



THE HOLY TRINITY

HERALD

Faith. Family. Community

June-September 2021
Volume 29 | Issue 5

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PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Holy Trinity faithful gather as a family once again to raise their candles and joyously proclaim the the victory over death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ at the front doors of the Church.



THE NEWS MAGAZINE OF HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH, PITTSBURGH, PA



Father John Touloumes
Proistamenos

For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven.

Ecclesiastes 3.1

My beloved Holy Trinity family,

Christ is risen! Three years ago God planted a seed in my heart to consider going on sabbatical for the first time in nearly three decades here at Holy Trinity Church. It was a frightening thought at first. What would I do with that time? What would happen to the parish? How will Father Radu, the Parish Council, the General Assembly, the parishioners and, of course, the Metropolitan respond to the request? And is this really you Who is giving me the thought, Lord?

By God's grace, I found affirmation in all those areas and could not have asked for a better, more caring and loving response. Even after having to reschedule to a year later due to the pandemic, all went smoothly...eventually. Our original travel plans of an spiritual adventure through some traditional Orthodox countries such as Romania, Serbia, Bulgaria and Greece were trimmed due to the travel restrictions, but in the end, our plan is now certainly the one the Lord had laid out in His divine will from the beginning, for He is "present everywhere and filling all things." And it is better than I could have ever imagined, with Greece now safely opening and our plans now enabling us to enjoy an even deeper, more meaningful and truly restful time away. The whole experience has really affirmed Saint Paul's conviction that "all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose" (Rom. 8.28).

Perhaps the most difficult part for us all to imagine is being away for so long. Disconnecting from being connected to this beloved parish in-person and on-line for 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year presents quite a challenge, at least for me and Presvytera, and certainly for parishioners and ministries with whom we work so closely with on a regular basis to maintain and grow the ministries of the church and care for its families and members. But that speaks to the very heart of the need for the sabbatical to begin with. As one clergy sabbatical guide describes it: "Just like the soil, we humans need a sabbatical, a time to lie fallow. We require a time to receive rather than give, to get input rather than give output, to carefully nurture and cultivate our lives. A sabbatical is a time when perspective and the Holy Spirit can come together."

For this to happen, I need to be faithful and trust God that all will be well. We all do. The Lord has so richly blessed this church and her people, and He has never failed to "equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ" (Eph. 4.12). I know in my heart that grace will provide all that is needed for us all during this time. I am so thankful to Father Radu, the Parish Council, our parish staff (Mary and Dan), and all our ministry leaders for being such amazing people and dedicated servants of Christ. You are in good hands and you will be in our prayers. Please keep Presvytera Becky and me in yours. We look forward to seeing you in September - renewed, refreshed and ready to go!!

Yours with deep paternal love, blessings and prayers in the risen Christ,

JUNE-SEPTEMBER

WORSHIP LIFE

Weekday Services - May through August

In addition to regular Sunday Orthros at 8:30am, and Divine Liturgy at 9:30am, the following weekday services will be offered this summer. Please see the online parish calendar at HolyTrinityPgh.org/calendar for updates. (HT=Holy Trinity Church; SG=Saint George Chapel.)

- Memorial Day Monday, 31, 10:00am - Veterans Memorial Service at Holy Trinity Cemetery War Memorial
- Friday, May 21, 8:30a Orthros/9:30a Liturgy (HT) - Ss. Constantine & Helen
- Thursday, June 10, 8:30a Orthros/9:30a Liturgy (HT) - The Ascension of the Lord
- Saturday, June 19, 8:30am Orthros/Liturgy (SG) - Saturday of the Souls (SG)
- Monday, June 21, 8:30am Orthros/Liturgy (HT) - Monday of the Holy Spirit (Feast Day of Holy Trinity Church)
- Monday, June 28, 6:30PM Evening Orthros/Liturgy (HT) Ss. Peter and Paul
- Friday, August 6 - The Transfiguration of the Lord - Feast Day Services held at Holy Transfiguration Monastery in Ellwood City
- Paraclesis Services during August (HT) - 6:30PM
 - Monday, August 2
 - Wednesday, August 4
 - Monday, August 9
 - Wednesday, August 11
 - Friday, August 13

Memorial Day Service for Veterans.....May 31

Please gather in front of the Holy Trinity Cemetery War Memorial at 10:00 am on Monday, May 31 as we hold a special ceremony to honor and remember our veterans. Please note that this service is to commemorate veterans; it is not a general memorial service for all the departed. That will be held according to Orthodox tradition on the Pentecost weekend Saturday of Souls (June 19 this year) with a Divine Liturgy and Memorial at the Saint George Chapel. Memory Eternal!

PHILOPTOCHOS MINISTRY NEWS

Philoptochos Meeting & ElectionsMay 23

The next Philoptochos meeting will be held in person on Sunday, May 23, in the Grand Room following Divine Liturgy. Elections will be held the same day. Members in good standing will be notified 30 days prior to elections, with all the information pertaining to the election.

Pascha Eggs Thank You

Many thanks to the Philoptochos members who donated and offer hours of volunteer service to prepare the red paschal eggs. Thank you for helping bring that joy of cracking those with one another back this year!

