



THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

OCTOBER 2017 VOLUME 25 • ISSUE 8

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IMPORTANT NOTICE:

**NOVEMBER 5, 2017
FALL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
NOTICE, AGENDA & PARISH
COUNCIL NOMINATIONS
FORM ENCLOSED**

QUICK NEWS



Dedicated Taste of Greece Festival volunteers gather once more to prepare for our thousands of visitors. 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 page 7-11 or visit our online photo gallery site at photos.HolyTrinityPgh.org.

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

PHILIP THE APOSTLE OF THE 70, ONE OF THE 7 DEACONS - OCT. 11



Saint Philip, who had four daughters that prophesied, was from Caesarea of Palestine. He preached throughout Samaria; it was he also who met the eunuch of Candace, the Queen of the Ethiopians, as the eunuch was reading the Prophet Isaiah. He then instructed and baptized him (Acts 8:26-39). He reposed in Tralles of Asia Minor while preaching the Gospel.

Icon from the Sanctuary of the Saint George Chapel. Iconographer: Florin Vlad.

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

2017 Parish Council

Gerri Valliant, President

Dean A. Balouris	Michael Passodelis
George Danis	Joyce Athanasiou
George Dickos	Stephen Stearns
Van Backeris	Karen Georgiadis
Tom Germanos	Alex Trilivas
Marios Kritiotis	Jean Willow

Ministries

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

"FAITH. FAMILY. COMMUNITY."



Nothing comes without effort. The help of God is always ready and always near, but it is only given to those who see and work, and only to those who put their own powers to the test, then cry out with all their heart, "Lord, help us."

Saint Theophan the Recluse

Dear Holy Trinity family,

There is a beautiful word in Greek called "συνεργία," which transliterated into English is "synergy." It is a compound word made of two parts: "συν" ("syn"), meaning "together" and "έργο" ("ergo"), meaning "work." Translated into English, then, it means "the interaction of elements that when combined produce a total effect that is greater than the sum of the individual elements, contributions, etc." (dictionary.com).

If there is a good word to use to describe the success of our recent "Taste of Greece" Festival at Holy Trinity Church, "synergy" would be it. Words can hardly express the thanks and amazement I feel when I reflect on witnessing the dedication and synergy we experienced in once again opening our doors to share our faith, family and community with the larger community around us. On the one hand, it all springs from the love you have and the sacrifices you make for your Faith and your Church, so it was all of us working together. Although it sometimes seems there is never enough help, please take a moment to reflect on just how many people from this parish—and even people not from this parish who just enjoy being part of it—came together for five days, night and day, to make all this come together. What a testimony of sacrificial love!

On the other hand, regardless of our efforts, none of it would be possible but for the One Who makes all things possible. You see, true "synergy" in the Church is not just that of Christians working together, but of Jesus Christ as the One with Whom we work for His glory. As Saint Paul says, "we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building" (1 Cor. 3.9). And later, in speaking of the originating strength of our Lord Jesus Christ, he proclaims, "He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, that in everything he might be pre-eminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell" (Colossians 1.17-19). That is truly the "synergy" that we can be thankful for and to which we can give credit for the success of the Festival and, indeed, everything we do in the name of Holy Trinity Church and our Holy Orthodox Christian Faith. Without Him, we are just an organization; in Him, we are the Body of Christ.

So all that good work brings tens of thousands of people here. But it is the powerful witness of the community and synergy of faith in Christ that has drawn people back. "How do you do it?" they ask. "Your people," they say, "seem to truly love what they do here. They work together, they are happy, they enjoy being with one another. They are a community. Even your young children are part of it. We can't get people to do that." These are the kinds of comments that bear testimony to the power of synergy of God and man that binds the faith, family and community of God and man together here.

As we move on to the continuing life of this community beyond the Festival, may we keep our awareness of and thankfulness for that "synergy" in mind, because each of us is part of the "we" that makes it possible. From the Parish Council to the Philoptochos to the Choir to Church School, youth ministries, studies, events and everything else on the calendar, we have an exciting new year ahead of us. Sitting back and leaving it in God's hands without lifting a finger of our own will not work and is not "synergy" at all. Rather, offering our labors and our love—in the form of time, talents and treasures, as Gus and Penny Georgiadis write on their Stewardship Reflection on page 5—is the better model and the one that has gotten us where we are. Let's not stop here, but rather proceed from "glory to glory" (2 Cor. 3.18) and reflect the love of Christ as His co-workers more and more every day.

WORSHIP LIFE

Weekday Services October

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).

Oct. 26: Saint Demetrios the Great Martyr

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Church School Classes Begin with Liturgy!

