



THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

JULY - AUGUST 2018

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

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QUICK NEWS



A smiling Esme Farmakis takes a whirl in the Mini-Tesla during the Jazz & Jewels 95th Gala. 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 8-17 or visit our online photo gallery site at photos.HolyTrinityPgh.org.

SAINT SISOES THE GREAT - FEAST DAY: JULY 6



In your struggles, you were as an earthly Angel, shining light upon the minds of all the faithful ceaselessly with thy divine signs; and for this cause, righteous Sisoës, we honour you faithfully. (Apolytikion of St. Sisoës the Great)

Icon from the walls 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

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

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Pittsburgh, PA 15237

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

Web site: www.HolyTrinityPgh.org

Email: office@HolyTrinityPgh.org

Holy Trinity Church is a parish of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh (pittsburgh.goarch.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

2018 Parish Council

Gerri Valliant, President

Dean A. Balouris	Michael Passodelis
George Danis	Joyce Athanasiou
George Dickos	Stephen Stearns
Alvin Backeris	Karen Georgiadis
Tom Germanos	Alex Trilivas
Ted Stewart	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."



Then He led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up His hands He blessed them. While He blessed them, he parted from them, and was carried up into heaven. And they returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God.

Luke 24.50-53

My beloved spiritual family,

Christ is in our midst! He was, is and always shall be!

The passage above describes the scene of the Ascension of the Lord and the response of the Apostles. Imagine how difficult and emotional it must have been for them. They had left their stations in life and even their families to follow Him. Their entire life revolved around Him. He had done great miracles and healings in their site, even raising the dead. They had certainly wanted Him to stay with them forever. And now He was gone.

Often when a charismatic leader departs, the movement falls apart. Followers feel let disappointed, depressed and despondent because there is a huge hole in the center of their life, daily activities and hope. With the momentum dissolved and nobody to rejuvenate it, the group falls apart and they begin to wonder why they were all so taken in.

Not so with the Good News of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Who though ascended, promised His Disciples a continuing presence and power in their lives: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age" (Matt. 28.18-19). Their response? See above: they were "continually in the temple blessing God."

So should it be with us in the post-Paschal season. It is good and pleasing to the Lord that we have traversed Lent and Holy Week with such dedication and celebrated the Resurrection with such energy and joy. And with the descent and bestowing of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, that joy is made complete. In the biblical model described above, then, should our churches go empty in the summer months? God forbid! We in the Orthodox Church often lay claim that we are the continuation of the New Testament Church in its fullness. If that is so, then in this post-Pentecost season what should a visitor encounter when entering an Orthodox Church during the summer? Again, see above: it should be filled with people—including children and youth—"continually in the temple blessing God." That is the sign for both God and man: this is the living Body of Christ. I implore you, make that your goal this summer and in every season.

As Presvytera Becky and I celebrate our 25th anniversary of our arrival at Holy Trinity Church on August 1, we are thankful and humbled beyond words at the great honor of the center stone bestowed on us at the magnificent "Jazz and Jewels" 95th Anniversary Gala celebration. Thank you to the entire committee for organizing such a wonderful and joyous event, and thank you to all who wrote and donated to make the stone and the accompanying memories book possible. You hold a place in our lives, our hearts and our prayers always. Thank you, thank you and God bless you all!

With pastoral and paternal love in Christ,

Herald Personal Sponsor for this Issue:

Father John Touloumes

In Honor of Presvytera Becky on our 30th Anniversary - June 26

WORSHIP LIFE

Weekday Services July/August

Please take note of the following weekday Liturgies for the feast days in July and August. Orthros is at 8:30 a.m., followed by Divine Liturgy at 9:30. Guide to locations for services: Holy Trinity Church = **HT**; St. George Chapel = **SG**.

- Aug. 1:** 6:30pm Paraclesis Service (SG)
Note: The period of August 1-15 is a strict fast season.
- Aug. 3:** 6:30pm Paraclesis Service (SG)
- Aug. 5:** 6:30pm Great Vespers of the Transfiguration and the Blessing of the Grapes (SG)
- Aug. 6:** 9:00am Akathist and Divine Liturgy of the Transfiguration followed by luncheon
Services held at Holy Transfiguration Monastery in Ellwood City. Check www.orthodoxmonasteryellwoodcity.org for detour information
- Aug. 8:** 6:30pm Paraclesis Service (SG)
- Aug. 10:** 6:30pm Paraclesis Service (SG)
- Aug. 13:** 6:30pm Paraclesis Service (SG)
- Aug. 14:** 7:00pm Great Vespers of Koimissis
Services held at our sister parishes celebrating their Feast Day in Aliquippa & Oakmont.
- Aug. 15:** The Falling Asleep of the Theotokos (SG)
- Aug. 29:** 7:30am Orthros/8:30am Liturgy - Beheading of St. John the Baptist (HT)
Notes: 1) This is a strict fast day. 2) Services held at Holy Trinity Church with an early start due to the opening of the Taste of Greece Festival at 11am.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Church School Registration Through August 10

Registration for the 2018/2019 Church School year will be held on Sundays in the Gallery following Divine Liturgy. All students should be registered by Sunday, August 10.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

GOYA Summer Trip/Pilgrimage July 16-17

The GOYA teen ministry will hold its annual summer trip and mission project to Cedar Point and St. Gregory Palamas Monastery on Monday and Tuesday, July 16 and 17. Watch the GOYA email list for information.

GOYA Pirates Game July 29

GOYA will attend a Pittsburgh Pirates game together on Sunday, July 29 following Divine Liturgy. Watch for info.