YOUTH MINISTRY & EDUCATION NEWS

Summer Camp News

Summer Camp is back, with the 2021 theme, Grace: "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9). Information and registration can be found on the Metropolis youth website at y2am.pittsburgh.goarch.org/summercamp. Please make careful note of the new registration process, as it is quite detailed. Information has been sent directly to our GOYAns for in-person attendance. JOY week is virtual only. As always, supporting our parish youth in their spiritual development is a top priority, so Holy Trinity Church is offering scholarships to reduce the cost of camp. Holy Trinity GOYAns may register with the code "21HTPH" to receive a 50% discount, for a total cost of \$325/week. Holy Trinity JOY youth may use the code "HTJ21" to register free for the online program. Detailed information regarding GOYA registration has been sent directly to the GOYAns.

Church School Resumes in September

Following the summer break, Church School classes will resume the week after the Festival, on Sunday, September 12. Registration will be available at that time.

COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

Holy Trinity Golf OutingJune 7

It's time once again for the annual Holy Trinity Golf Outing, to be held this year on Monday, June 7, at Diamond Run Golf Club located in Sewickley, PA. Registration includes a boxed Lunch, golf cart, 18 holes of golf, Outdoor Live Grille Dinner, the opportunity to win skill prizes, a putting competition and more! The Golf Outing registration form can be found at the Church Office information window or look for a copy in the April/May edition of the Herald. Email registration and player names to Dean Passodelis (DPassodelis@jonespassodelis.com) by the May 15th deadline. Proceeds benefit Holy Trinity Church. Payable by check to "Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church". Everyone is welcomed to attend!

2021 Holy Land Pilgrimage DeadlineJune 15

The Holy Trinity Pilgrimage Ministry's Holy Land Pilgrimage has been rescheduled from last year to this

November 4-13. The deadline for reservations and deposits is June 15. There are spaces still available for anyone still desiring to take this sacred journey in the footsteps of Jesus. Of course, the entire trip is dependent on travel being safe and open by then, and all those who have reserved will be kept up to date on that essential information. Please visit HolyTrinityPgh.org/pilgrimage for information and a reservation form..

Bereavement Support Ministry June-August

Join us for our upcoming monthly group gatherings throughout the summer. The Holy Trinity Bereavement Support Ministry Team provides spiritual care to our parishioners and their extended family & friends in times of grief and loss of a loved one. Meetings will be held June 7, July 12, August 3 and September 13 at 6:30pm. Please see enclosed flyer. Questions: contact Amy Armanious at visitation@HolyTrinityPgh.org.

FESTIVAL NEWS

The 2021 Greek Festival is ON as a Drive-Through!

For 47 years, Holy Trinity Church has extended an invitation to the community around us to enjoy our annual Greek Festival. From the initial events on the North Side, to the interim version at our Northway Elementary temporary location, to the big, beautiful celebration at our new Church, we have been blessed to offer to host literally hundreds of thousands of friends and fans of Greek food and entertainment. We have also had the opportunity to open the doors of our Church to our guests for tours and discussions about our Holy Orthodox Christian Faith, some of whom have become members of our Church.

The Parish Council and Festival Committee, along with Father John and other community and Festival leaders, have been working on how to best approach the event in 2021. Having been unable to host it in 2020, the Holy Trinity community has indeed wanted to once again offer a great Greek Festival for our neighbors and friends. But given the ongoing challenges and uncertainties of the coronavirus pandemic and the tremendous lead time and investment need for preparing to host 30,000 people for our traditional event, the decision has been made to move forward with our 2021 Taste of Greece Festival as a "Drive Through" event, where our guests will be able to order from a limited menu in an efficient drive through setting. This will allow us to serve the community while balancing the safety of our guests and volunteers.

The event will be held three days, Thursday September 2nd to Saturday September 4th, and will go from 11 am to 7 pm. Please plan on stopping by and driving through. We will be ready to serve you some great Greek food with a

warm Greek smile and a big helping of Holy Trinity hospitality!

Festival Food & Pastry Preparation This Summer

Your help is needed to prepare the delicious food and pastries our friends and neighbors have been waiting for all year! Please see the enclosed cooking schedule and be there for food and pastry preparation throughout the summer. Thank you!

Festival Volunteers Needed...Sign Up Today!

A paper Festival volunteer form was distributed last month in church, and now it is also available online via SignUp Genius. We need everyone to get excited and pitch in, so for anyone who has not signed up already, please visit HolyTrinityPgh.org/volunteer and sign up today!

FATHER JOHN'S SABBATICAL NEWS

Sabbatical Schedule

Father John will be taking his first sabbatical in 28 years this summer, starting on Monday, May 17 and returning Monday, August 30. An extensive article on the nature and purpose of clergy sabbaticals can be found in the April-May edition of the *Holy Trinity Herald* on our website.

Sabbatical Contacts

During his sabbatical, Father John will not be available via phone, email or social media, and all our parishioners are asked to respect the need for that break and refrain from contacting him to allow this time of rest and refreshment to be fulfilled according to God's calling.

In Father John's absence, Father Radu Bordeianu (FrRadu@HolyTrinityPgh.org) will be offering liturgical services and fulfilling all pastoral care needs. Please see him following services regarding personal matters or contact our Office Administrator, Mary Portellos (412-366-8700 or office@HolyTrinityPgh.org) with any clergy requests, including memorials and sacraments, and they will be arranged. For clergy emergencies only, call 412-366-8700 and select option "2". For all other office matters, including facilities scheduling, Bulletin and email announcements for ministry events, please contact Mary Portellos (see above) as usual.