Parents, please remember that Church School begins with Liturgy. Our young people learn many important lessons about the Bible, the saints, history and many other important facets of the Orthodox Christian Faith in class, but it all starts with worship, which is at the heart of the life of every Orthodox Christian. Be sure to be there at the beginning (9:30am!), because the youth sermon is offered after the Holy Gospel, early in the service. Thank you for being and setting the model of respect for worship for your family!

Church School Dismissal Time: 11:30

Attention Church School parents: please assist us in offering our children the time to fully participate in their lessons each Sunday by allowing them to remain in class until the end of the session. **ALL GRADES** will end class each Sunday at 11:30am. Parents of Pre-School and Kindergarten students may pick up their children on the second level Education Center by using the Education Center stairs at in the Gallery near the Bookstore. All other students will be dismissed at 11:30 and parents are asked to wait for their children downstairs in the Gallery or Grand Room during Coffee Hour. Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Christmas Pageant Practices to Begin

Attention Church School students and parents: Watch for dates and times for the 2017 Holy Trinity Church School Christmas Pageant practices to be published soon. All students will participate in the pageant as always, but there will be additional opportunities for musical performances, such as vocals and instrumentals. The pageant will be held following Divine Liturgy on Sunday, December 17. Have a talent from God? Share it with God's people? Thank you!

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

GOYA Steelers Game & Fellowship October 1

The GOYA teen ministry is hosting a Steelers game & Half-Time Fellowship on Sunday, October 1, at 1:00 pm at the Bordeianu home, 415 Tyburn Drive, Wexford.

GOYA Meeting October 8

The GOYA teen ministry will hold a general meeting for all members following Church School on Sunday, October 8. All teens are invited to attend and get involved in the many exciting fellowship and service projects GOYA offers.

HOPE/JOY Hayride..... October 14

Join the HOPE and JOY youth ministries for a fun-filled evening including a hayride, pumpkin painting, cookies & hot apple cider on Saturday, October 14, at Soergel Orchards (2573 Brandt School Road, Wexford) from 6:30 to 8:30pm. The cost is \$15 per person. RSVP by October 3, 2017 to Nikki Marsh (nmarsh@zoominternet.net or 412-370-8000).

Youth Sunday..... October 15

Holy Trinity Church will host "Youth Sunday" on Sunday, October 15. The youth of all ages of our parish will serve in various Sunday morning capacities. Coffee Hour will be a "Fall Fest" with pulled pork sandwiches, fall treats and apple cider.

GOYA Fall Retreat Nov. 17-19

Missing camp already? The 2017 GOYA Fall Retreat will be held at Camp Nazareth from Friday, Nov. 17 through Sunday, Nov. 19. Registration must be done at pittsburgh.goarch.org. And watch the Holy Trinity GOYA email list for information on the Holy Trinity reduced fee code.

COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS

"Faith and Family" Ministry Expands October

Holy Trinity Church's expanded "Faith and Family" ministry for 2017/2018 resumed in September and expands with new offerings in October. Building on the fruits this ministry since 2014 and taking into account the constructive feedback of the participants and session leaders, it is our hope that it will become an even more effective opportunity for growth in Christ for all. Have ideas to help make this valuable ministry even more fruitful? Want to learn about something new? See a great idea somewhere else you would like to try here? To submit ideas or feedback, please see Spiritual Life Ministry Chairperson Joyce Athanasiou (412-292-4205) or Father John. Please see the 2017/2018 guide on page 9.

Flu Shot Clinic October 15

Please see the enclosed flyer to take advantage of a great opportunity to get your flu shot right here at Holy Trinity Church following Liturgy on October 15.

Philoptochos Sunday November 9

Holy Trinity Philoptochos will host "Philoptochos Sunday" here at Holy Trinity Church on November 9, a day on which we and parishes around the Archdiocese celebrate many years of Philoptochos service to our church, our community, our friends and our families. In honor of that event, the Philoptochos will host a memorial for departed members, coffee hour, and a special collection for the benefit of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Thank you for supporting them!

Military Appreciation Day November 19

Please see the enclosed flyer about this special event. Military Appreciation Day will honor of parishioners, family, and community members who have served and are still serving our country in the military. God bless and protect them!

For the latest updates and schedule of parish events, visit www.HolyTrinityPgh.org/calendar

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

OCTOBER 2017 – "THE VOICE OF HOLY TRINITY CHURCH"



Father John Androutsopoulos

THE CHURCH: THE BODY OF CHRIST

"Now you are the body of Christ and members in particular."

