



# THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

JANUARY 2016

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

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## QUICK NEWS



Church School students pour their heart into the annual Holy Trinity Christmas Pageant. Want to see more photos of this event and others in the life and ministries of Holy Trinity Church? See the Community Life Photo Journal on pages 8-11 or visit our growing online photo gallery site at [photos.HolyTrinityPgh.org](http://photos.HolyTrinityPgh.org).

## SAINT BASIL THE GREAT - FEAST DAY: JANUARY 1



**F**or the Church you are in truth a firm foundation, granting an inviolate lordship unto all mortal men and sealing it with what you have taught, O righteous Basil, revealer of heavenly things. (Kontakion of Saint Basil the Great)

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, Protopresbyter  
Church: 412-366-8700

Home: 412-831-3574

E-mail: [fjt@HolyTrinityPgh.org](mailto:fjt@HolyTrinityPgh.org)

### Production

Mary Portellos, Office Administrator

E-mail: [office@HolyTrinityPgh.org](mailto:office@HolyTrinityPgh.org)

### Contributors

Voula Hareras

Rev. Fr. John Androustopoulos

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](http://www.HolyTrinityPgh.org)

Email: [office@HolyTrinityPgh.org](mailto:office@HolyTrinityPgh.org)

Holy Trinity Church is a parish of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh ([www.odpgh.org](http://www.odpgh.org)) and Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America ([www.goarch.org](http://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

#### 2016 Parish Council

George Dickos, President

Dean A. Balouris Michael Passodelis

George Danis Joyce Athanasiou

Andrew Janis Stephen Stearns

Van Backeris Stephanie Sedor

Tom Germanos Alex Trilivas

Marios Kritiotis Gerri Valliant

#### Ministries

Please visit the Holy Trinity website at [www.HolyTrinityPgh.org](http://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!



**Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.**

Philippians 4.6

My Beloved Spiritual Children in Christ,

If you listen to the press, this is no way to start a New Year: "Anxiety about terrorism, crime and divisions ... are contributing to a growing pessimism among Americans, according to a sweeping new survey of national values released Tuesday. The latest sampling of American values on a wide range of issues found an 11 percentage point spike in the number of Americans who believe the country's "best days are behind us" — 49 percent said they thought America's best days were in the past." (Washington Times, November 17, 2015).

The best days are behind us? Really? If we allow our hopes and our future to be dashed on the rocks of social trends, economic predictions and political and cultural tides, it is easy to see how we could be led to believe that. Before we get on board the downhill wagon, we should ask, "Is that really who we are as a community, as a nation and as the Church?"

Instead, as we head into this New Year of the Lord, I encourage us to put the polls away and draw on three things that have brought this community and its people from a noble past to where it is today, and which will carry them through this year and into the future: 1) Greek spirit; 2) American courage; 3) Christian hope.

**Greek spirit:** When I was a child, an uncle proudly showed me an album he had made of news clippings from World War II, chronicling all the victories credited to the Greek spirit of courage and refusal to surrender. This spirit is well documented at a new website, [oxidayfoundation.org](http://oxidayfoundation.org), where Winston Churchill is quoted saying, "If there had not been the virtue and courage of the Greeks, we do not know which the outcome of World War II would have been." Greeks have faced centuries of political challenges and religious persecutions, including nearly 400 years of Ottoman enslavement and oppression. We know how to endure. For Greeks, there is always a better future ahead. Let us not abandon that spirit this year.

**American courage:** President Harry Truman said, "America was not built on fear. America was built on courage, on imagination and an unbeatable determination to do the job at hand." This year, forget the polls and focus on the "job at hand" of proclaiming the Good News and preserving the freedom (Luke 4.18) that has made America great and will keep it shining brightly as the "city on the hill" for generations to come.

**Christian hope:** The above two ideas are indeed essential to walking with freedom and courage in this world, but lest we get caught up and weighed down in the thought that it is all about this life alone, at the end of the day we must embrace the ultimate hope of the Psalm that proclaims, "And now, O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you" (Psalm 39.7). Our final victory, reward and hope is not in this life. No matter our trials in this life, "thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 15.17). The darkness of our own fallen condition does not diminish His Holy Light.

So this year, may we not surrender to fear or despondency. Our Greek and American forefathers hearken unto us, and the saints and martyrs of the past two thousand years have shown us the way through fear to victory in Christ. Let us learn from them, follow them and never forget.

A Blessed, Safe and Wonderful New Year of the Lord to all!

With pastoral love in Christ,

**Herald Personal Sponsor for this Issue:**

**Mary Magdalene Welsh**

**"For the health of the Athanasiou Family"**

**WORSHIP LIFE**

**Weekday Services . . . . . January**

Please take note of the following upcoming liturgical dates. Unless otherwise indicated, Orthros starts at 8:30 a.m., followed by Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m.. Guide to locations of services: "HT" = Holy Trinity Church, 985 Providence Boulevard, Pittsburgh; "SG" = Saint George Chapel, 8941 Ringesen Road, Allison Park.

**Tue., Jan. 5: The Forefeast of Theophany**

This is the first of two Theophany Divine Liturgies and services of Great Blessings of the Waters. It is an evening Liturgy, so be sure to prepare properly to receive Holy Communion by (in addition to your other spiritual preparation) abstaining from food and drink from your noon meal on. The Liturgy will be followed by the Great Blessing of the Waters service. Please note that this is also a strict fasting day in preparation for Theophany. (HT)

**Wed., Jan. 6: The Holy Theophany of our Lord**

This is the main Orthros and Divine Liturgy of this great Feast. We will again offer the Great Blessings of the Water at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. (HT)

**Thu. Jan. 7: The Synaxis of St. John the Baptist**

This feast of the "greatest of the prophets" and Forerunner of Christ is held on the day after Theophany. (SG)

**Sat. Jan. 30: The Three Hierarchs (SG)**

**SPIRITUAL LIFE MINISTRY**

**"Faith and Family Wednesdays" . . . . . January 13, 20, 27**

Holy Trinity Church's "Faith and Family Wednesdays" is a valuable mid-week spiritual and educational "recharge." Check out page 5 in this issue for this month's schedule and offerings, including a new Orthodox Book Club series of "Precious Vessels of the Holy Spirit." Give it a try!