For Parish Council and other administrative-related matters, please contact our Parish Council President, George Danis (pcpresident@HolyTrinityPgh.org) or Vice-President (george.dickos@klgates.com) in his absence.

For all other needs, please contact the ministry or organizational leader directly or pass your request through the Church Office.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding! ❖



Windless Harbor: Our Refuge from the Storms

Mike Kritiotis, Stewardship Ministry

For almost a year now, a national evening news anchor signs off each of his broadcasts by the plea, “please take care of yourselves, and each other.” Even after several times of hearing it, each time it seems so heartfelt that, as a viewer, you feel that you need to be kinder, and want to find someone to help. It’s been that kind of time, a peculiar and novel twelve months, just as the virus itself.

With all the hardship and worry that came hand-in-hand with the pandemic, another side of humanity is emerging just as prominently. “We have seen incredible generosity in giving since the beginning of the pandemic” said a director of a local philanthropic organization.

Many donors have added to their previous annual giving and made gifts available earlier so the agencies can use them immediately, while also re-

moving restrictions they might have put on donations in the past, so that recipient organizations have more flexibility to spend the money where it is most needed.

This level of generosity and kindness is a trademark of American philanthropy. In times of crisis, and when a need would arise anywhere in the world, American assistance is sure to be delivered. This is not just institutional but mainly carried out by individuals who feel the duty to help their fellow man. One story that remains amazing is of a furniture store owner in Texas, who opened up his stores as shelters for people left without power during the recent historic winter storm that battered the state. He also provided clothing and food; and accepted pets. When asked why, he said “least we could do... the essence of living is giving”.

As we approach the halfway point of this year (already), these heart-warming stories of charitable living and giving reminds us of our own stewardship. Not just to our church, but to any worthy charitable mission. In trying times (not just this past year, but any time), people look to philanthropic and spiritual outlets for help. As we see from all the stories that appear, we thank God there are people (many of whom are volunteers) and organizations that persevere and exist to assist those in need. With God’s providence and the gifted minds of science, we’re making progress through this year in emerging from this crisis.

Looking back, we are so thankful that, above all the other worthy places, our house of God, our Church has been there to keep us going, to provide us with courage, hope, and spiritual renewal; an out-of-the-wind harbor, our ever-present, welcoming refuge. In its richness, the Greek language has a poetic description of such a harbor, that is often found in songs – «απάγκειο λιμάνι» (*apageio limani*).

Anyone who experienced the calmness of a small fishing harbor on a quiet morning knows the feeling. And, every time one walks into Holy Trinity Church, or even turns on the online broadcast, the feeling that it trans-

[CONTINUED PAGE 8]

Stewardship 2021 Roster

Rev. Fr. John & Pres. Becky Touloumes
Rev. Fr. Radu & Pres. Loredana Bordeianu
Rev. Fr. George & Pres. Evangelia Daskalakis

Ms. Alexandra Abboud
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Adamczyk
Mr & Mrs Victor Amurgis
Ms. Georgiana Anargyros
Mrs Beatrice Andromalos
Ms Victoria Andromalos-Dale
Mr. and Mrs. H. William Areheart
Mr & Mrs Mark Armanious
Mr & Mrs Vasilios Athanas
Mr & Mrs Harry Athanasiou
Mrs. Tessie C. Athens
Ms. Andrea R. Athens
Mrs. Desi Anthou Austin
Mr & Mrs Alvin Backeris
Dr & Mrs Christ A. Balouris
Dr & Mrs Constantine A. Balouris
Mr & Mrs James T. Balouris
Mr. Anthony C. Balouris
Mrs. Katherine Balouris
Ms. Penny T. Balouris
Lynn and Ethel Barker
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Barron
Mrs Georgia Beckas Miller
Mrs Olga Beckas
Victoria and Maurice Bedel
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Berexa
Ms. Constance Bistolas-Walters
Mr. Michael J. Bober Jr.
Mrs. Athena Bober
Mr. Todd Bogdanovich
Ms. Pamela M. Bolkovac
Dr & Mrs Reggie Bonfield
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Bounos
Dr. & Mrs. Alexander Bournias
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Bournias
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Brewer
Clifford Brubaker & Sondra Balouris
Mr & Mrs James Buldas
Alexandra and Anthony Cameron
Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Caromano
Mr. Peter J. Castellano
Mr. & Mrs. Doug Cervenak