(1 Corinthians 12:27)

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Church is Christ's body on earth, and that we are individually parts of it. Since Christ is the head of the Church, then the individual members are its hands and heart, its tongue and its feet. Jesus submitted to the will of God. He became a sacrifice for sin in order that each of us might be freed from the penalty of sin and experience the joy of eternal life. The Church of Christ also has a mission to fulfill to the world as the body of Christ. It must undergo sacrifice to make effective the purpose of Jesus. He commissions us to present Him in bringing the kingdom of God to a needy world.

Christ's Church is made up of individuals who are being made more and more pure in the stream of a strong faith and an active life in Christ. Each, joined to others, does his part to lift the burden of the world, and to bring others into the sunshine of God's love to the fountain of life, that they too may be pure.

For the blood of Christ—the life of Christ—to be of value to our day, it may mean that His followers will likewise have bleeding hearts full of sympathy and tenderness. The Church needs its Golgotha to win the world for Christ.

The Church is not bricks and stone; it is the body in which Jesus continues to live. We who love and trust and obey Christ make up the Church. We are organically part of Him, His life-blood throbs through us, and He directs and controls us with infinite wisdom and love. The Church is as necessary to Christ as He is to the Church, for the head and body possess the same divine fire.

Life is lived at its best only when our spiritual fires are re-kindled and set aglow by the habit of Church attendance. The

Church is the sanctuary of divine manifestation.

The supreme duty and privilege of the Church is to witness for Him. It would be a good thing to examine ourselves and see if we are fulfilling our high destiny in the earth. St. Paul wrote to the Ephesians, "We must lovingly hold to the truth and grow up into perfect union with Him who is the head—Christ himself."

THROUGH FAITH

"I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture."

(John 10: 9)

We enter into the kingdom of God through faith in Jesus. By making the way of Jesus our way of life, by taking the truths He taught as our guide, we find in Him the door of salvation. If we take Him, His life and spirit, as examples to follow in our business and everyday conduct, then He becomes for us the door to a richer, fuller life. He is the door that makes it possible for us to go in and out and find pasture.

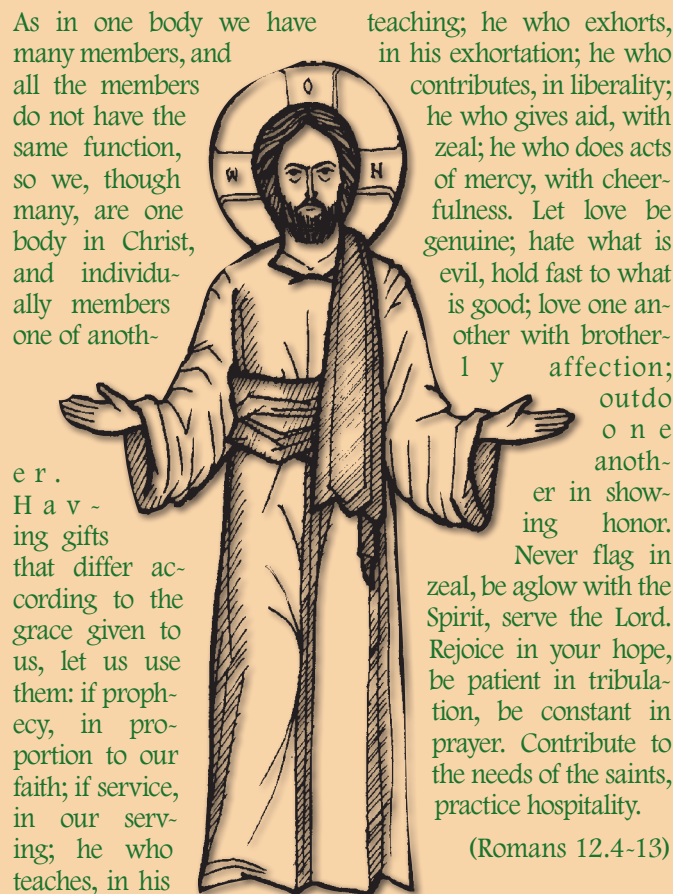
Some people, however, believe that to link their lives with Jesus limits them. Because they do not want their desires denied full expression, they go on from one false freedom to another. In exercising this freedom,

they sooner or later trespass on the rights of others. The law catches up on them and they lose their freedom.

To be in bondage to Christ is to have true liberty. He is the door, not of confinement, but the door that leads to true freedom. We need to put our lives under the care and keeping of the good Shepherd.

We begin to comprehend the importance of Christ who came to deliver us from evil and give us a spirit like His own. We find ourselves possessed of a true spirit, a good spirit, through acceptance of Christ and His way of life.

