου οί Ζακυνθινόί εορτάζουν τον Άγιο Θεόφιλο τό Νεομάρτυρα, τον ποπολάρνο (=άνθρωπο του λαού). Στον ιερό ναό του Παντοκράτορος Γαϊτανίου Ζακύνθου βρίσκεται τό λείψανο του Αγίου Ιωσήφ, του έκ Κρήτης 'Ηγιασμένου. Στο διάβα των αίωνων την έπιβλητική ήρεμία και όμορφιά των νήσων Στροφάδων και του περιώνυμου εκεί Μοναστηριού έρχονται νά ταραξουν οί άνελέητες έπιδρομές ληστοπειρατών. Μία από τις χειρότερες συνέβη τό 1537. Οί Πατέρες της Μονής σφαγιασθηκαν. Η μνήμη τους τιμάται κάθε χρόνο στις 29 Σεπτεμβρίου.

Κύθηρα

Η Ιερά Μονή Μυρτιδίων είναι ή έδρα του σπουδαιότερου κειμηλίου για την Κυθηραϊκή Παράδοση και κληρονομιά. Η εικόνα της Παναγίας της Μυρτιδιώτισσας, προστάτιδας του νησιού, είναι τό σύμβολο της όρθόδοξης πίστης χιλιάδων Κυθηρίων από τότε που βρέθηκε. Τό νησί έχει και τους δικούς του πολιούχους - τον Οσιο Θεόδωρο και την Αγία Ελέσσα. Στά βορειοανατολικά δεσπόζει τό μοναστήρι της Αγίας Μόνης, αφιερωμένο στην Παναγία.

Η παρουσία τόσων αγίων και ιερών λειψάνων στα Επτάνησα, έναν από τους δημοφιλέστερους όρθόδοξους προσκυνηματικούς προορισμούς, ββαιώνει κάθε όρθόδοξη έλληνική ψυχή πως οί Άγιοι κρατούν τότο τον τόπο με τη χάρη και τις πρεσβείες τους, τείχος Ορθοδοξίας έναντι του Παπισμού. Επτανήσιοι και μή, άς τους έπικαλούμαστε.

Από τό περιοδικό *Προς Τήν Νίκη*
Βούλα Χαρερά



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 to as "precious vessels of the Holy Spirit." In recent years, many books have been published in English with their writings and talks. This column provides an opportunity for each of us to be blessed by their words.

Question: Geronda, how can parents entrust their young children to God?

God gave the first-created humans, Adam and Eve, the great blessing to become His co-creators. From then on, the parents, the grandparents, and so forth, are also God's co-creators, because they create the body of the child. In a way, God is obligated to care for the children. When a child is baptised, God sends an Angel for the child's protection. So then, the child is protected by God, by the Guardian Angel and by the parents. The Guardian Angel is always by the child, helping. The more a child grows and matures, the more the parents are relieved of their duties and responsibilities. Should the parents die, God—both from on high and from close by—and also the Guardian Angel, from close by, continue—always—to protect the child.

Parents have to help their children spiritually when they are little, because then, even their faults are little and they can easily be corrected. It's like a fresh potato; if you scratch it a little, it's peeled. If, however, it gets older and staler, you will need a sharp knife to clean it; and if it has some dark spots, you'll need to dig deeper. If the children are filled with Christ from an early age, they will always remain close to Him. And even if they should stray a little when they grow up, either because of a phase of rebellion they're going through or because of bad influences, they are sure to return to their senses. This is because the fear of God and the devotion that watered their hearts when they were young cannot ever be eradicated.

Later, during adolescence—until they have gotten their children educated and settled—the struggle of the parents will become greater. Parents should do all they can to help them at this age and leave all that is beyond their power in the hands of Almighty God. When parents entrust their children to God, then God is obligated to help on matters which are not humanly possible. If, for example, the children are disobedient, the parents should entrust them to God and not try to pressure them in any way. The mother should say in prayer, "My Lord, my children won't listen to me. I can't do anything to help them. Please, take care of them."

Question: Does the responsibility for raising children lie exclusively with the parents?

Parents are the ones who are primarily responsible, because—depending on the kind of upbringing which they will give their children—some will grow up to be good priests, others good teachers and so forth; and they will in turn help their own children and those of other people. If the parents pray and lead a spiritual life during the time the child is still in the mother's womb, the child will be born sanctified. And in turn, if they continue

to help the child spiritually, that child will become a blessed and sanctified person who will help others in society, either through service in the Church or through public work. We all have to help the children so that they can become good people, and so that a little good yeast will remain intact for the generations to come. Because now, the way things are going, even the yeast will be lost. And if the yeast is lost, then what will happen?

Those parents who have been delivered of children, having given them their bodies, must also contribute—as best they can—to their spiritual rebirth. Also, that which parents cannot do themselves for their children should be entrusted to teachers. This is why our Church, in Her prayers, refers to "our parents and our teachers." There are also the spiritual fathers who, although they may not have children of their own, can assist in a positive way with the upbringing of children since it is they who labour for the children's spiritual regeneration.

What I'm trying to say is that everyone should help the children, each person in his or her own way, with their good example, so that the children may be regenerated, live peacefully in this life and ultimately go to Paradise. When children become spiritual human beings, then they really don't need any rules or prohibitions. "The law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient..." Laws are needed to limit and control the lawless. Spiritual authority is superior to any human authority.

Question: Geronda, when their child disobeys and rebels, how should the parents act?

For a child to be disobedient and to behave badly, something's wrong. It could be that he witnesses unpleasant scenes or hears quarrels either in or out of the house. In any case, in spiritual matters, children are helped chiefly by the example we set, not by force.

A lot of parents fight in front of the children and set a bad example. The poor children are confused and saddened. Then the parents, in order to comfort them fulfil all their demands. When children see their parents have love and respect for one another, behaving with prudence, praying, and so on, then these positive images are imprinted on their soul. This is why I say that the best inheritance the parents can bestow upon their children is their own spiritual devotion.

A child needs a lot of love and affection, and much guidance. A child needs you to sit by his side, listen to his problems, caress him and kiss him. If a mother takes an upset and mischievous child into her arms to caress and kiss, the child will calm down. If the young child is filled with affection and love, later that child will be strong and able to face the problems of life.

Excerpted from "Spiritual Counsels, Vol. IV: - Family Life"



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Scripture of the Month: "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (I Thessalonians. 5.18)