**"Prayer and Panera" St. Nikodemos Fellowship. . . Jan. 21**

The Saint Nikodemos Men's Fellowship meets on the Third Thursday of each month for morning prayers and Christian fellowship (with coffee and bagels, too!). The group meets at Holy Trinity Church promptly at 7:00 a.m. for a 15-20 minute morning prayer and scripture, then move up the hill to Panera for 30-45 minutes of coffee and breakfast and conversation on living as a Christian man in today's world. Questions? Email at SaintNikodemos@HolyTrinityPgh.org. Change up your morning routine - and change things for the better!

**YOUTH MINISTRIES**

**GOYA Meeting . . . . . January 3**

There will be a meeting for all GOYA members on January 3 following the Divine Liturgy.

**GOYA Basketball Practice . . . . . January 4, 12, 26**

GOYA will hold basketball practice in preparation for the 2016 basketball tournament season on Tuesdays, January 4,

12 & 26 from 6:00-8:00pm at Hosack Elementary School.

**GOYA Parents and Coaches Meeting . . . . . January 10**

GOYA will hold a brief but important meeting for all parents and coaches in the Conference Room following Divine Liturgy. This is an important meeting to distribute and collect information regarding our GOYAn's participation in the three Metropolis Basketball tournaments for 2016. All parents, chaperones and coaches are asked to attend.

**GOYA Basketball Tournaments . . . . . January**

Our Holy Trinity GOYA families will be participating in three Metropolis Basketball Tournaments this year. They will travel to the Saint Paul Church in North Royalton, OH, on January 15-17, for the first tournament, and to the second at Annunciation Cathedral in Cleveland, OH, from February 5-7. The third tournament location will be announced at the meeting. May God grant them good skills, safe travels, protection from injury and the joy of fellowship in Christ with their friends in our sister churches near and far. God bless you all!

**HOPE and JOY Winter Sleepover . . . . . January 8/9**

The HOPE and JOY ministries invite all children age 5-12 to have a Sleepover at the Church on Friday/Saturday, January 8/9. The evening will begin at 6:30pm with dinner, a prayer service with Father Radu and a movie before bedtime. After morning prayers and breakfast, the children will work on cards for shut-ins prior to going home at 9:30am! There is a \$5 charge per child for food. Bring your sleeping bags and pillows and join us for a night of fun and fellowship! Please contact Nicole Steiner if you would like to attend by email at littlefieds@yahoo.com or by phone at 412-781-6109.

**COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS**

**Parish Council Election Results/Installation . . . . . Jan. 10**

Thank you to all those whose names were submitted for Parish Council elections this year. The results from the vote have placed the following members on the Council for the 2016-2017 term: Van Backeris, Dean A. Balouris, George Dickos, Marios Kritiotis, Steven Stearns and Alex Trilivas. Continuing on for the remainder of their two-year term through 2016 are Joyce Athanasiou, George Danis, Tom Germanos, Andrew Janis, Michael Passodelis, Stephanie Sedor, and Gerri Valliant. Parish Council installation will be held on Sunday, January 10, followed by the election of officers.

**New Year Holiday Office Schedule . . . . . January 1**

The offices of the Archdiocese, Metropolis and Holy Trinity Church will be closed on Fri., Jan. 1 for New Year's Day.

**Post-Festival Wrap-Up Meeting . . . . . January 12**

There will be a post-Festival wrap-up meeting held on Tuesday, January 12 at 7:00 pm in the Grand Room. Everyone who would like to provide feedback and provide ideas on how to improve the 2016 festival is welcome. Please contact Harry Athanasiou at 412-292-4205 for additional information.

**For the latest updates and schedule of parish events, visit [www.HolyTrinityPgh.org/calendar](http://www.HolyTrinityPgh.org/calendar)**

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

## JANUARY 2016 – "THE VOICE OF HOLY TRINITY CHURCH"



**Father John  
Androutsopoulos**

**B**eloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ: It's not enough to just say Happy New Year. We need to do more. We should REPENT, RESOLVE and REMEMBER. We know that REPENTANCE is the first step to God. We will never be saved until first of all we have repented our sins. A petition from the Divine Liturgy states: "For the completion of our lives in peace and repentance, let us ask the Lord." We then have to RESOLVE ourselves to become a

better person. "I will try to be a better Christian." And then we need to REMEMBER that we can never repay Christ for all that HE has done for us. What has He done? He knew that we had sinned and that the wrath of God would fall upon us. So He went to the cross and took our place and died in our stead. REMEMBER to say in the New Year, "I will do my best for Christ."

*The following verses from the Old and New Testament will help us to become better and more faithful Christians.*

### **We Travel Life's Highway**

**Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. (Psalm 119:105)**

We are on our way traveling life's highway. We do not know what lies ahead. There is no road map that can chart our course. We travel the road each day into the unknown. We can be assured that the road will be variable. Parts of it will be paved, parts will be rough and dangerous, and other parts will bring the unexpected. There will be dangerous curves along the way. There will be forced detours. There will be dead-end streets. This is life. In a sense, we are explorers, discovering the unknown. But surely we would not have it otherwise, for with its mystery and danger comes adventure and interest. It is best that we do not know every mile of the way. Even though we are faced with mystery, we can be assured that there is guidance for our daily travel. We can look back and see the road others have traveled and learn from them, and from our own experience we know that there is a controlling and guiding hand along the way. So, as we travel life's highway, we can do so with faith – faith in God. We can be assured that he will guide us if we seek His help and let Him.

### **To a New Life – To a New Year**

**If any one is in Christ, he is a new creation. (II Cor. 5:17)**

When someone meets you – you who may be encrusted with fears, worry and bitterness, with envy and jealousy – and helps to set you free, he is a true Christian. When he helps you love yourself for what you really are, the only one of its kind that God has made, and helps set you free from all that would keep you from being yourself, he brings you the Good News!

When a person helps you to accept yourself – the real you – knowing that you are a wonderful creation, made to love and to be loved, to labor, to create, to achieve, to forgive, to trust -- then you can know that you have been the recipient of

the Gospel. When another helps you to discover that you are never alone, that God is the ground of your being, involved in all that you do and concerned in every affair of your life, then that person has been for you a Christian. When you find a power that can make you know that you are really a lovable creature, and can free you from all that makes you unloving, you have been visited by God.