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



Stewardship: "Give, And It Will Be Given To You."

In this passage from Luke 6:38, Jesus wants us to be generous givers because the giver is more blessed than the one who receives.

At Holy Trinity, we are blessed to have an incredibly beautiful Church and related facilities that provide us with the opportunity to become a seven day a week community. We are blessed that our recently concluded Taste of Greece Festival was historically successful and we showcased our fellowship to all who visited. We are blessed with the growth of new families joining our community and becoming part of what makes us special. And we are blessed that our stewardship program provides each of us with the opportunities to give of our time, talents and treasures. Yes, we are the benefactors of many of God's gifts.

But, are we generous in what we give? The cold hard facts are inescapable: Our operating budget spending this year will be greater than our stewardship pledges and our capital campaign still lacks the commitments to ensure we are able to meet our mortgage payments and pay off our loan over the next five years. Yes, there are more examples than space in this Herald to list all of the time and talents each of us gives to support our community. Stewardship, however, is giving of our time, talents AND treasures. So we must each examine if we are fulfilling ALL of the tenants of stewardship according to the abilities of each of us.

God cares less about how much we give as He does about our attitude of giving. Now more than ever we must allow our conscience to guide our giving, or as Paul says, "Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful

giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7). Therefore, the giving of our time, talents AND treasures shouldn't be based on formulas or concepts but, rather, simply in recognition of the gifts we are blessed with each day. In the end we can never out give God.

As a family and in addition to the giving our time and talents to Holy Trinity, we strive to also freely give of our treasures because we believe what we earn is not ours and that there is a prior claim on it, namely God's. In our minds, we are in partnership with God and He expects us to honor Him and be the best partners ever—because there is no partner like Him.

God provides us with everything, and, in turn, we must fulfill that compact with Him. What we do with every dollar says something about our view of God and what He means to us. When we give freely of our treasures--without expectations for something in return--our generosity is genuine.

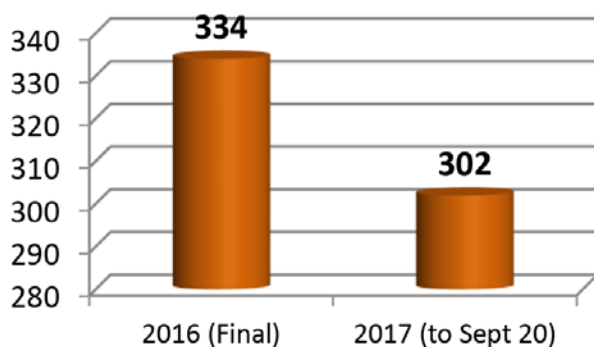
As we work to fulfill our 2017 stewardship commitments and begin to think about 2018, let us each take stock of our blessings both as individuals and as a community and trust God. He will never fail or forsake us if we are honest with Him and genuine in the treasures we give.



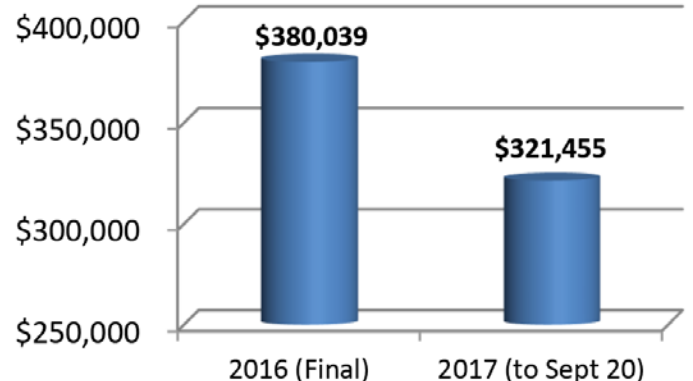
Gus and Penny Georgiadis
Holy Trinity Stewards

Gus and Penny have been active members of Holy Trinity Church for over 30 years. Gus has served as Parish Council President, Vision Committee Chairman and launched the Holy Trinity Stewardship program in 1993. Penny is one of the longest-serving teachers on the Holy Trinity Church School Ministry staff. They have three children: Andrew, Maria and Christian.