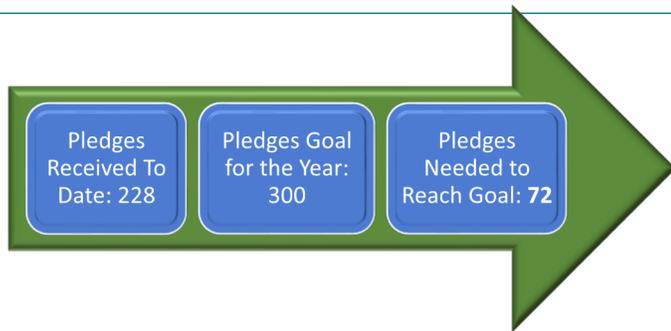
Mr & Mrs Charles Chapas
Mr & Mrs James Chapas
Mr Thomas Chapas
Mr & Mrs William Chapas
Mr Louis Cherpes
Mr. John Clayton
Ms. Sherry Clayton
Mrs. Elenie Cocheres
Mr. & Mrs. Steven E. Cole
Mrs Afrodite Condos
Amanda and Ryan Copeland
Ms. Cynthia Morris Criss
Mr & Mrs George Danis
Mr. & Mrs. Evan Danis
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Dedousis
Mrs. Helen DeMoss
Mr. & Mrs. George Dickos
Mrs. Christine Dickos
Mr. & Mrs. Nikolas Doris
Mr & Mrs Frank Erdeljac
Ms. Theodora Fakles
Dennis Bossick & Penny Fakles-Bossick
Mr. & Mrs. Christian Farmakis
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Ferrari
Ms Georgeann Festas Graf
Mr & Mrs William Fiedler
Mrs. Carol Fiffas
Mr & Mrs Andreas Fournaridis
Mr. Andrew Fournaridis & Ms. Anna Mamo
Mr. & Mrs. John Franciscus
Mrs Tessie Frankos
Miss Diana Fries
Mr. John Fries
Mrs Constance Fries
Dr & Mrs Peter Gagianas
Mr. & Mrs. Josh Skrba
Mr & Mrs Markos Gambieris
Mr & Mrs Thomas Geanopulos
Mr. & Mrs. George Geanopulos
Mr and Mrs Troy Geanopulos
Ms. Efthalia Geanous
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Georgallis
Dr. and Mrs. Mark Georgiadis
Mr & Mrs Gus Georgiadis
Mr & Mrs Steven Georgiadis
Mr & Mrs Thomas Germanos

Thank you to the following faithful stewards who have submitted their pledge cards for the 2021 pledge year. Please join them in their support for the ministries of Holy Trinity and complete your "One Holy Trinity" 2021 pledge commitment today!

Mr. & Mrs. Spiros Giannoutsos
 Mr & Mrs Peter Giannoutsos
 Mr. & Mrs. Jason Gidas
 Mr & Mrs Gary Glew
 Mr & Mrs Peter Glyptis
 Mrs Eugenia Graser
 Mr. George Gregorich
 Mrs Voula Hareras
 Ms Pennie Hareras
 Mr. & Mrs. John Anthony Hastings
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Henigin
 Mrs. Tina Houmis Connors
 Mr. & Mrs. George Hulse
 Mr. & Mrs. Carlo Iasella
 Dr. Kristina Johnson
 Mr & Mrs James Johnson
 Mr. & Mrs. George Kachulis
 Mr & Mrs Nick Kakavis
 Mr. Gus Kalaris
 Mr. & Mrs. Evangelo Kaparakos
 Dr. & Mrs. Gregory Karabin
 Mrs. Irene Karavolos
 Mr. & Mrs. George Karpakis
 Dr & Mrs James Kermes
 Dr Imad Alizray and Ms Zelfa Khalil
 Mr & Mrs Gus Kilantonis
 Mr & Mrs Lazarus Kirifides
 Ms. Rachel Klipa
 Mr. Jonathan Kohan
 Mr. and Mrs. James Kolovos
 Mr. & Mrs. Doug Lupnacca
 Mr. & Mrs. John Komninos
 Mrs Penelope Komninos
 Mrs. Fanny Kostos
 Dr & Mrs Dimitris Kranioiu
 Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Kratsas
 Mr & Mrs Michael Kritiotis
 Mr. & Mrs. James Kukunas
 Mr. Stephen Kukunas
 Mrs Irene Kukunas
 Mrs Despina Ladakos
 Mr. James L. Lakes
 Mr. & Mrs. Philip LeDuc
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Leist
 Antonia and David Lesser
 Mr. & Mrs. Chris Loomis

Mr & Mrs Louis T. Loomis
 Mr & Mrs Nicholas Loomis
 Brett and Eleni Lucido
 Ms. Margo Machuga
 Mr. Curtis B. Magnuson
 Elizabeth Manis Stiger
 Mr & Mrs Gregory Manis
 Mr & Mrs N. Jeffrey Mason
 Mr & Mrs John McCann
 Marc McMullen and Alexandra Valliant
 Mr. & Mrs. George Mellis
 Mrs. Milita Mellis
 Mr & Mrs Jeff Mercadante
 Mr. & Mrs. James Mermigas
 Mrs. Arlene Metropulos
 Christine Metropulos and Dave Steiner
 Dennis and Susan Michaels
 Mr & Mrs Meno Mitaras
 Mr. & Mrs. Eric Mitchell
 Mr. Gregory Morris
 Mr Stanley Morris
 Mr & Mrs Mark Opacic
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Paese
 Gen. & Mrs. William Pagonis
 Mr & Mrs William Pagonis
 Mr & Mrs Matthew Palamara
 Ms. Thespina Palka
 Mrs. Veroniki Panagiotou
 Mr & Mrs Robert Panagulias
 Mr. & Mrs. George Pandelios
 Mr Michael Panos
 Mr & Mrs Peter Panos
 Mr & Mrs George Pantelakis
 Ms. Loukia Papatheodorou
 Ms. Eleni Pappas
 Mr. Anthony Pappis
 Mr & Mrs Orestes Paras
 Mr Eleftherios Parikakis
 Mr. Basil Paschaledis
 Mr & Mrs Nicholas Passaretti
 Mr & Mrs Constantine Passodelis
 Mr & Mrs Michael Passodelis
 Mr & Mrs George Pastor
 Mrs. Anna Patsilevas
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Petredis
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles W. Petredis

STEWARDSHIP 2021 ROSTER/REFLECTIONS (CONT)



If your name isn't shown on the Stewardship Roster, please help us close the gap and submit your pledge! Need a card? Call the church or ask for one after Liturgy.