### **Remember Who We Are**

**Therefore be imitators of God as beloved children. (Eph. 5:1)**

How do "beloved children" of God act? We are to forgive as God in Christ has forgiven us. We are to express God's universal love, for we are given our example of this love in Christ's love for us. The scope of our love must be wide. It is to extend beyond the family, beyond the store or club or class or nation or race, to include our enemies. And why must our love reach beyond all human barriers? We are all children of the one heavenly Father whose method of dealing with us is evidenced in Christ. So to be imitators of God means to share in the mighty drama of Christ's self-giving in the world. To be imitators of God means to die to the false claims of the self, to die daily to the claims of evil, and to share in Christ's resurrection: to live because Christ is risen in us, and his love and his purpose pervade our whole being. We are to "walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." We are enabled to walk in love because we respond to what God has done for us in Jesus Christ.

### **Acting Like A Christian**

**But be doers of the word, and not bearers only, deceiving yourselves. (James 1:22)**

In our scripture verse for today, James is saying, "Prove your faith by acting like a Christian." He is calling us back to a life of obedience, a discipleship that means and costs something. His theme is that Christian maturity must show itself in Christian doing. James makes one supreme test of the religious life, and that is our attitude toward others. In James 2:8 we read, "If you really fulfill the royal law, according to the scripture, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself', you do well". For him the Christian community is essentially a brotherhood, where all difference between poor and rich drop away. He is concerned that there be gentleness of speech within the brotherhood. He had experience with the "railing tongue" and had heard of churches disrupted by it. Be "quick to hear, slow to speak." The unkind tongue is the expression of an unkind temper, and an unkind temper is alien to the name of Christ and to the perfect law. "If anyone thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this man's religion is vain" (James 1:26).

Happy Name Day to all who celebrate in the month of January. As for myself, I was born 90 years ago on January 7th, which according to the old calendar is Christmas Day.

*Have a blessed, happy and healthy New Year!*

*With His love,  
Rev. Fr. John K. Androutsopoulos  
Protosphyter and Internal Missionary*



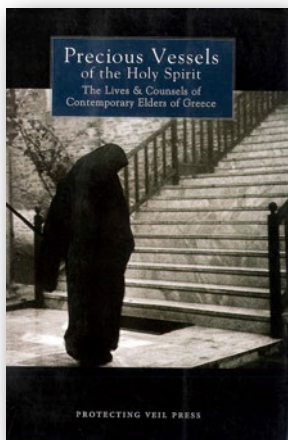
WORSHIP — BYZANTINE MUSIC — LITURGICAL COOKING — ICONOGRAPHY — OUTREACH PROJECTS

# 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 choice of two sessions to attend, from 7:15-8:30pm, each focused on learning a facet of the faith or spiritual activity. All sessions will take place in the various facilities of Holy Trinity Center. There two tracks each week: Studies and Orthodox 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.



With Father Radu having finished the Orthodox Book Club's “On the Human Condition” and teaching in Rome this spring, Father John will take up a special book, “Precious Vessels of the Holy Spirit,” on the holy contemporary elders of Greece, such as Saint Paisios, Saint Porphyrios, Elder Joseph and the lives and sayings of other modern spiritual “Precious Vessels.”



## COMPLETE GUIDE THE TO JANUARY 2016 “FAITH AND FAMILY WEDNESDAYS”

TRACK	WORSHIP	STUDIES	ORTHODOX LIFE
DATE/TIME	6:30pm	7:15-8:30pm	
Jan. 6 First Wednesday of the month	No Session Tonight - Feast of Epiphany		
Jan. 13 Second Wednesday of the month	Vespers Service	Bible Study: “A Panoramic Overview of Holy Scripture” Father John	Byzantine Chanting Peter Papadakos
Jan. 20 Third Wednesday of the month	Service of the Hours / Confession also available	Orthodox Book Club Precious Vessels: The Contemporary Elders Father John	Understanding Orthodoxy Ted Cherpas
Jan. 27 Fourth Wednesday of the month	Paraclesis Service to the Theotokos	Bible Study: “A Panoramic Overview of Holy Scripture” Father John	The Orthodox Kitchen: Liturgical Cooking - “Kollyva” Joyce Athanasiou

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

Stewardship is Gratitude

First off, go ahead and reach over your shoulder. Now, give yourself a pat on the back! What you see in the thermometer below is great news. Through your faithful stewardship giving, Holy Trinity is very close to achieving the 2015 Stewardship goal! We are confident that, through your generous end-of-the-year donations, the gap will be completely filled with HT Green. Every member who put their hard-earned money in that envelope, who trusted us to put it to good use, who knew that the mission was too important not to be part of it, who faithfully gave knowing that God will return it tenfold through the so many blessings and opportunities around us, all of you, the Holy Trinity Stewards, are the heart that pumps continued spiritual life into this community. So Thank You, good and faithful stewards; we are very grateful for your commitment!

Now another new year begins. It's a time of looking forward and planning ahead (anyone with a New Year resolution, raise your hand). New challenges – we strive to better ourselves, our finances, our health. We'll also certainly strive to better our church and its community. We'll continue to rely on each of our stewards to keep the church vibrant. The excitement around this, our spiritual home, is palpable. One feels it by simply walking in; it grows as they begin to interact with you; it peaks when they see and feel the deeds and cheerful ministry you carry out. God didn't plant us here to spend our time, talents and treasures on paying down long-term debt. He intends for us to do good in the world around us, to add to our ministries, teach our children well and show others Christ's love from within our hearts. Imagine, once mortgage-free, the positive power of our treasures and other resources when they are freely unleashed toward that vision!