GOYA Carwash August 5

GOYA will repeat their successful fundraising carwash following Divine Liturgy on Sunday, August 5. The free-will offering event will take place in the front circle of the church and will last as long as it takes to get all the cars done, so be sure to bring any cars you need washed to church that day!

FESTIVAL NEWS

Festival Ad Book - Spaces Available!

Last year's Festival was a banner event for our Holy Trinity community. With your help, the new Ad Book provided tremendous support, and we would like to build on that success this year. We are seeking businesses and individuals as sponsors and advertisers for the 2018 Festival Ad Book. Please contact Al Backeris or Connee Bistolas to join the Ad Book campaign or email inquires and interest to festivalads@HolyTrinityPgh.org. See the attached form for details.

Holy Trinity's Taste of Greece Aug. 29-Sep.2

The Festival Committee is asking everyone, new members and old hands, to pledge a donation of their time and talents so that we can continue to grow both the success of the festival and the fellowship with all our Holy Trinity church family members. Sign up on Sunday in the Gallery after Liturgy or online at www.HolyTrinityPgh.org/volunteer. Thank you!

Pave a New Path in Holy Trinity's History! Paver Project Now Underway!

"Leave a footprint on the sands of time" (Henry Wadsworth Longfellow). All great individuals have left a footprint on history. Be a part of Holy Trinity's historical footprint by purchasing a paver for yourself and/or your loved ones. Leave a lasting memory of your family name, or someone else's name. Engrave a lasting tribute in honor of or in memory of a special person in your life. Or capture a very special event, like a wedding or baptismal anniversary. Please email Karen Georgiadis or Kathy Balouris at pavers@HolyTrinityPgh.org. Information is also available at on our website at www.HolyTrinityPgh.org/pavers. We will be selling pavers until Friday, November 16, 2018, unless we sell out before then. The inscription process begins this winter, with the Path will be installed in early spring 2019.

Paver Size	Description	# Sold	Still available	Price	Note
20" Octagon	Center Cross - Granite	1	SOLD OUT	\$8,000	Sold in honor of Father John and Pres. Becky
16" Octagon	Ends of Cross - Granite	4	SOLD OUT	\$5,500	Sold at Live Auction
12"x12"	Body of Cross - Red	14	6	\$2,000	Reserve soon - limited quantity
4"x8"	Outside Border - brown	16	64	\$195	
8"x8"	Background - HB*	17	83	\$395	
8"x12"	Background - horizontal - HB*	9	19	\$500	
8"x12"	Background - Vertical - HB*	0	100	\$500	
12"x12"	Background - HB*	1	99	\$900	

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



Father John Androutsopoulos

"FAITH AND WORKS: INSEPERABLE TWINS"

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
A faithful Christian man worked each day transporting tourists across a lake. On occasion he would present the Gospel and its implications for life in a most unusual way. He had painted the word "Faith" on one of the oars of his rowboat and "Works" on the other. When they got quite

far from shore, he would stop; then, beginning to row with only the one marked "Faith," he would cause the boat to go in circles to the left. Reversing the process, he would pull on the other oar marked "Works," and they would circle in the opposite direction. By this time, the bewildered passengers were waiting for an explanation. This afforded him a wonderful opportunity to give them the truth concerning salvation and how it changes the lives of men. He always concluded by saying, "You see, neither faith nor works can stand alone. They are twins that cannot be separated!"

These two aspects of man's redemption are inseparable; we cannot have one without the other! If we display no outward evidence that a new life from God is dwelling within, we would better hold a funeral for our faith ... it is dead!

What Is Christian Faith?

St. Paul says ... "faith is the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1), because that which we see we can not say that we believe it, but that we saw and we know it. Faith in God means that we believe what we do not see.

Christian faith is a divine gift by means of which we accept as truth all which God has revealed to us and teaches in His Holy Church. Faith is a Divine Gift because it is an operation of God's Grace, which enlightens the mind, warms the heart and moves the will so that we way accept and hold with determination as truths beyond doubt all which God has revealed to us.

One of faith's greatest enemies is fear. When Peter was walking on the water toward Jesus and saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid and began to sink. Jesus rebuked him by saying, "O thou of little faith. Wherefore didst thou doubt?"

Our faith must be genuine and strong enough for us to put some action with it. There was a man who was going to walk a rope from one high building across

the street to another. Not only was he going to walk the rope, he was also going to roll a wheelbarrow across it. Hundreds of people had had gathered to see this remarkable feat. The performer called for a volunteer who believed that he could walk this rope to come on top of the building and make a speech for him to the crowd announcing his intentions. After the volunteer had finished his speech and had stated that the man was going to walk the rope, and that he believed the man could do it, the performer asked him again if he believed it. The reply was "yes". Then the performer asked him to get in the wheelbarrow. His faith immediately became very weak. Sure, he believed the man could walk the rope, but he did not believe enough to get into the wheelbarrow!

Many times it is the same way with us. We believe God can do or may do a certain thing, but we do not believe it enough to step out on His promise and be His witness to the world that God will do it.