Mr. & Mrs. John S. Petropoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph P. Phaturos
Mr & Mrs John H. Phillips
Mr & Mrs Stephen Pickios
Ms Rania Pontikos
Ms. Christine Pusateri
Katina and Salvatore Re
Mr & Mrs Stephen Roman
Christopher and Sandra Schall
Dr & Mrs Dean Scoumis
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen E. Sedor and Valya
Presvytera Eileen Sedor
Mr & Mrs Emmanuel Sideris
Mrs. Anita Sinicrope-Maier
Ms. Theone Stateson
Mr & Mrs Robert Stearns
Mr. Stephen D. Stearns
Mr. & Mrs. Craig Steiner
Dr & Mrs Samuel Stepanow
Mr. & Mrs. Kirk Stephen
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel C. Stephenson
Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Stewart
Mr & Mrs Jon Stipanovich
Mr & Mrs Nicholas Terezis
Mr. & Mrs. James Thomas III
Mrs Georgia Touloumes
Mr. George Triantafillos
Mr & Mrs Michael Tzanakakis
Mr & Mrs Gerri Valliant
Joseph and Christina Waters
Mrs Joanne Ladakos Watson
Mrs Elaine Weaver
Miss Mary-Magdalene Welsh
Mr & Mrs Eric White
Mr & Mrs Daniel Willow
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Zagnacky
Mr. & Mrs. George Zappas
Dr & Mrs Antonios Zikos
Mr & Mrs Anthony Zissis
Ms Anna Zissis
Mr & Mrs Louis Zozos
TO GOD BE THE GLORY! ❖

[STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION - CONTINUED]

ports us to safety and calmness is overwhelming. It is not to be taken lightly! We depend on her to keep us spiritually connected and strong.

How many of us walked back in the church for the first time after so many months and felt a sense of tearful homecoming and her warm welcome? How sad would it have been if she wasn't there?

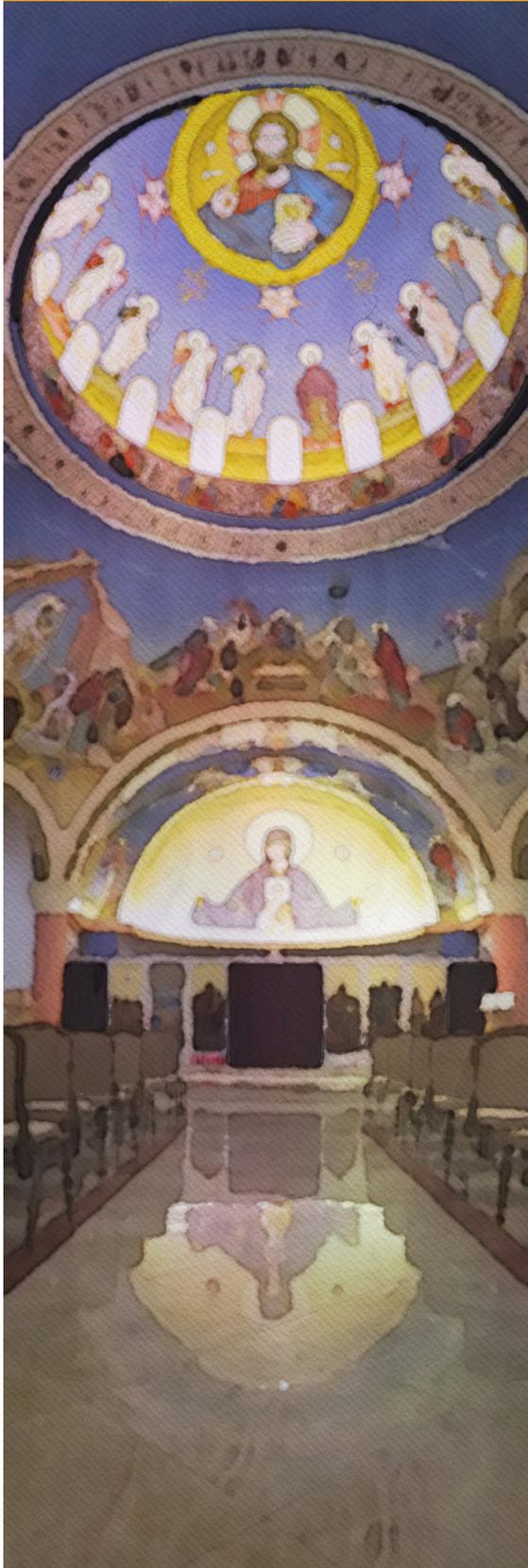
But our church never gave up on us! It found ways to stay open, and to take care of us. It became creative in ways to serve us (loved the online candle-lighting, for example, especially in memory of departed loved ones, when no in-person attendance was allowed); and, added convenient ways for us to continue to support her.

Through the leadership of our Clergy, the Parish Council and Ministry leaders, Holy Trinity Church is strong. Our stewardship contributions for 2021 thus far are remaining at good levels, and can improve even more by the additional support of parishioners who haven't submitted their pledges yet – if you are one of them, please submit yours; it's painless and very important.