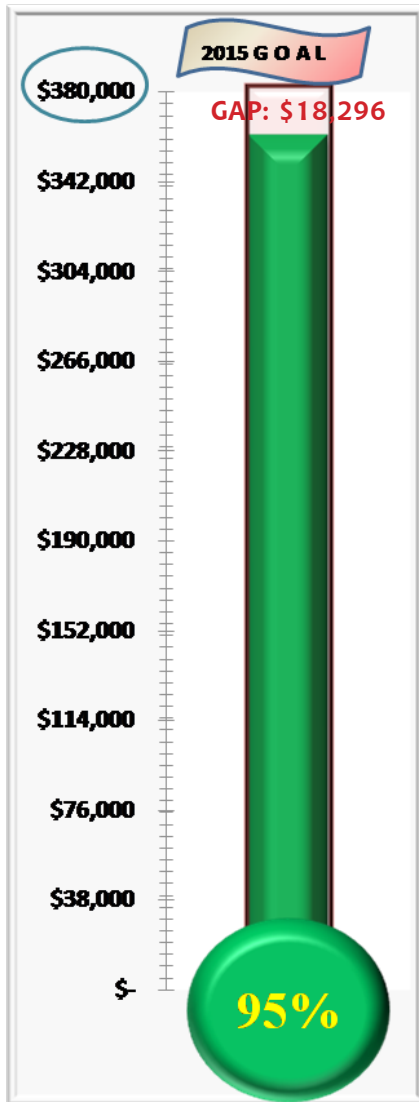
This is also a time for reflection, and taking stock. What's important in our lives? How did we do certain things the year that passed? Regrets perhaps, resolving to do better the next time around.

Whatever our resolutions might be, let us continue to improve

upon one thing, as part of our Christian lives: Gratitude. You are already on the right path. Stewardship is an expression of our gratitude to God for His faithfulness in our lives. The story of Louis Zamperini comes to mind when mentioning gratitude and forgiveness. He was an Olympian and WWII hero who survived for 47 days drifting in a rubber raft and was later tortured relentlessly in Japanese prisoner of war camps. After he was freed, he was asked what led him to dedicate his life to Christ. He recalled a Billy Graham rally, where he heard him say: "When people come to the end of their rope and there's nowhere else to turn, they turn to God." I thought, Zamperini said in an interview, that's what I did on the raft. All I did was pray to God, every day. In prison camp, the main prayer was, "Get me home alive, God, and I'll seek you and serve you." I came home, got wrapped up in the celebration, and forgot about the hundreds of promises I'd made to God. So, I asked God to forgive me for not being conscious that He answered my prayer requests. While I was still on my knees, I knew there was a change. It happened within seconds..So I got up, went home, and that was the first night in four years that I didn't have a nightmare.

Zamperini later visited Japan, where he met with his former captors, embraced and forgave them. He died in 2014, peacefully at home, at the age of 97. So, an added bonus: It is scientifically proven that gratitude is also good for our health! Your Holy Trinity stewardship family wishes you peace and health through gratitude to God. We too offer our thanks to you, for sharing your God-given gifts for the greater good.

Your Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
The Holy Trinity Stewardship Committee



## 2015 Year-End Stewardship Roster | Stewardship News

Thank you to the following faithful stewards who have submitted their pledge cards for the 2015 pledge year, an enthusiastic 291 as of this publication. Please join them in their support for the ministries of Holy Trinity and complete your 2016 pledge commitment today! Remember, a signed pledge card is required as part of maintaining your membership in good standing at Holy Trinity Church each year.

Rev Fr & Pres John N. Touloumes	Mr. Miltiadis Constantine	Mr & Mrs Dean Kamaras	Mr. James J. Patsilevas
Rev. Fr. & Pres. Radu Bordeianu	Mr. Mark Countouris	Mr. & Mrs. Evangelo Kaparakos	Mrs. Anna Patsilevas
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Mr. & Mrs. Chris Berexa	Mr & Mrs Nicholas Gelis	Mr & Mrs John McCann	Mr. & Mrs. James Thomas III
Ms. Constance Bistolas-Walters	Drs. Leo and Elizabeth Gensante	Mr & Mrs Jeff Mercadante	Ms. Penny Balouris Tomalski
Mr. Michael Bober	Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Georgallias	Mr. & Mrs. James Mermigas	Mr George Touloumes
Mrs. Athena S. Bober	Mr & Mrs George Georges	Mr. & Mrs. Dean Metropulos	Mrs Georgia Touloumes
Dr. & Mrs. Christopher Bonfield	Dr. and Mrs. Mark Georgiadis	Mr & Mrs Meno Mitaras	Mr Nikolas Touloumes
Mr Jonathan Bonfield	Mr & Mrs Gus Georgiadis	Mr. & Mrs. Eric Mitchell	Mr. & Mrs. Alex Trilivas
Mr & Mrs Reggie Bonfield	Mr & Mrs Steven Georgiadis	Mr Stanley Morris	Mr & Mrs Alkiviadis Tsamis
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Bounos	Mr & Mrs Thomas Germanos	Mrs Maria Motta	Mr & Mrs Michael Tzanakakis
Mrs. Georgiann Bounos	Ms Lois R Germanos	Mrs. Harriet M. Navarro	Ms. Alexandra Valliant
Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Bourmias	Mr. & Mrs. Spiros Giannoutsos	Mr & Mrs Mark Opacic	Miss Harriet Valliant
Mr. Michael Bourmias	Mr & Mrs Peter Giannoutsos	Gen. & Mrs. William Pagonis	Mr & Mrs Gerri Valliant
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Brennen	Mrs Tola Giannoutsos	Mr. Michael C. Pagonis	Mr Peter Valliant
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Brewer	Mr. & Mrs. Jason Gidas	Mr. Robert Pagonis	Ms. Nancy Vignovich
Mrs Sophia Bridoux	Mr & Mrs Peter Glyptis	Mr & Mrs William Pagonis	Mrs Elaine D. Vogt
Dr Clifford Brubaker & Sondra Balouris	Mrs Eugenia Graser	Mr Michael Panos	Mr & Mrs Lee Vordos
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Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Caromano	Mr. & Mrs. Arsenio Hall	Mr & Mrs George Pantelakias	Mr & Mrs Robert Weaver
Mrs. Georgia Castellano	Miss Pennie Hareras	Mr & Mrs Paul Pantelas	Miss Mary-Magdalene Welsh
Mr & Mrs Charles Chapas	Mrs Voula Hareras	Mrs Marian Pantelas	Mr & Mrs Eric White
Mr & Mrs James Chapas	Mr. & Mrs. Charles Henigin	Ms. Christina Pantelas	Mr & Mrs Daniel Willow
Mr Thomas Chapas	Tina Houmis Connors	Mr & Mrs George Papadopoulos	Mr. Stephen Wright
Mr & Mrs William Chapas	Mr. & Mrs. George Hulse	Ms. Loukia Papatheodorou	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Zagnacky
Mrs Helen Chapas	Mr. & Mrs. Carlo Iasella	Mr & Mrs Andrew Pappas	Mr. & Mrs. George Zappas
Mrs Anne Chapas	Mr & Mrs Andrew Janis	Mrs. Joann Pappas	Mrs. Agnes Zappas
Mr. Theodore Cherpas	Mr. James Janis	Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Pappis	Dr & Mrs Antonios Zikos
Mr & Mrs Louis Cherpas	Dr. Kristina Johnson	Mr & Mrs Orestes Paras	Mrs. Dorothea K. Zikos
Mr. & Mrs. Keith Chrisanthus	Mr & Mrs Homer Johnson	Mr Eleftherios Parikakis	Mr & Mrs Anthony Zissis
Mr. & Mrs. John Clayton, Jr.	Mr & Mrs James Johnson	Mr. Basil Paschaledis	Ms Anna Zissis
Mrs. Elenie Cocheres	Mr. & Mrs. George Kachulis	Mr & Mrs Constantine Passodelis	Mr & Mrs Louis Zozos
Mrs Afrodite Condos	Ms. Christina Kachulis	Mr & Mrs Michael Passodelis	Mr. & Mrs. George L. Zozos
Mr & Mrs Demetri Constantine	Mr & Mrs Nick Kakavis	Mr & Mrs George Pastor	Ms. Deborah Zuniga