Good Works

Good works are those which are done according to God's will. We perform good works, if we, with a good intention, do those things which please God, and abstain from those which

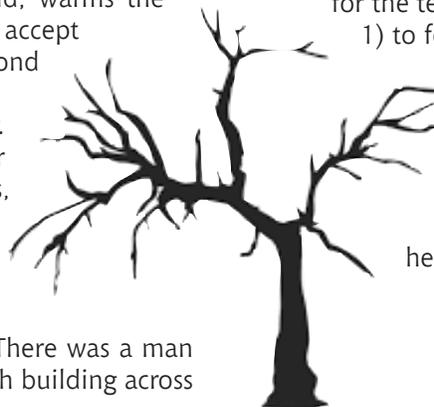
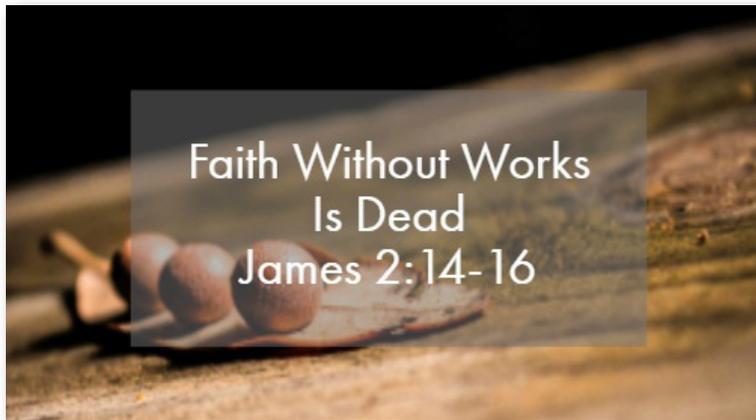
displease Him.

The principal good works are: 1) Prayer, by which we keep in communion with God; 2) Fasting and self-denial, by which we restrain ourselves from sin and evil inclinations; 3) Almsgiving, by which are understood all works of mercy, which we do to our neighbor as an outcome and proof of our dutiful love for him.

There are two kinds of works of mercy: spiritual and corporal. The spiritual works of mercy are those that are done for the good of the soul of our neighbor, namely: 1) to correct sinners; 2) to counsel the doubtful; 3) to instruct the ignorant; 4) to comfort the afflicted; 5) forgive offences; 6) to bear wrongs patiently; 7) to pray for the living and the dead. The corporal works of mercy are those which are done

for the temporal welfare of our fellow-men. They are :
1) to feed the hungry; 2) to give drink to the thirsty;
3) to cloth the naked; 4) to visit the prisoners;
5) to visit the sick.

Can anyone be saved without good works? No. God rewards everyone according to his works. It is not enough for a Christian to abstain from evil in order to be saved: he is obliged to perform good works or mercy



*With the love of the Lord,,
Rev. Fr. John K. Androutsopoulos
Protosyner and Internal Missionary*



THE 2018 "TASTE OF GREECE": WED. AUG. 29-SUN. SEP. 2

This is it! Thanks to all the good work, labors of love and sacrificial offerings of the Holy Trinity family and friends, cooking for the 2018 Holy Trinity "Taste of Greece" Festival is *almost* done...but *not yet!* Help is still needed for a few remaining days during both daytime and evening hours. Everyone is welcomed and everyone's help is needed...bring the kids, the Yiayias, the neighbors...no experience needed. No matter what your talent, there's something for you to do. And it's FUN!

JUL/AUG COOKING DATES

Fri. 7/13	8am-9pm	Souvlakia
Sat. 7/14	8am-5pm	Souvlakia
Thu. 7/19	9am-9pm	Moussaka
Fri. 7/20	9am-9pm	Moussaka
Sat. 7/21	9am-11am	Moussaka
Sun. 8/26	11am ->	Pastry & bakery setup
Mon. 8/27	3pm-9pm	Pastry cutting
Tue. 8/28	3pm-9pm	Pastry cutting/setup

SUPPORT THE FESTIVAL BY SPREADING THE WORD!

The 2018 "Taste of Greece" flyer is ready for you to share! A copy is enclosed and it is available online at www.HolyTrinityPgh.org/festival. Also, please post your yard signs in July!

SUPPORT THE FESTIVAL BY SPONSORING AN AD IN THE 2018 HOLY TRINITY GREEK FESTIVAL AD BOOK!

We are asking for you to support the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church "Taste of Greece" Festival, held again this year during Labor Day weekend, by placing an ad in the Greek Festival Ad Book. See the enclosed flyer/form.

Page Size	Print Size Dimensions	Black & White	Color	Note
A BACKPAGE	5.5" w x 8.5" h		\$2000	SOB
B PREMIUM COLOR PAGE	5.5" w x 8.5" h		\$1250	Limited number available. Includes video display of ad in Grand Hall.
C FULL PAGE	5.5" w x 8.5" h		\$750	Includes video display of ad in Grand Hall.
D FULL PAGE	5.5" w x 8.5" h	\$550		Includes video display of ad in Grand Hall.
E HALF PAGE	5.5" w x 4.25" h	\$300		
F QUARTER PAGE	5.5" w x 4" h	\$175		

Choose Ad Size: B C D E F

Check one of the following:
 USE ARTWORK FROM 2017
 ARTWORK IS ATTACHED
 ARTWORK WILL BE EMAILED TO FestivalAds@HolyTrinityPgh.org

DEADLINE for submitting all ads is Friday July 27, 2018

- Payment must accompany application for placement
- Please submit all ads in .png or .jpg format
- Printed Festival Book ads are to be submitted in "Portrait Orientation" (print size dimensions listed above)
- Digital Display ads are 1280x720 (720p) resolution and require "Landscape Orientation" for submission

Name: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____
 Address: _____ Email: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
 Contact Person: _____ Phone: _____

Please make checks payable to:
 Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
 985 Providence Boulevard, Pittsburgh PA 15237

Please direct all inquiries to FestivalAds@HolyTrinityPgh.org

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT!