Our ministries remained active, and some, like Bereavement Support and Local Outreach, have been even busier than before. To improve further, to grow, our church asks for your continued support.

This plea is especially directed toward our emerging leaders, our bright young adults and parents of our beautiful young families. Please, please, remember this time and the lessons it bestowed on us. As precious as a family gathering and hugs are these days, remember to honor your Faith and Church which pulled us all through to be together. You will find sustenance by being part of this community of Christ beyond any other "membership" and "leadership" role you will ever have. The future belongs to you, and there are so many ways for you to help. Ask anyone from the Parish Council for opportunities to serve. Each and every one of us has a skill and a purpose.

At this mid-year point, let us all do a self-checkup and mind our spiritual wellness, as we do our physical one. May we have a healthy and joyful summer! ❖



Holy Trinity Completion & Consecration Update

As an update, plans are now being developed to complete the necessary items so Holy Trinity Church can be consecrated by the end of 2023, as was approved by the General Assembly last November. The plans provide for completing all the items required for consecration including completing the remaining iconography in the Church and Narthex; installation of numerous items of handcrafted ecclesiastical wood furnishings, most notably a permanent iconostasis and required new Holy Altar table; Altar furnishings and other liturgically required items for the Consecration; and more appropriate seating to replace the temporary chairs in the Church.

The approved plan to raise the needed monies for the project over the next 3 years comprises a combination of funds from the Greek Festival and catering income, as well as parishioner donations, and all without incurring loans or bank financing, so we will remain debt-free having now paid off the mortgage. We have asked that all our members pledge what they are able to over the 2021–2023 timeframe to fund the completion of our Church for its Consecration in 2023. **We are very pleased to report that we have received pledges from 128 families thus far!** If you haven't done it already, please fill out the center section of the "ONE HOLY TRINITY" Pledge Card with your Church Completion and Consecration Campaign pledge amounts for 2021–2023. If you need a new Stewardship card to fill in the center section, please see Jim Balouris, Charlie Petredis or George Dickos or stop in the Church Office. As we've stressed, the most important aspect of this Campaign is participation by everyone!

Please do your part as a member of the Holy Trinity family on this important project – you will be glad you did! If there are any questions in the meantime, please see Jim, Charlie or George above. May God continue to richly bless His Holy Church!

In His Service,

The Parish Development Committee ❖

NOT TO BE SERVED, BUT TO SERVE

Father John's Homily - April 18, 2021

What do you want to be when you grow up?" I don't think there's a person here or online today that wasn't asked that question as a child. A popular family care site I found has published a list of some of the creative answers recently provided by today's children. Here are just a few:

- "I want to be a Tattoo artist," said a 4-year-old girl from a non-tattooed family. When asked her reason? "You get paid to draw on people, and they pay you lots of money for it."
- "I want to be Zookeeper," said another girl. When an adult questioned where she would put all the animals, she said her house is available, and she'd keep the animals there.
- On a more touching side, "I want to be a Cab driver," said a little boy with a friend who had stopped coming to school because of a broken leg and no means to get to school. When asked why he chose a cab driver, he responded, "I want to drive around and teach those people who cannot afford to go to school."

I'm just wondering today, is there anyone here who actually became what you thought you would become as a

child? One thing I didn't find in any of the lists of future careers was actually one of the most coveted positions for a Christian according to the Old Testament, the New Testament authors and the Lord Jesus Himself: a **servant**.

You might say, "Who has servants anymore, and why would anyone aspire to be one, anyway?" Well, the butlers in tuxedos and maids with laced



The Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.

aprons actually still do exist, in houses like Windsor Castle, which you may have seen if you watched the funeral of Prince Phillip of England yesterday. But that's not the kind of servant I'm speaking of today. It's actually not as elegant or exalted as that. In fact, it's not about serving a

king and his royal court at all, but being a true servant of the King of Kings by serving Him and his entire family. Let's see how.

In today's Gospel (Mark 10:32-45), we find a bold and interesting encounter between James and John, the sons of Zebedee, and Jesus Himself. They have the temerity and the lack of understanding to dare to ask Jesus to let them sit at His left and right hand in the glory of His kingdom. They certainly didn't get the answer they expected. As the passage we read earlier in the service today goes:

"Jesus called them to Him and said to them, 'You know that those who are supposed to rule over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'"

What's really happening here is quite stunning: James and John are asking Jesus, "Put us first, ahead of everyone else," and Jesus answers, "Not so fast. This doesn't work that way. I am here to teach you a whole new way. The greatness I am here to teach comes through humility and serving."

This is quite consistent with a few other passages from the mouth of Jesus.

In the Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard, when the workers who worked all day complained they should be paid more than those who showed up later, Jesus says, "The last will be first, and the first will be last" (Matthew 20.16).

In his discussion at a Pharisee's house, He says when attending a wedding feast, we should not walk in and take a place at the front of the table, because if our place is at the end, we will be humiliated when the host says, "Friend, your place is here at the back." Jesus says instead take a humble seat on our own, because "all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted" (Luke 14.11).

Finally, in a dramatic and clear statement, Jesus says to the crowds of the false authority and hypocrisy of the leaders of the day, "The greatest among you will be your servant" (Matt 23.11).