More beautiful Christmas Pageant pictures and other community life photos at photos online at [photos.HolyTrinityPgh.org](http://photos.HolyTrinityPgh.org)



Community Life Photo Gallery | Philoptochos Christmas Luncheon







**(Above) November 29, 2015:** Holy Trinity GOYA hosted its annual Thanksgiving Weekend Turkey Bowl on the Main Lawn. Some played an energetic flag football game under balmy Pittsburgh skies while others wrote cards for our troops.

**(Below) December 16, 2015:** Holy Trinity community members all ages gathered as part of a "Faith and Family Wednesdays" community service project to sing Christmas Carols to the retired nuns across the street at the Sisters of Divine Providence Convent.





Articles from the journal "Pros Tin Nikin" on the Feasts of the Three Hierarchs and Saint Basil the Great



Voula Hareras

### 30 Ιανουαρίου Οί Τρεις Ίεράρχες

**Τ**ρεις μεγάλοι. Τρεις άστέρες. Τρεις Φωστήρες τής Οίκουμένης. Οί Τρεις Ίεράρχες άναδείχθηκαν οίκου-μενικοί διδάσκαλοι.

Γιατί μέ τά λόγια,τά συγγράμματα,τήν διδαχή τους έπηρέασαν βαθύτατα όλες τές δομές τής κοινω-νίας και του πολιτισμού όχι μόνο τής έποχής τους αλλά και διαχρο-νικά. Μέ τεράστια οί ίδιοι μόρφωση,

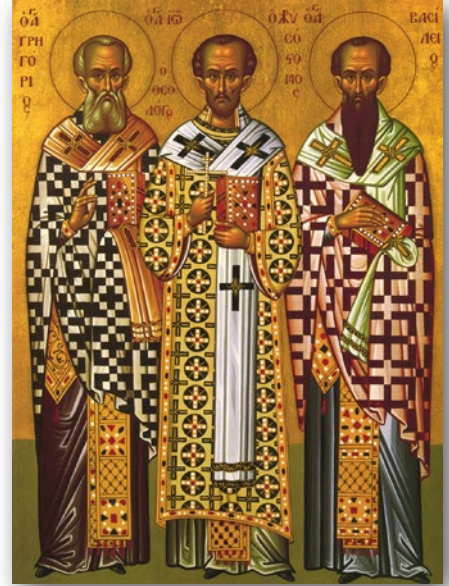
άσχολήθηκαν [ίδίως ό Μέγας Βασίλειος] μέ κάθε τομέα τής έπιστήμης του καιρού τους, γι' αυτό και άναδείχθηκαν προ-στάτες τών γραμμάτων και τής παιδείας.

Μιάς παδείας πού κατακτάται όχι μόνο μέ τήν στείρα άπόκτηση γνώσεων, αλλά κυρίως μέ τή βαθύτερη καλλιέρ-γεια τής ψυχής τήν κατά Θεόν μόρφωση.

Έστιάζουμε έφέτος τό ένδιαφέρον στον Μέγα Βασίλει-ο,τόν πολυταλαντούχο αυτόν μεγάλο άνδρα μέ τήν εύρύ-τατη μόρφωση και τήν πολύπλευρη παιδεία και άρετή.

Στή συνέχεια θά παραθέσουμε,σχο-λιασμένη,περικοπή έπιστολής του προς τόν φίλο του Γρηγόριο τόν Θεολόγο,όπου άνακαλύπτει κανείς και τήν δεοντολογία του διαλόγου.

Έπίσης δύο περικο-πές από τό περίφημο έργο του [Έξαήμε-ρος] όπου ως σοφός έπιστήμων μελετά σέ βάθος και σέ πλάτος τή δημιουργία του κόσμου και του άνθρώπου από τόν Πάνσοφο Δημιουργό.



— Πρός Τήν Νίκη

### Μεγάλου Βασιλείου Έπιστολές

**Γ**ιά έναν καλό διάλογο [Άπό τότε- μέχρι σήμερα - και πάντα. Η χάρη τό πνεύμα,ή ευγένεια, όταν υπάρχουν στον άνθρωπο, ξεχύνονται φυσικά και άβίαστα,όπως τά άφθονα νερά ενός μεγάλου ποταμού,και καλύπτουν όλες τές περιοχές τής ανθρώπινης ζωής.



Αυτό παρατηρεί κανείς και στην πλούσια έπιστο-λογραφία του Μεγάλου Βασιλείου,όπου ό μελετη-τής συναρπάζεται από τήν έμβάθυνση στα μεγάλα θέματα τής Θεολογίας,άλλά και προσγειώνεται εύχαρι-στα και σ' αυτά τά καθυμε-ρινά και ανθρώπινα.