Number of Stewards



Stewardship \$ Contributed



As we are well into the last half of 2017, let's take a look at the status of our stewardship. As compared to last year, the number of stewards is lower thus far, as well as our contribution amount. We still have time to not only catch up but to also surpass last year's record (if anything, the festival results show us that we are indeed able to reach new heights every year, even when some may feel it is not possible!). As this month's reflection, above, reminds us, everything is possible with God. Please take into account the so many good things this community offers to us and support it with your generous giving. - The Holy Trinity Stewardship Committee

Father John's Homily: September 10, 2017

"In antiquity crucifixion was considered one of the most brutal and shameful modes of death... Crucifixion in Roman times was applied mostly to slaves, disgraced soldiers...and foreigners. Death, usually after 6 hours--4 days, was due to [multiple factors, including]... scourging and maiming, hemorrhage and dehydration... [and] shock and pain, but the most important factor was progressive [suffocation]." (National Library of Medicine National Institutes of Health).

Yet, reflecting on the scourging, maiming, dehydration, shock, pain, suffocation and death that He experienced on the dreaded instrument of His death, Saint Paul unashamedly proclaims in his Epistle to the Galatians (Gal. 6.14), "Far be it from me to glory except in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ." How so?

In the Book of Genesis, Joseph, who is seen by the Fathers of the Church as a prototype of Christ, is thrown into a pit and left for dead by his brothers. Later, when he reveals to them in Egypt how God used that experience for exactly the opposite ends, he said to them, "As for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones" (Gen. 50.20-21). In other words, no matter what your intent was, God's will was done and His divine purpose was accomplished.

Likewise, what was intended by the authorities of the day to be a horrible punishment, painful end and final defeat for Jesus was used by God to accomplish His plan of salvation and final victory over death. And as we celebrate the historic Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross this week on September 14th, the Church, in the spirit of Saint Paul, proclaims:

The Cross is the guardian of the whole world.
The Cross is the height of the Church's beauty.
The Cross is the strength of the Emperors.
The Cross is the believers' firm support.
The Cross is the glory of Angels and the defeat of the demons.

So if the Cross is no longer a Roman sign of shame but Christ's symbol of victory, how do we glory in it, as Saint Paul says we should? Here are a few ways we glory in the Cross:

- By exalting it in hymns.
- By naming our churches and our children after it.
- By adorning our homes with it.
- By bearing it in our hands and wearing it on our necks.
- By signing ourselves with it.

Most importantly, we glory in the Cross by enduring the pain, struggles and challenges of life with it in the Name of Jesus Christ, Who says, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his Cross and follow me" (Matt. 16.24), and goes on to say in case we waiver, "Whoever does not bear his own Cross and come after me, cannot be my disciple." (Luke 14.27). Like Joseph could not have saved an entire nation from starvation without bearing the suffering wrought by his ill-intended brothers, and like Jesus, Whose suffering on His Cross paved the way to the defeat of death and re-opened the doors of eternal life for those who believe in Him, there are many crosses of suffering we must endure

in our Christian life to be counted worthy of being called His disciples.

No soldier who hopes to be victorious heads on the battle field without being equipped. Likewise, as we encounter the daily battle of faith, which Saint Paul says is "against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places" (Eph. 6.12), we also must be armed, and it is the Cross, sanctified by He Who suffered and died on it, that is "the invincible trophy" (Hymn of Daily Orthros). Therefore, for your daily battle as you take up crosses seen or unseen, understood or yet revealed, the Church has armed you from the start:

- In the Service of the Making of a Catechumen prior to Baptism, you are blessed with the sign of the Cross as the priest expels the demonic powers from your life, commanding them: "depart from the sealed and newly-enlisted soldier of Christ our God" and making the sign of the Cross on you.
- The saving waters of Baptism service in which you were given new life in Christ we blessed before you were placed in them, with the priest making the sign of the Cross on them and praying, "Let all adverse powers be crushed beneath the signing of your most precious Cross."
- And a Cross was placed around your neck at the end of the Baptism and the beginning of the battle as a new soldier and disciples of Christ, with the words of Jesus, "Whosoever wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his Cross and follow Me" (Mark 8.34).

Finally today, allow me to return to an ancient form of blessing with the Cross that has all but been lost outside the world of historic, apostolic Christianity, with only Orthodox Christians and Roman Catholics still using it: the making of the sign of the Cross with our hand over our body. As a personal prayer, a visible sign and a spiritual protection, it is not to be taken lightly, used carelessly or—God-forbid—superstitiously or abandoned. Tetrullian, a second century Christian author from Carthage, describes the sign of the Cross being used by Christians in the early Church in this way: "At every step of the way, when going in and going out, when putting on our clothes and shoes, while washing, eating, lighting lamps, going to sleep, while sitting down, and in whatever action we are carrying out, we imprint our forehead with the little sign [of the Cross]" (De Corona, 3).