All that makes it perfectly clear that our earthly system of ranking, honor and greatness is quite different from the one revealed by Jesus. So it's no wonder none of the young children I quoted at the start said, "I want to be a servant." Our world has conditioned us to say, think and orient our lives toward, "I want to be first," not "I want to be last," and "I want to be served," not, "I want to serve."

Thank God that our Church is filled with models, teachers and examples of the better way Jesus brings us, because they all come together to tell us, "It's ok. Don't listen to the world. Jesus has a better way." Here are a few of them:

Metropolitan Gregory of Saint Petersburg, in his book, "How to Live a Holy

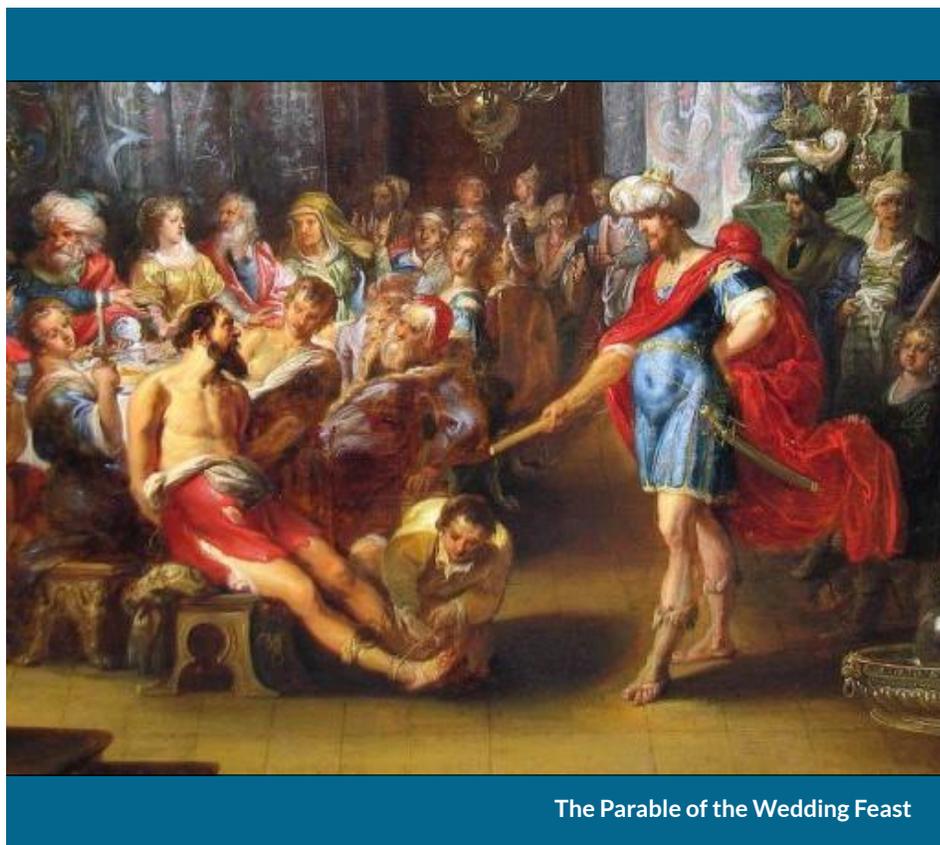
Life," offers some advice for anyone in the workplace. "Whatever work you have to do in accordance with your position and profession...for whomever you do it, whether for yourself and your family, or as a duty to others, do all this as if for the Lord God Himself, that is, do it because the Lord God demands it from you, and because that work is God's work—do it and say in your soul to God: "O Lord, You assigned me this work: I am doing it in obedience to You and to please you." Or: "O Lord, bless my labor. It was not without Your will that I found myself in the position in which I live, and the work that I do or should do is the work demanded by my position. You assigned it to me, so bless me and help me."

In a similar thread, Elder Thaddeus says in "Our Thoughts Determine Our Lives," "Any kind of work is God's work. Every task should be performed from the heart, for it is not for people

that we are laboring, but for God. God is present everywhere... For when we work for God, our hearts and minds are open, but when we do not, we say things like, 'I won't work for him; he's a lazy good-for-nothing who sits all day, yet he gets paid more than me.' This is a sign that we are not performing our task from the heart."

And in his book, "Becoming a Healing Presence," Al Rossi reminds us that our God-given gifts are there for a God-ordained purpose: He says, "We are reminded...of St. Paul's words to the Christians of Galatia: 'You were called to freedom, brethren; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love be servants of one another' (Gal.5:13). 'Talents' in this sense are not a specific calling, but specific gifts we are given by God.

So after all that, if being someone else's "servant" still leaves you with a



The Parable of the Wedding Feast



To serve:

Holy Trinity GOYAn Sophia Mellis applies a coat of paint in a house that had been heavily damaged by floods in Houston. The teen mission trip resulted in the needy family being able to return to their home.

sense of discomfort, how about this? Just translate “servant” as “one who serves.” Even public schools agree with this idea today. I cannot tell you how many papers Presvytera Becky and I have signed over recent years attesting to our young people’s “community service hours.” I find that to be an antidote to what can easily become the self-focused world of a teenager these days. And I will never forget one of our college freshman who was told by the admissions committee after he was accepted that what really weighted his application in his favor was his personal essay describing his life-changing experience of serving the poor and orphaned of Project Mexico.