Giving is for Everyone

Generosity and stewardship are valuable virtues for all Orthodox Christians to practice, but when we practice them, do we give God our first and finest? Or do we take the easier route and give God our leftovers?

Think back about the bible story of Moses. God essentially laid out an easy-to-follow plan for the people to give offerings to Him. Did He ask for the runt of a litter or for the sickly animals? No! He asked for the best of the best of what people could offer.

From the time of Moses to present day, we have been called to give our best to God. He does not need our gifts, but we still should give Him our best for two reasons. The first reason is because He is worthy of our best. The second is because our offerings to Him are tangible ways that we put Him first in our lives, whether our offerings are our money, our time, or our talents.

Traditionally, stewardship in the church has focused primarily on financial stewardship. Financial stewardship is important to the church, because it obviously keeps the church operating from a day-to-day perspective among other uses. However, focusing on financial stewardship can be discouraging for parishioners who may feel that they do not have enough money to be as generous as they would like.

Generosity is an attractive trait to have. If you think of characters from your favorite television show, movie, or book,

chances are that they are generous. Generosity resonates with people and makes them feel good, whether they are the ones being generous or the ones benefitting from the generosity.

We all want to be generous, but a constant challenge is wanting what we want more than what God wants. We constantly need to work on being generous towards our church on a regular basis. The best way to teach generosity is to show it, which all of us can do every day at and for the church.

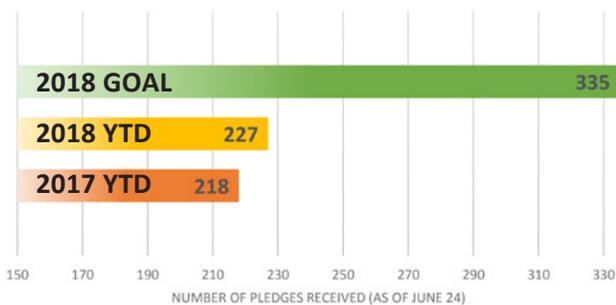
You can start with your child or younger cousin and give them money to put in the baskets passed around at the end of Divine Liturgy. Sign up for the "Taste of Greece" festival in August with a few friends, and hold each other accountable to show up and volunteer. Introduce yourself to someone new at coffee hour and get to know them over a cup of coffee. Set aside time to review your budget and make sure that you are carving out a portion for your stewardship donation to the church. God will see your generosity – and He is the only one you should care about seeing your generosity!

*With the love of Christ,
Your Stewardship Committee
(Michael Kritiotis, Alexandra Valliant, Harry Anthanasiou,
Rick Paese, Charlie Petredis and Ted Stewart)*



**Keeping you informed...
Holy Trinity Stewardship
2018 Pledge Progress**

YEAR-TO-DATE AS OF JUNE 24



Number of Pledges Received



Total Amount Pledged

Note: A \$400,000 stewardship giving level will fund 63% of our total operating costs. Added candle and tray donations will take us to 70%. Please pledge today!

2018 Stewardship Roster | Stewardship News

Thank you to the following faithful stewards who have submitted their pledge cards for the 2018 pledge year. Please join them in their support for the ministries of Holy Trinity and complete your "One Holy Trinity" 2018 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	Mrs Fedra Dedousis	Mr & Mrs Alexander Keffalas	Mr. James J. Patsilevas
Rev. Fr. & Pres. Radu Bordeianu	Mrs. Helen DeMoss	Mr. & Mrs. Brian Kennedy	Mrs. Anna Patsilevas
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Mr & Mrs Victor Amurgis		Mr. & Mrs. Doug Lupnacca	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph P. Phaturios
Ms. Georgiana Anargyros	Mr. & Mrs. Christian Farmakis	Mr. & Mrs. John Komninos	Mr & Mrs John H. Phillips
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Mr & Mrs Mark Armanious	Mr & Mrs John Fitzpatrick	Dr & Mrs Dimitris Kraniou	Mr & Mrs Stephen Roman
Mr & Mrs Harry Athanasiou	Mr. & Mrs. John Franciscus	Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Kratsas	Mrs Angie Roman
Mrs. Desi Anthou Austin	Mrs Tessie Frankos	Mr. & Mrs. Marios Kritiotis	Ms. Corine Russell
Mr & Mrs Alvin Backeris	Miss Diana Fries	Mr & Mrs Michael Kritiotis	Mr. Christopher Sarandou
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Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Barron	Mr. & Mrs. George Geanopulos	Mr & Mrs Gregory Manis	Mr Charles Siebott & Ms Irene Karavolos
Mrs. Anne-Marie Battaglia	Mr and Mrs Troy Geanopulos	Ms. Elizabeth K. Manis	
Mrs Georgia Beckas Miller	Ms. Efthalia Geanous	Mr & Mrs N. Jeffrey Mason	Mr James Statheas
Mr & Mrs John Beckas	Mr & Mrs Nicholas Gelis	Mr & Mrs John McCann	Mr & Mrs Robert Stearns
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Beckas	Drs. Leo and Elizabeth Gensante	Mrs. Jaymee McClain	Mr. Stephen D. Stearns
Ms. Constance Bistolas-Walters	Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Georgallis	Mr. & Mrs. George Mellis	Mr. & Mrs. Justin Steinbugl
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Mr & Mrs Reggie Bonfield	Mr & Mrs Steven Georgiadis	Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Morris	Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Stewart
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Mrs. Georgiann Bounos	Mrs Lois R Germanos	Mrs. Harriet M. Navarro	Mrs Katina G. Tanner
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Mrs Sophia Bridoux	Mr & Mrs Peter Giannoutsos	Mr. & Mrs. Richard Paese	Mr. & Mrs. Jeremy Thomas
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Mr & Mrs James Buldas	Mr. & Mrs. Jason Gidas	Mr & Mrs William Pagonis	Mrs Georgia Touloumes
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Mr & Mrs Charles Chapas	Miss Pennie Hareras	Mr Michael Panos	Ms. Eleni Valliant
Mr & Mrs James Chapas	Mrs Voula Hareras	Mr & Mrs Peter Panos	Ms. Alexandra Valliant
Mr Thomas Chapas	Mr. & Mrs. John Anthony Hastings	Mr & Mrs George Pantelakis	Miss Harriet Valliant
Mr & Mrs William Chapas	Mr. & Mrs. Charles Henigin	Mrs. Angela Pantelas	Mr & Mrs Gerri Valliant
Mr & Mrs Louis Cherpes	Mr. & Mrs. George Hulse	Dr & Mrs Robert Papas	Mr Peter Valliant
"Mr. John Clayton, Jr."	Mr. & Mrs. Carlo Iasella	Ms. Loukia Papatheodorou	Joseph and Christina Waters
Ms. Sherry Clayton	Dr. Kristina Johnson	Mr & Mrs Andrew Pappas	Miss Mary-Magdalene Welsh
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Mrs. Dorothy A. Cucuras	Mr. & Mrs. Evangelo Kaparakos	Mr Eleftherios Parikakis	Mr & Mrs Anthony Zissis
Mr & Mrs George Danis	Miss Voula Kapnisis	Mr & Mrs Constantine Passodelis	Ms Anna Zissis
Mr. & Mrs. Evan Danis	Mrs Alice Kapnisis	Mr & Mrs Michael Passodelis	
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Dedousis	Mr. & Mrs. George Karpakis	Mr & Mrs George Pastor	