So, my fellow Christians and Cross-bearers, that brings us full-round. To glory in the Cross is not to parade it before others in a form of personal pride, but rather to share in the victory over death of Jesus Christ and to proclaim our ultimate faith and hope in Him. Let us with sincere prayer and with great care be sealed with it, honor it, name our churches and our children after it, wear it around our necks, bear it on our bodies, exalt it in our souls and carry it throughout our lives and true believers, followers and disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, Whose death on it opened to the door to Paradise and eternal life for all who believe in Him, take up their Cross and follow Him. Amen.



September 17: Members of the GOYA teen ministry meet following Church School to plan and sign up for GOYA events for the coming year. Pictured above are the GOYA officers (seated) and members.



August 14: Holy Trinity parishioners joined our sister community of the Holy Dormition in Oakmont to celebrate their Feast Day Vespers.



September 17: Jim Portellos, National Director of the FOCUS North America Summer Feeding Program offers thanks to the Holy Trinity community for hosting the program this summer.



August 16: Members of the Parish Development Committee convene and discuss future plans and goals for the parish.



September 10: Parents of the GOYA teens plan and volunteer for events for the 2017/2018 year, including a pilgrimage to Boston and Hellenic College/Holy Cross in the spring.



September 10: GOYAns enjoy a fun Fall Kick-Off event, including a Q&A session with our Chapel iconographer, Florin Vlad (left).









Collection Jars Stuffed to Record Levels In Response to Hurricane Harvey Aid Appeal

On August 26, 2017, Hurricane Harvey hit Texas as the first major hurricane to make landfall in the United States since 2005 wreaking havoc and destruction in Texas and other southern states.

Two days later, as the Holy Trinity Festival volunteers gathered to complete the final setup, a discussion ensued about how to help those affected by this terrible storm. After considering various options, the decision was made and submitted to the Parish Council to use the donation jars we normally use to raise money for mortgage reduction to instead collect funds for Hurricane Harvey relief. It was decided to divide the donations among three "Charity Navigator" 4-Star agencies to be sure the funds would go as quickly as possible directly to help those in need: International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC); The Houston Food Bank; and the Food Bank of Corpus Christi.

The "Taste of Greece" Festival opened two days later to the largest crowds ever, with Hurricane Harvey donation jars placed at every register (A). And the jars started filling quickly.

The next morning, Father John and one of our Festival Chairmen, Harry Athanasiou, appeared by invitation on the KDKA Morning News with Larry Richert and John Scumway (B), with the donation jars discussed on air.

The Festival closed on Sunday evening, yielding both the greatest results ever and the largest amount of donations ever collected. Three days later, on Wednesday, September 6, three letters and checks (C) were prepared and mailed (D).

On Sunday, September 10, the Festival chairpeople invited McCandless Councilman Ralph LeDonne to present to the community the results (E): a total of \$9,091.88 from the visitors, volunteers and parishioners of Holy Trinity Church. Glory to God and may it be a blessing to all those in need.



☑ WORSHIP ☑ LEARN ☑ GROW ☑ PRAY ☑ SERVE

FAITH AND Family WEEKDAYS

AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

“Every day in the temple and at home they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.” (Acts 5:42)

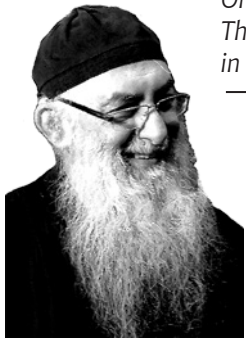
NEW FORMAT! NEW SCHEDULE!

Four years ago, Holy Trinity Church introduced an innovative series of educational programs under the title of “Faith and Family Wednesdays.” Since then, dozens of presentations, hands-on-learning sessions and worship services provided a way for Christians to grow and progress in the knowledge and understanding of their faith. In active pursuit of growing ministries that are relevant and accessible to our faithful parishioners, this ministry has now adapted and grown into “Faith and Family **WEEKDAYS**!” Check it out!