Έτσι στον 4ο άκόμα αιώνα μ.χ. στή χρυσή έποχή τής χριστιανικής γραμμα-τείας,μέσα στα κείμενα του πολυγραφότατου Μεγάλου

Ίεράρχου τής Έκκλησίας βρίσκει κανείς τούς όρους και τές προϋποθέσεις πού θεωρεί άπαραίτητες για έναν καλό διά-λογο - θέμα τόσο πολυσυζητημένο και σύγχρονο.

Τί χρειάζεται λοιπόν για να είαι κανείς καλός συζητητής, ό Άγιος άριστος γνώστης τής ψυχολογίας του άνθρώπου,ύ-ποδεικνύει.

- Νά έρωτά χωρίς έριστικότητα,
- Νά μήν διακόπτει τόν συνομιλητή του,όταν λέει κάτι χρήσιμο
- Νά μή θέλει να παρεμβάλλει έπιδεικτικά τό δικό του λόγο

- Νά άπαντά χωρίς ύπεροψία και έγωισμό
- Νά κρατάει ίσοροπία ανάμεσα στο να λέει και στο να άκούει
- Νά έχει τή διάθεση και τήν ταπείνωση να μαθαί-νει,χωρίς να ντρέπεται για τήν άγνοία του
- Νά διδάσκει χωρίς φθόνο,χωρίς ζήλεια
- Όταν μαθαίνει κάτι χρήσιμο από κάποιον ,να του έκφράζει εύγνωμοσύνη,να φανερώνει τό όνομα του στους άλλους και να μήν τό κρύβει.
- Η φωνή αυτού πού όμιλεί να μήν είναι ούτε πολύ σιγανή,ώστε να μήν άκούγεται,άλλά ούτε και πολύ έντονη,ώστε να κουράζει,ό μέτριος τόνος να προ-τιμάται.
- Προτού έξωτερικεύσει κανείς τό λόγο του,πρέπει μέσα του να έξετάσει τί πρόκειται να πεί.
- Νά είναι καταδεκτικός και εύχάριστος στις συνομι-λίες του.
- Νά μήν έπιδιώκει να άρέσει μέ τούς άστεισμούς και τά εύτράπελα αλλά να έλκύει τόν συνομιλητή του μέ τές εύχάριστες παραινήσεις του.

[Έπιστολή 2, Γρηγορίω έταίρω]

Δέν είναι δυνατόν παρά να θαυμάσει κανείς του σοφού Ίεράρχου,Μεγάλου Βασιλείου του έκ Καισαρείας,τήν διακρι-τικότητα και τήν διεισδυτικότητα στην ανθρώπινη ψυχή, τά κινήματά της και τές διαθέσεις της, άπ' όπου έχουν τήν αρχή τους και όλες οί έξωτερικές του άνθρώπου έκδηλώσεις.

Τελικά, καταλαβαίνει κανείς από όσα πολύ ψυχολο-γημένα έκθέτει στον φίλο του Γρηγόριο ό [φωστήρ] τής Καισαρείας, πώς για έναν πολιτισμένο και άποδοτικό διά-λογο χρειάζεται άρετή,άγάπη και σεβασμός στον άνθρωπο. Ταπείνωση.

— Πρός Τήν Νίκη



# 2015 Nativity Flowers Donor List | Thank You

Many thanks to the following parishioners and friends for sponsoring the beautiful poinsettias for the decoration of the church during the Christmas holidays. May the Lord remember them and those whom they have honored!