To God be the Glory!

Community Life Photo Journal | Church School Graduation

Congratulations to all our students and many thanks to the Church School staff, parents and volunteers for a successful year!



Pre-School Class



Kindergarten Class



First-Second Grade Class



Third-Fourth Grade Class



Fifth-Sixth Grade Class



Seventh-Eighth Grade Class



Ninth-Tenth Grade Class



Eleventh Grade Class

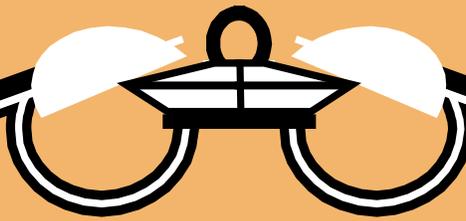


Graduating Seniors and Their Families

Festival Cooking | Community Life Photo Gallery

May-June 2018: Festival cooking through May and June was a beehive of activity. If you are not in these photos, you missed all the fun! Volunteers of all ages helped prepared apricot rolls (top left), galaktobourekó (middle) and diples (bottom). The cooking crew even had a visit from the “graduating class” of the “Journey of Marriage” couples preparing for their weddings (top right). Thanks all!





HOLY TRINITY CHURCH CLASS OF 2018

Please join us in celebrating the talents and God-given gifts of the students from Holy Trinity Church who are graduating from high school this year. We also thank God for the families, relatives and community which have nurtured them in the rich soil of the Holy Orthodox Faith. May God be with them always!

Emily Adamczyk North Allegheny Senior H.S.



Emily graduated from North Allegheny Senior High School and was active in Key Club, DECA and the NA TigerThon, a district-wide dance marathon that helps raise money for the fight against pediatric cancer. She was also a member of the North Park Skating Team for 9 years, competing in numerous competitions and receiving several medals. While working as a skating instructor for North Park's Learn-to-Skate Program, she taught private lessons and instructed children with special needs. Emily was active at Holy Trinity Church in HOPE, JOY, GOYA, Greek Dance and the Festival, Camp Nazareth and Ionian Village. She will attend Penn State University this summer for the LEAP program and will continue on in the fall as a Business major.

Nicholas Berexa Pine-Richland High School



Nick graduated from Pine-Richland High School as an Honor Roll student and a varsity football letterman. He was a member of the Pine-Richland football team that won WPIAL and state championships. He also participated in a champion In-House basketball team. Nick has been a life-long member of Holy Trinity Church, active in Church School, HOPE, JOY and GOYA and is currently its Recording Secretary. He has played on the GOYA basketball and volleyball teams as well. He is been an acolyte since age eight and is a "long-time-fry-guy-turned-runner" at the Holy Trinity Festival. Nick will be attending West Virginia University in the fall, where he will be on the football team and plans on majoring in Business.

Emily graduated from North Allegheny Senior High School and

Stefan graduated with from North Allegheny Senior

High School as a member of the National Honor Society and two school orchestras. He is the Community Editor of the "NASH Uproar" school newspaper. Stefan is a volunteer firefighter and has been a Boy Scout for eight years and an Assistant Patrol Leader.

He will become an Eagle Scout this month. He has been active at Holy Trinity Church, including Church School, Greek Dance and Festival. He was a national finalist in the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival and is currently GOYA President. He has attended Camp Nazareth and Ionian Village and currently leads the Holy Trinity Acolytes team. He will attend the University of Pittsburgh Honors College where he will major in Politics and Philosophy.

Stefan Bordeianu North Allegheny Senior H.S.



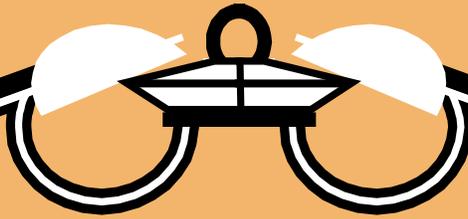
Demetrios Germanos Pittsburgh Central Catholic H.S.