“FAITH AND FAMILY **WEEKDAYS**” MINISTRIES GUIDE: 2017-2018

DAYS	MINISTRY	SCHEDULE	ABOUT
DAILY	“Prayer Partners” Prayer Support Ministry	Every Day: In your personal prayers	EVERYONE can participate in this vital ministry. On the first Sunday of Jan., Apr., July and Oct., prayer cards are distributed after Liturgy to ask parishioners to exchange names and become Prayer Partners. Pray and be prayed for daily!
MONDAYS 7:00pm	“Journey to Fullness” Faith Growth Ministry	Mondays: Fall and Spring Series Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23; Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27; Apr. 23, 30; May 7, 14, 21; Jun 4, 11	This excellent video teaching series is for everyone who wants to learn more about the “fullness of the faith” found in Orthodox Christianity, whether as inquirers, catechumens or life-long members. Each segment offers an interactive question and answer period. Same series repeated in fall and spring.
TUESDAYS 9:00am	“Hearts of Faith” Women’s Ministry	4th Tuesday Oct.-May Oct. 24, Nov. 28, Dec. 19, Jan. 23, Feb. 27, Mar. 27, Apr. 24, May 22	The Saint Lydia Women’s Fellowship meets for a monthly women’s morning session of conversation with God and each other. The group meets at church at 9:00 am for a 30 minute morning prayer, then gathers in the Fireside Room for an hour of sharing and discussion about the matters a woman’s heart.
TUESDAYS 7:00pm	“Journey of Marriage” Marriage Prep Ministry	2nd Tuesday Sep.-June Sep. 12, Oct. 19 (*3rd Thu.), Nov. 14, Dec. 12, Jan. 9, Feb. 13, Mar. 13, May 10, Jun. 8	Marriage preparation for couples using the excellent and interactive “Journey of Marriage” materials developed by Dr. Philip Mamalakis and Fr. Charles Johannides. From “Hello!” to honeymoon, this series educates and equips couples for fruitful Orthodox Christian marriage. It’s lots of fun, too!
WEDNESDAYS 6:30pm Worship 7:00pm Study	“Explore the Word” Wednesday Worship & Bible Study Ministry	Wednesdays Oct.-May Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25; Nov. 8, 15; Dec. 6, 13, 20, Jan. 10, 17, 24, 31; Apr. 18, 25; May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Prayerfully read the Bible! In Deuteronomy 11, it says, “Lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul.” Each Wednesday, come and till your heart in worship in the Church at 6:30 and then meet at 7:00 the Conference Room for the study of the New Testament led by Father Radu Bordeianu.
THURSDAYS 7:00am	“Prayer and Panera” Men’s Ministry	3rd Thursday Sep.-June Sep. 21, Oct. 19, Nov. 16, Dec. 21, Jan. 18, Feb. 15, Mar. 15, Apr. 26, May 17, Jun. 21	The Saint Nikodemos Men’s Fellowship hosts this morning session of prayers and Christian fellowship (with coffee and bagels, too!). The group meets at church promptly at 7:00 a.m. for a 15-20 minute morning prayer and scripture, then moves up the hill to Panera for 30-45 minutes of coffee, breakfast and Christian men’s conversation.
THURSDAYS 7:00pm	“Orthodox Movie Night” Entertainment/Fellowship	2nd Thursday Oct.-June Oct. 12, Nov. 9, Dec. 14, Jan. 11, Feb. 8, Mar. 8, Apr. 12, May 10, Jun. 14	A monthly offering of inspirational movies with snacks and good company in the Fireside Room. Free to all, it’s a relaxing and uplifting alternative to the “same old stuff” on cable TV. Why sit around alone and watch that when you can enjoy a night of Holy Trinity fellowship and entertainment?

Watch for weekly updates, special events, guest speakers and youth activities in the Bulletin. Find more info at www.HolyTrinityPgh.org/ffw



**Archimandrite
Zacharias
of Essex**

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.

Father, what are the signs of God's grace returning?

The humility and constancy which experience brings contribute to man's development, enabling him to assimilate the fullness of God's gifts, so that God's life may become his own life.

Humility makes man transparent to grace, which, unhindered, overshadows him powerfully. It also supports and perfects his gratitude for God's gifts, and shows how created man can possess the uncreated treasure of grace.

The constancy that distinguishes the third period is a constancy of love. By chastening man, God trains him for perfect sensibility to His love, so that he can no longer prefer anything to it, and no phenomenon or any power in the world can "separate him from the love of God." Divine love, as victor over death, delivers man from every fear arising from self-interest and self-love. It introduces him into the selfless life which goes with the commandments of Christ and fills him with pity and compassion even for his enemies.

How is it possible for created man to contain God's uncontainable grace?

Christ Himself is the Way. This means that man's knowledge of the way to God presupposes full knowledge of Christ, of the spirit and life which He manifested on earth. Since Christ is inconceivable and absolute in everything He accomplished and revealed during His life, it is natural that such ultimate knowledge is unattainable without the grace of the All-Holy Spirit. Grace enlarges man to an unforeseen degree, to the dimensions of divine boundlessness, and introduces him into Christlike universality. The acquisition of this grace of wholeness and fullness is established in him in the measure that he is conformed to Christ and has become like Him in His earthly manifestations.