## DONORS

## COMMEMORATIONS

<p>Anonymous ..... For the health of my family (8 plants)</p> <p>Victor &amp; Patricia Amurgis &amp; Family .....</p> <p>Harry &amp; Joyce Athanasiou .....</p> <p>Harry &amp; Joyce Athanasiou .....</p> <p>Harry &amp; Joyce Athanasiou .....</p> <p>Anthony &amp; Helen Balouris .....</p> <p>Anthony &amp; Helen Balouris .....</p> <p>Chris &amp; Kathy Balouris .....</p> <p>Chris &amp; Kathy Balouris .....</p> <p>Ethel &amp; Lynn Barker .....</p> <p>Ethel &amp; Lynn Barker .....</p> <p>Reggie &amp; Marianne Bonfield .....</p> <p>Reggie &amp; Marianne Bonfield .....</p> <p>Reggie &amp; Marianne Bonfield .....</p> <p>Reggie &amp; Marianne Bonfield .....</p> <p>Nicholas Bouris .....</p> <p>The Chapas and Bonfield Families .....</p> <p>The Chapas and Bonfield Families .....</p> <p>Bill &amp; Sophea Chapas and Family .....</p> <p>James &amp; Bobbie Chapas .....</p> <p>William &amp; Constance Chapas and Family .....</p> <p>William &amp; Constance Chapas and Family .....</p> <p>William &amp; Constance Chapas and Family .....</p> <p>John &amp; Sherry Clayton .....</p> <p>Joyce Countouris .....</p> <p>Joyce Countouris .....</p> <p>Cynthia Morris Criss .....</p> <p>Shea Danis In memory of Demetrios Danis (2 plants)</p> <p>Helen DeMoss .....</p> <p>Christine Dickos .....</p> <p>Mina &amp; Jeff Durosko and Family .....</p> <p>Frank &amp; Katina Erdeljac .....</p> <p>Bill &amp; Tina Fiedler .....</p> <p>Tessie Frankos .....</p> <p>Connie Fries .....</p> <p>Peter &amp; Theanne Gagianas .....</p> <p>Peter &amp; Theanne Gagianas .....</p> <p>Peter &amp; Theanne Gagianas .....</p> <p>Markos &amp; Sophia Gambieris .....</p> <p>George &amp; Phyllis Geanopoulos .....</p> <p>George &amp; Phyllis Geanopoulos .....</p> <p>Mark &amp; Karen Georgiadis .....</p> <p>Mark &amp; Karen Georgiadis .....</p> <p>Eugenia Graser .....</p> <p>Andrew &amp; Sofia Janis, James and Electra .....</p> <p>Kelly Karavolos .....</p> <p>George &amp; Scarlet Karpakis .....</p> <p>James &amp; Bettina Kermes .....</p> <p>Vasiliki Kourouklis .....</p> <p>Vasiliki Kourouklis .....</p> <p>Mike &amp; Julia Kritiotis .....</p> <p>Mike &amp; Julia Kritiotis .....</p> <p>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Nicholas T. Loomis .....</p> <p>James &amp; Judith Mermigas and Family .....</p> <p>Dean &amp; Arlene Metropulos .....</p> <p>Dean &amp; Arlene Metropulos .....</p> <p>Mark &amp; Julia Opacic .....</p> <p>Mark &amp; Julia Opacic .....</p> <p>William J. Pagonis .....</p> <p>Michael Panos .....</p> <p>Peter &amp; Mary Panos .....</p> <p>George &amp; Rhea Pantelakis .....</p> <p>Orestes &amp; Arlene Paras .....</p> <p>Orestes &amp; Arlene Paras .....</p> <p>Eleftherios Parikakis .....</p> <p>Angie Roman .....</p> <p>Steve &amp; Electra Roman .....</p> <p>James F. Sicalias .....</p> <p>Charles Siebott &amp; Irene Karavolos .....</p> <p>James Steve Statheas .....</p> <p>Robert &amp; Marianne Stearns and Stephen .....</p> <p>Frances Stephen .....</p> <p>Ted &amp; Mary Ellen Stewart .....</p> <p>Ted &amp; Mary Ellen Stewart .....</p> <p>Josie &amp; Richard Stofko .....</p> <p>Katina Tanner .....</p> <p>Nancy Vignovich .....</p> <p>Joanne Ladakos Watson .....</p> <p>Joanne Ladakos Watson .....</p> <p>Joanne Ladakos Watson .....</p> <p>Joanne Ladakos Watson .....</p> <p>Joanne Ladakos Watson .....</p> <p>Joanne Ladakos Watson .....</p> <p>Joanne Ladakos Watson .....</p> <p>Joanne Ladakos Watson .....</p> <p>Joanne Ladakos Watson .....</p> <p>Mary Magdalene Welsh .....</p> <p>Michael &amp; Virginia Zagnacky .....</p> <p>Agnes Zappas .....</p> <p>Agnes Zappas .....</p> <p>Dorothea K. Zikos .....</p> <p>Anthony &amp; Aspasia Zissis .....</p> <p>Lou &amp; Julie Zozos .....</p> <p>Lou &amp; Julie Zozos .....</p>	<p>..... In memory of our parents; William &amp; Harriet Amurgis (2 plants)</p> <p>..... In memory of George Athanasiou</p> <p>..... In memory of George Bertos</p> <p>..... For the health of the Athanasiou &amp; Bertos Families</p> <p>..... For the health of family &amp; friends</p> <p>..... In memory of our family, past community members &amp; friends</p> <p>..... For the health of Rev. Fr. John &amp; Presvytera Ethel Androutsopoulos</p> <p>..... For the health of Anthony &amp; Helen Balouris</p> <p>..... In memory of James, Julia &amp; Areta Kalogeras</p> <p>..... In memory of Emanuel &amp; Efthalia Geanous</p> <p>..... For the health of Mary Bonfield</p> <p>..... In memory of John Bonfield</p> <p>..... For the health of family &amp; friends</p> <p>..... In memory of Nolan Bonfield Himes</p> <p>..... In memory of Ann Bouris, Louis Bouris &amp; Rosalie Bouris</p> <p>..... For the health of Anne Chapas</p> <p>..... In memory of Frank Chapas</p> <p>..... In memory of John W. Chapas</p> <p>..... In memory of John W. Chapas</p> <p>..... In memory of Gus &amp; Anne Papantonio (2 plants)</p> <p>..... In memory of Frank Chapas</p> <p>..... For the health of Anne Chapas (2 plants)</p> <p>..... In memory of the Clayton, Cocheres &amp; Sicalias Families</p> <p>..... In memory of Andrew J. Countouris</p> <p>..... In memory of Peter A. Countouris</p> <p>..... In memory of Tom &amp; Dora Morris (5 plants)</p> <p>..... In memory of John DeMoss and Anthoula Pefanis &amp; for the health of their families (2 plants)</p> <p>..... In memory of Dinos Dickos</p> <p>..... In memory of James &amp; Elli Stephanou</p> <p>..... In memory of Mike &amp; Theologia Alexiades</p> <p>..... For the health of family &amp; friends, especially Reese McFarland and Connor Patselivas</p> <p>..... In memory of James Frankos &amp; daughter Demitria</p> <p>..... For the health of family &amp; friends</p> <p>..... In memory of our godson John-Peter Orfanakos</p> <p>..... In honor of our children, Yianni, Georgia &amp; Dimitri</p> <p>..... In honor of our godchildren, Douglas Paul, Nicholas, Max, Melina, Anastasia &amp; Anastasia</p> <p>..... In memory of John &amp; Theologia Rigas</p> <p>..... In memory of Harry &amp; Helen Geanopoulos</p> <p>..... In memory of John &amp; Erma Haas</p> <p>..... In memory of Peter &amp; Mary Georgiadis</p> <p>..... In memory of Don Lorenz</p> <p>..... In memory of Clifford &amp; Athanasia Geanopoulos</p> <p>..... In memory of Steve Karavolos</p> <p>..... In memory of all our loved ones who have passed (2 plants)</p> <p>..... For the health of family &amp; friends</p> <p>..... In memory of Achille Kourouklis</p> <p>..... In memory of Stavroula Repana</p> <p>..... For the health of family &amp; friends</p> <p>..... For the health of Agapios &amp; Maria Kritiotis</p> <p>..... In memory of our beloved parents</p> <p>..... In memory of Theodore Mermigas</p> <p>..... For the health of our family</p> <p>..... In memory of our dearest Godmother Irene</p> <p>..... In memory of Steve Opacic, Jr.</p> <p>..... In memory of Nicholas Pahountis</p> <p>..... In memory of James &amp; Mary Pagonis (2 plants)</p> <p>..... In memory of Mike &amp; Athena Peters and George &amp; Mary Panos</p> <p>..... For the health of the Panos Family</p> <p>..... in memory of John &amp; Maria Pantelakis and John &amp; Stavroula Scopelitis</p> <p>..... In memory of John &amp; Maria Paras and Michael &amp; Diana Paras</p> <p>..... In memory of Albert &amp; Rose Russell and Arthur Russell</p> <p>..... In memory of Sophie Parikakis, Danielle Zagnacky, Michael, Virginia and Helen Parikakis</p> <p>..... In memory of Gus Roman</p> <p>..... In memory of our parents</p> <p>..... In memory of my mother Bessie Cocheres-Sicalias</p> <p>..... For the health of our family</p> <p>..... In memory of Stavros &amp; Demetra Statheas</p> <p>..... In memory of Eric Michael Stearns</p> <p>..... In memory of George Manias (2 plants)</p> <p>..... In memory of Ted &amp; Marion Stewart</p> <p>..... In memory of Olga Regakis</p> <p>..... In memory of Nicholas Tanner</p> <p>..... For the health of family &amp; friends</p> <p>..... In memory of Peter Ladakos</p> <p>..... In memory of Anthony Paterakis</p> <p>..... In memory of Stella Paterakis</p> <p>..... In memory of Walter &amp; Catherine Hartig</p> <p>..... In memory of James Hartig</p> <p>..... In memory of Paul &amp; Sally Hionedes</p> <p>..... For the health of Despina Ladakos</p> <p>..... For the health of Robert &amp; Joanne Watson</p> <p>..... For the health of the Smith Family</p> <p>..... For the health of the Vogt Family</p> <p>..... In memory of my mother, Julia Welsh</p> <p>..... In memory of our beloved daughter Danielle, her Grandma Marge, Nouna Helen &amp; Great-Grandparents</p> <p>..... In memory of the departed members of the Athas Family</p> <p>..... In memory of the departed members of the Zappas Family</p> <p>..... In memory of Peter J. Zikos</p> <p>..... In memory of our Parents</p> <p>..... For the health of George &amp; Phonie Zozos</p> <p>..... In memory of Eileen Hoffmann</p>
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# The Feast of Theophany and the Blessing of Homes and Businesses