Demetri graduated on the Honors List of

Pittsburgh Central Catholic High School, where he participated in cross country, volleyball, track and field, Young Americans for Freedom, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Pro-Life Club and the Future Business Leaders of America. He has been a life-long member of Holy Trinity

Church and been in Church School, HOPE, JOY and GOYA, where he is currently Vice-President. He has been an Acolyte, Greek dancer and volunteer for the Festival, IOCC and FOCUS. Demetri has participated in mission trips and has attended Camp Nazareth and Ionian Village. He will attend Miami University of Ohio in the fall and major in Engineering.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!

Melanie Hulse The PA Cyber Charter School



Melanie graduated with honors from the PA Cyber Charter School where she was the 2018 Commencement speaker. She was a member and Chapter President of DECA, where she competed at the local and state levels and participated in leadership academies at the International Career Development Conference for two years. She was also a member of the National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society. Melanie's other interests include photography, videography, and piano. Melanie has been responsible for Holy Trinity's Video Ministry, editing the weekly Liturgy for cable broadcast and the church's archives. She will attend Robert Morris University and major in Business Administration/Marketing and Media Arts and Video Production.

Melanie graduated with honors from the PA

Anton Peregoncev North Allegheny Senior H.S.



Anton graduated from North Allegheny Senior High School as a scholar athlete, a three-time letterman in track and a three-time WPIAL track champion. He also was a member of the Spanish Club. Anton has been Church School student since he was five, has been in GOYA five years and is currently GOYA Treasurer. He has served actively at Holy Trinity by being an Acolyte, a Greek Dance group member and a Festival volunteer. He has participated in GOYA basketball, volleyball, summer camp and has attended multiple mission trips and Ionian Village. He will be attending John Carroll University, where we will major in Accounting and will be doing triple-jump for the John Carroll track team.

Anton graduated from North Allegheny Senior High School as a scholar athlete, a three-time letterman in track and a three-time WPIAL track champion. He also was a member of the Spanish Club. Anton has been

Luke Stephen North Allegheny Senior H.S.



Luke graduated from North Allegheny Senior High School as a member of the National Honor Society, a recipient of the President's Award for Educational Excellence and a member of Key Club. His soccer career included the North Allegheny Soccer team, which went on to win the WPIAL championship, and the Riverhounds Development Academy, where he was captain. He also has a black belt in Taekwondo. Luke has been active in philanthropy, serving as a Children's Hospital Teen Volunteer, and he was a Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's 2018 Student of the Year, raising over \$12,000. He has participated in GOYA and the Holy Trinity Festival. He will attend George Washington University and major in International Business and Finance.

Luke graduated from North Allegheny Senior High School as a member of the National Honor Society, a recipient of the President's Award for Educational Excellence and a member of Key Club. His soccer career included the North Allegheny Soccer team, which went on to win the WPIAL championship, and the Riverhounds Development Academy, where he was captain. He also has a black belt in Taekwondo. Luke has been active in philanthropy, serving as a Children's Hospital Teen Volunteer, and he was a Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's 2018 Student of the Year, raising over \$12,000. He has participated in GOYA and the Holy Trinity Festival. He will attend George Washington University and major in International Business and Finance.







Tonight's Entertainment:

The Holy Trinity Jazz Band

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AN EVENING OF MANY TALENTS

On Sunday, June 3rd, Holy Trinity celebrated its 95th Anniversary as a community and 5th year Anniversary at our current home on Providence Boulevard. Co-chairs Kathy Balouris and Karen Georgiadis – along with the entire Anniversary Committee (see below) -- planned an event that was interactive and fun, utilizing the many talents from our own Holy Trinity community. From the beginning of the evening until the end, our community came out and showed what makes HT so special: a warm family environment created by a group of people who care deeply about each other and our Church.

From the get-go, the energy level was high. The moment our guests entered the Gallery, our parishioners' talents were on display and our senses heightened. Our sense of taste was first put to use by the beautiful display of appetizers prepared by our in-house caterers Evan and Kelley Kaparakos. Tables of antipasta platters, chicken kabobs, spanakopita and tiropita, along with passed shrimp shooters, greeted the guests upon arrival.

Our sense of hearing was then awakened by the sounds of the first ever Holy Trinity Jazz Band that was formed just for this event. Practicing for a few months in the garage of Dr. Peter and Theanne Gagianas in the South Hills, our Jazz Band featured Ian Arthurs on guitar, parishioners Steve Cole on guitar, Christian Farmakis on vocals and bass guitar and Peter Gagianas and Christian Georgiadis on trumpet. A surprise vocal appearance by His Eminence Metropolitan Savas capped off the performance with His Eminence singing "Young at Heart."

During cocktails, our guests were treated to our first Wine Pull fundraiser, where elegantly-wrapped wine bottles were sold for \$25. Each bottle was valued at over \$25 and guests who purchased a bottle did not know what kind of wine they were receiving. We had close to 100 bottles that sold!

After the cocktail hour, our guests entered the Grand Room where beautiful tropical floral arrangements caught everyone's attention. Seeing the lovely display of flowers and jewels, the live auction items, the beautifully decorated tables, friends and family celebrating together, only served to increase the excitement of the evening. Our sense of smell was then used for the fantastic buffet that Evan had prepared, featuring plenty of lamb chops, chicken piccata, balsamic glazed salmon, rice and grilled vegetables. While guests ate, they were entertained with soft jazz sounds by Dr Zoot, our band for the evening, while a special commemorative slideshow was presented featuring several hundred photos archiving the deep and rich history of Holy Trinity. Featuring many photos of past and present parishioners, the slideshow was a diary into the life and times of our community. This slideshow will be sold in the future.