What are some examples from the Bible of people receiving this grace?

From the very beginning of the Old Testament the mystery of God's ways was grasped by those who first came into personal contact with Him and attained to the 'luminous breakthrough into Heaven, "where God is." With eyes enlightened by that infinite and never-setting Light, they saw and appreciated the created world. An exceptional example is Jacob, who by his feat of all-night prayer before God managed to seize God's blessing and hear His revelatory voice: 'You have striven with God and man and have prevailed' [Gen. 32:28]. Armed with this knowledge Jacob began to shape the ancestral people of Israel.

In spiritual exaltation the righteous of the Old Testament beheld prophetically the majesty of God's ways and the endless abyss separating them from the ways of men [cf. Is. 55:8-

9]. The prophets considered themselves blessed to have this insight and knowledge [cf. Baruch 4:4-5 LXX]; they knew the truth which freed them from worldly delusion. In a wondrous manner they announced in advance that the way of God is a personal way, founded 'before all worlds' in the Triune God.

In the New Testament, the 'Way' is identified as Jesus Christ [John 14:6]. At the same time, Christ is called the 'example' [John 13:15], the 'model' [Rom. 6:17], and the 'pattern' [1 Pet. 2:21]. The centre of His life and work is His cross and resurrection. Thus, the knowledge of the mystery of the way means sharing in His sufferings, His death, and the power of His resurrection [cf. Phil. 3:10]. Initiation into this blessed way is an ever-continuing process [cf. Phil. 3:12]. The wisdom that comes of knowing this way enlightens not only man but even the angels [cf. Eph. 3:10-11]. In the Gospel the Lord calls the disciples blessed because they have been given knowledge of the mystery of His kingdom, and He affirms that this is not only far greater than what the prophets received, but also higher than what they desired to see [Matt. 13:17].

So in losing and regaining God's grace we find salvation?

The descent and ascent of man's spirit, after the example of the Son of God [cf. Eph. 4:10] bring upon man a double benefit. Firstly, the knowledge of the world above makes man dead to the world below, and frees him from passions. Secondly, knowledge of eternity transmits constancy to man, and the strength to remain with inspiration in the state of sonship entrusted to him by the Heavenly Father: "This dual experience of descent and ascent is the "sign" that he has travelled the entire road of God, as far as this is attainable on this earth. From now on, this experience becomes the "binoculars" through which are seen all the mysteries of heaven, and all things earthly are judged. It is then that man is "complete, equipped for every good work" [2 Tim. 3:17]. He is "a spiritual man" [1 Cor. 2: 15], in possession of the secret of the knowledge of the paths of salvation, both for himself and for his brethren.

The greater the pain of love for Christ that he carries in his heart, the more complete will be his healing and the more perfect the knowledge he derives. When man receives this knowledge with all his being, it can reach perfection, because it is bestowed by the Holy Spirit. Within the heart, which is united with the intellect, "extreme suffering is coupled with utmost joy." Repentance then becomes vigorous and the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit realizes the limits of the powers of man's created nature to their ultimate degree. Man begins to have a foretaste of Christ's divine universality and, as 'a new creation' [Gal. 6:15], to embrace all things.

*Excerpted from "Christ, Our Way and Our Life"
by Archimandrite Zacharias (Zacharou) of the
Saint John the Baptist Monastery in Essex, England
(Note: Father John had the great blessing of visiting Father
Zacharias in person at the Monastery in Essex in May)*



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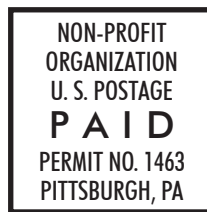
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Seeing The Underlying Beauty In All People

Every one of us is in the image of God, and every one of us is like a damaged icon. But if we were given an icon damaged by time, damaged by circumstances, or desecrated by human hatred, we would treat it with reverence, with tenderness, with brokenheartedness. We would not pay attention primarily to the fact that it is damaged, but to the tragedy of its being damaged. We would concentrate on what is left of its beauty, and not on what is lost of its beauty. And this is what we must learn to do with regard to each person as an individual, but also—and this is not always as easy—with regard to groups of people, whether it be a parish or a denomination, or a nation. We must learn to look, and look until we have seen the underlying beauty of this group of people. Only then can we even begin to do something to call out all the beauty that is there. Listen to other people, and whenever you discern something which sounds true, which is a revelation of harmony and beauty, emphasize it and help it to flower. Strengthen it and encourage it to live.



Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh

Scripture of the Month: “Honor and majesty are before Him; strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.” (Psalm 96.9)