*“At Your Epiphany, the whole creation sang Your praises. For You, our God, have appeared on earth and dwelt among men. You have sanctified the streams of the Jordan, sending down from on high the most Holy Spirit.”*

*From the Service of the Great Blessing of the Waters*



## “What is Theophany?”

Every year on January 6th, the Orthodox Church celebrates the Feast of Holy Theophany, which is the baptism of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This is one of the Twelve Great Feasts of the Church and is also known by the name, “Epiphany.” The Baptism of Christ in the River Jordan at the hand of St. John the Baptist sets the example for our own baptism by water in the Holy Spirit.

## “How do we celebrate Theophany?”

The main celebration is, of course, found in the Church with the holy services on January 5th (the Forefeast), January 6th (Theophany) and January 7th (Synaxis of St. John the Baptist). We also take the feast home with us by having our homes blessed with the Holy Water.

## “What happens during a House Blessing?”

You will receive a call to confirm your appointment a day or two ahead. When the priest arrives, he will conduct a brief service either in your dining room or at the place where your family usually offers its prayers. It is best to have the entire family present if possible, especially children. Please be sure to have an icon and a list of the first names of all the members of your household. If you have a home censer, you may prepare it also. A bowl of water is not necessary, as the priest will bring the holy water sprinkler from the church.

The priest will offer the blessing service and offer the names of the people present and those contained on the family names list in prayer. As the service concludes, please lead the priest throughout the house to sprinkle the holy water while chanting the hymn of Theophany. He will bring a copy of the service so you can follow along and chant the hymn. When the service is over,

please understand if your priest needs to keep the visit brief in order to cover all the homes scheduled on that day.

## “Should I Have Our House and Business Blessed Every Year?”

**Yes!** In the Orthodox Christian tradition, homes should be blessed each year to bring the blessings of the Feast of Theophany into the home and to rededicate ourselves and our family to the Lord. It is an annual commitment, celebration, thanksgiving and family prayer. It is also a pious way of asking God’s blessings on our business and livelihood as good stewards of all His gifts.

## 2016 House Blessing Schedule

Date	Time	Area	Zip Codes
Wed. Jan. 6	3pm-6pm	Northside, Perrysville, Bellevue, Westview	15212, 15214, 15202
Thu. Jan. 7	3pm-6pm	South Hills (all areas)	15102, 15216, 1522X, 1524X
Fri. Jan. 8	3pm-9pm	Allison Park, McKnight, Ross, McCandless	15101, 15237
Mon. Jan. 11	3pm-9pm	Gibsonia, Treesdale	15044
Mon. Jan. 18	3pm-9pm	Cranberry, Mars & North	16046, 16066
Tue. Jan. 19	3pm-9pm	Wexford	15090
Thu. Jan. 21	3pm-9pm	Wexford	15090
Sat. Jan. 23	3pm-9pm	All other areas not listed/Make-up date/Snow date	Various

Important note: Please be available at the time scheduled for your area. Re-scheduling will only be done in cases of inclement weather. Thank you for your help!

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR REQUEST ONLINE (NEW!) OR BY FORM BEFORE JAN. 5 TO SCHEDULE YOUR HOME. YOU WILL RECEIVE A CALL TO CONFIRM YOUR TIME. THANK YOU!

**NEW THIS YEAR: REQUEST A HOUSE BLESSING ONLINE AT [www.HolyTrinityPgh.org/events](http://www.HolyTrinityPgh.org/events)**





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**2016 Holy Trinity House/Business Blessing Request Form**

	Name	
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	Daytime phone:	Evening phone:
	Notes, directions or special information	

A schedule and description of the House Blessing tradition can be found inside this issue of The Herald. If you would like this special annual Theophany blessing for your family, home or business, please request a visit before January 5 either online or by returning this form. Your date and time will be confirmed by the day before your visit.

**NEW THIS YEAR: REQUEST ONLINE AT [www.HolyTrinityPgh.org/events](http://www.HolyTrinityPgh.org/events)**

IMPORTANT NOTE: Please be available during the time range indicated on the schedule.  
 Re-scheduling will only be done in cases of inclement weather. Thanks!

Scripture of the Month: "If any one thirst, let him come to me and drink." (John 7.37)