Our very own Marielena Balouris, WAVY-TV 10 anchor and reporter from Norfolk, Virginia served as our emcee and further illustrated the use of our own talent. Marielena, along with our Capital Campaign Chair Jimmy Balouris, kept the evening rolling as a number of live auction items brought out some spirited competition! A signature win was the Kritiotis family winning the mini-Tesla, with little Stella jumping in and driving it out of the Grand Room!

Our under 18 crowd started off the program by selling 399 Betsy Ann/Willy Wonka candy bars in a record 20 minutes! (One was eaten during coffee hour!) Six lucky people won a mystery sports memorabilia bag each valued at \$350 and HT collected \$3990! In addition to the candy bars, the unveiling of the Coin Project total from the Church School children was conducted. Beginning on March 4th, our Church School children were challenged to help us reduce our mortgage. Each Sunday, they brought in their coins and gathered close to \$2500. Christian Georgiadis brought in the most coins at \$352 and was awarded a personalized paver in his honor.

One of the highlights of the evening was the presentation to Father John and Presvytera Becky of the central granite key-stone in our HT Paver Project in honor of their 25 year Anniversary to Holy Trinity. What was supposed to kick off the live auction with a \$5,000 bid for that stone, became a total surprise when Marielena interrupted Jimmy and said that there will be no bidding on the center stone! She then called Father John and Presvytera Becky to the podium and presented the surprise the entire community was able to keep a secret for the days leading up to the event! Another talent! In less than 10 days we were able to raise \$7,200 with community donations in honor of Father John and Presvytera Becky. The total now is close to \$8,200. Along with the community donations, we collected greetings and presented Father John and Presvytera Becky with a scrapbook containing the greetings, along with an image of the inscribed stone.

The event has raised over \$75,000 for the Capital Campaign. The goal of this event was to dig into our \$1 million mortgage and we made a small dent. But we can do more with the new paver project for the Capital Campaign: the Paver Project at Holy Trinity! This new initiative could raise more than \$250,000 towards our mortgage. All we need to do is to purchase a paver for ourselves and our loved ones. Leave a lasting memory of your family name. Engrave a tribute in honor of or in memory of a special person. Or capture a very special event like a wedding or baptismal anniversary. Selling has started and will continue until mid-November or until we sell out. One paver buys you memories and 100% goes to the Capital Campaign. It doesn't get easier than that. Store your memories on our new Historical Path at Holy Trinity.

GALA PLANNING COMMITTEES

Co-Chairs: Kathy Balouris & Karen Georgiadis

Entertainment: Theanne Gagianas

Live Auction & Willy Wonka: Yvonne Balouris & Diane Balouris

The Coin Challenge: Penny Georgiadis & Maria Berexa

Decorations: Mary Ellen Stewart & Paula Valliant

The Wine Pull: Chrysoula Balouris, Nikki Marsh & Debbie Jewell

Invitations: Jan Petredis, Alexandra Cameron

Graphic Design: John Fries

General Consultant: Presvytera Becky Touloumes

Historic Slideshow: Penny Balouris, Jim & Yvonne Balouris, Alexandra Valliant, Maggie Fitzpatrick, Fr. John Touloumes and the HT Photographers

Table Sponsorships: Jim Balouris

Office & Staff Support: Mary Portellos, Dan Tender

Community Life Photo Gallery | Youth & Young Adult Ministry Events



June 2, 2018: The young people of our HOPE and JOY ministries visited the Nativity of the Theotokos Monastery in Saxonburg for the day. They visited with Gherontissa Theophano and the sisters and did a craft.



(Above) June 6, 2018: GOYA hosted its annual Senior Recognition Dinner at Bravo in Cranberry.

(Left/Below) May 31, 2018: The Young Adult Ministry hosted a casual dinner and planning session in preparation for submitting a Telos Project grant.





June, 2018: The community offered an emotional thanks and farewell to a number of long-time Holy Trinity parishioners who are moving out of town. **Left:** Sophia Bridoux is surrounded by members of her family as they gather to honor her on June 10. **Right:** Fannie Kostos and the Guimond family, along with Angie Roman were, all honored and thanked on June 24. We'll miss you all!



June 26, 2018: Landscaping at Holy Trinity, an offering of love in blessed memory of Dean Metropulos by members of his family and friends. A beautiful new Cross in the hillside by the Chapel.

May 18, 2018: Father John at graduation at Holy Cross seminary, pictured with our first three Holy Trinity "Seminarians-in-Residence" (L-R) - Trevor Bullock, Demetri Constantine and Niko Birbilas.



June 26, 2018: Master carpenter Jim Thomas completes installation of custom-made whiteboard cabinets in the Conference Room as part of the interior completion project.



June 11, 2018: Participants in the "Journey to Fullness" faith instruction course celebrate their last session by giving Father Barnabas Powell, host for the video series, a big "thumbs up!"



**Saint Innocent
of Alaska**

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 inspired by their wisdom.

Gheronda, how can man enter the Kingdom of Heaven?

We must seek and ask for the Holy Spirit and have Him within us, just as the holy apostles had Him. Without the help and assistance of the Holy Spirit, it is impossible not only to enter the kingdom of heaven but even to take a single step

toward it.

No one can say definitely how or when you will receive the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the gift of God, and gifts are given unexpectedly when it is pleasing to the Dispenser of the gifts, and He distributes them to whom He wills. Therefore, those who think that they will receive the Holy Spirit in some special manner at some special time are very mistaken, and those who invent their own means of obtaining Him not only will not receive the Holy Spirit, but also take upon themselves a terrible sin.

Then how is it possible to receive the Holy Spirit?

The true and recognized means of receiving the Holy Spirit, according to the teaching of Holy Scripture and the experiences of great saints, are the following:

Purity: If we do not want to lose the Holy Spirit, Whom we receive in our baptism, or if we wish to receive Him again, then we must be pure in our hearts and must guard our bodies from unchastity, because our heart and body should be the temple of the Holy Spirit. And if a person is pure in heart and chaste in body, then the Holy Spirit enters into him and possesses his heart and soul

Humility: One of the safest means of receiving the Holy Spirit is humility. Even though you are an honest, good, just, and merciful man, in a word, even though you have fulfilled all the commandments of God, always regard yourself as an unprofitable servant and no more than God’s instrument through whom He acts. If you wish your virtues to have their real value, do not boast of them and do not regard them as pure gold that deserves heavenly treasures.

Attentiveness: The Holy Spirit can also be received by attentively listening to the voice of God. The voice of God, Who speaks clearly, distinctly, and intelligibly, can be heard everywhere and in everything, only you need to have ears to hear. God, as your most loving Father, from your very birth daily speaks to you, calls you to Himself, warns, guides, teaches, and enlightens you. Who of us has not heard and does not hear the voice of God speaking through various occurrences, adventures, or events? In fact, we all hear, and hear clearly and distinctly, but not many of us understand and act according to the voice of God.

Prayer: The Holy Spirit can be received by prayer. This is the simplest and surest means, and one that everyone can always use. It is well known that prayer can be outward and

inward; that is, whoever prays and bows with his body either at home or in church prays externally, whereas whoever turns to God with his heart and soul, and tries to have Him always in his mind, prays internally. You can pray to God at any time and in any place and even when sin overwhelms you. You can pray at work and without work, on a feast and on an ordinary day, standing, sitting, and lying down. Although internal prayer is the most powerful means of receiving the Grace of God, yet we must not give up external prayer either.

Fasting: One of the holy fathers said, if you want your prayer to fly up to God, then give it two wings, that is, fasting and almsgiving. Before speaking of what fasting is let us see why fasting has been appointed. The end and purpose of fasting is to quiet and relieve the body, and so to make it more obedient to the soul, because a full and well-fed body requires luxury and rest, and disposes one to indolence, and prevents one from thinking about God. And now, what is fasting? Fasting varies greatly. For a person brought up in luxury, fasting can be one thing, whereas for a person brought up in simple and rough conditions, it is another thing. Therefore for one person, it is nothing to use the roughest food and be healthy, or to live without food for a number of days, whereas for another, a big change of food can be very noticeable, and even harmful. You should use food in moderation, and try especially to bridle the desires of the body, and not satisfy its lusts at all, for they are unnecessary for the preservation of health and the prolongation of life; and then your fast will be true.

Scripture: The Holy Spirit may be received by reading and listening to Holy Scripture as the true Word of God. Holy Scripture is a great treasury from which we can draw both light and life—light to enlighten and inform every man and life to quicken, comfort, and delight everyone. Holy Scripture is one of the greatest of God’s blessings to man, and it is a blessing that can be enjoyed and used by anyone who wishes to do so.

Sacraments: Jesus Christ said, “He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him”; he “has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day” (John 6:56, 6:54). In other words, whoever receives the Body and Blood of Christ with true repentance, with a clean soul, with the fear of God, and with faith at the same time receives the Holy Spirit Who enters the soul and prepares a place there for the reception of Jesus Christ Himself and God the Father, and consequently the person becomes a temple and habitation of the living God.

These, then, are the ways of receiving the Holy Spirit: that is, purity of heart and integrity of life, humility, attentive listening to the voice of God, prayer, self-denial, reading and listening to the Word of God, and communion of the Body and Blood of Christ. Of course, each of these means is effectual for receiving the Holy Spirit, but the best and surest way is to use them all together; then you will undoubtedly receive the Holy Spirit and become holy.

Excerpted from “Indication of the Way Into the Kingdom of Heaven”, Holy Trinity Publications, Jordanville, NY, 2013



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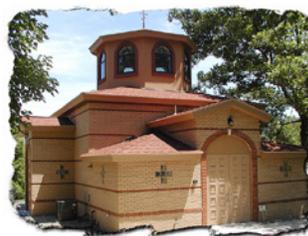
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THE CHURCH: DIVINE AND HUMAN

The Church is a strange, living organism, simultaneously and equally human and divine. The fullness of God abides in it. And also, all that is human is in it—what is fulfilled and what is in the making, what is tragic and what is already shining with glory.

The fullness of God abides in it in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God who has become the Son of man. The fullness of God abides in it by the presence of the Holy Spirit given at Pentecost. And the fullness is in it because in Christ and in the Spirit we are in God.

But in the Church there is also another dimension of humanity: us—imperfect, in the making. But we are imperfect in two different ways: we may be imperfect while we strive Godwards, or we may be imperfect when we turn away from God. It is not a matter of success; it is a matter of direction. Saint Ephraim of Syria says that the Church is not a body of saints, it is a crowd of repentant sinners. And by repentant we do not mean wailing sinners, but people who have turned Godwards and move Godwards, who may fall but will stand.

Excerpted from “Churchianity vs. Christianity” by Metropolitan Anthony Bloom



Scripture of the Month: “I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance..” (Lk. 5.32)