The core of Jesus’ teachings on serving has not escaped the professional world either. John Maxwell, one of the world’s greatest leadership trainers says, “Real leadership is service. Serving others is what separates a good leader from a selfish one. Put another way by Martin Luther King Jr.: ‘Everybody can be great, because anybody can serve’” (“21 Most Powerful Minutes In a Leader’s Day,” 59). And elsewhere he affirms, “If you keep your motives pure and your willingness to serve vital and active, you will make a positive impact. S. S. Kresge observed, ‘Find out where you can render a service, and then render it. The rest is up to the Lord’” (ibid, 76).

For all of us, the question then becomes, “How can I serve?” I think it’s become clear today that the answer is, “Any way I can with what the Lord

has given me and where the Lord has placed me.” We have so many beautiful examples and wonderful opportunities right here at Holy Trinity Church. If you look enough, you will find yours:

- Young and old alike, families and ministries, gather often to serve others by preparing and delivering meals for the needy.
- The bins outside the front of the church continue to fill with food donations because you have chosen to serve others by helping.
- The Parish Council members you have elected commit their volunteer time to serve you and the needs of this community.
- The Festival Committee, the food preparation teams and all the volunteers who make the Festival possible serve the parish and the community around us through countless hours of unselfish service.
- Our Church School staff makes the nurturing of your children possible because they spend many hours preparing, teaching and caring for the beautiful young souls of this parish family.
- There are so many more: the philanthropic work of the Philotochos, youth ministries, missions, Acolytes, Hospitality Ministry, Visitation Ministry, Bereavement Ministry, Social Committee, Office Volunteers, Chanters, Choir, Broadcast Min-

istry and others. Life in this Church would not be possible without them and many others.

- And above all, let’s not forget the countless quiet service, known only to the Lord, that any have offered during these challenging times: making food for others, reaching out to those isolated and lonely, checking in on friends, and standing by those sick and suffering. May the Lord bless every single one.

These all offer us a way to say, “Today, I will serve someone else. I will put the words of Jesus in action in my life today. And I will not do it for myself, but for Him and for them.”

And in the end, may we all be worthy to be called above all else, servants of the Lord, whom He placed in this life not to be served, but to serve. Because when the empty accolades, trophies and honors of this world have all faded away, and we stand before the gates of Heaven, they will not come with us. We will have nothing but the testimony of the angels who have witnessed every genuine offering of love as the witness of our obedience to Christ and our love for those He has placed on the path of our life to serve. And may we all be blessed to hear, “Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master” (Matt. 25.21).

Amen. ❖

A MINISTRY OF LEADERSHIP

A Deeper Appreciation of the Holy Trinity Parish Council

A Holy Trinity Herald Feature Article by Anita Sinicrope Maier, MSW



January 5, 2020: Installation of the Parish Council



Parish Council members are called to use the gifts with which they have been blessed to carry out the work of the church. This means there is truly room for anyone to serve since we all possess unique gifts in this life.”

answering questions on just about anything that is on one’s mind concerning the church and her ministries. Throughout the Liturgy, they will also be helping with dismissing the rows of people for Holy Communion, antidoron, or any event requiring church attendees to come forward toward the Holy Altar. When memorial services for the departed are offered at the end of Divine Liturgy, Parish Council members will be standing in respect of this event and in charge of removing the koliva (memorial wheat) to be offered for the congregation to partake of or take home.

Sundays, however, are not the only days the Parish Council is actively working to keep our community going. They hold meetings to decide and vote on various projects that the church is considering; plan, approve and make suggestions concerning the many ministries proposed or in existence; and they deal with the never-ending day-to-day operation of the church—including finances. They also work with committee heads and volunteers to keep abreast of their activities.

Being a Council member requires a lot of responsibility—as you will see later on in this article—but it also provides the opportunity for a great deal of satisfaction and joy knowing one has contributed and served in order to help the Church operate at its maximum potential.

One of the identifying traits of the Orthodox Church is that it is a “conciliar,” which means decisions are made “in council.” That is exactly why we call this body a “Parish Council” and not a “Board of Trustees.” The latter connotes more of a corporate paradigm to the operation of the church. That paradigm falls short of how the Orthodox Church operates and reduces it to something less than she was meant to be.

The Parish Council is also a ministry. As members, they represent their parish as

The first people you may see when walking through the doors of Holy Trinity Church are members of the Parish Council. Sunday after Sunday, they are there to greet you with a smile, a hug or handshake and to welcome you to our church. They want you to know you belong and you will be embraced with our faith. Various members will be stationed at different locations ready to help all who enter with candles, donations, finding a seat (especially during COVID), and

well as the Orthodox Christian Faith in their role as leaders of the community. They are able to create a long term impact on the parish, and their service calls them to represent Christ to all they meet in various aspects of life. Their mission is defined in the Uniform Parish Regulations as “to keep, practice, and proclaim the Orthodox Christian faith pure and undefiled.” This is not only to our own parishioners, but, as Jesus said, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.”

Father James Kordaris, Archdiocese Director of the Department of Outreach and Evangelism, and Director of Stewardship Ministries, explains that entering an Orthodox church may be uncomfortable or intimidating to some, such as non-believers, non-Orthodox spouses of members, and people who may be visiting in order to decide if they may wish to join the Orthodox Christian Faith. Some may only attend church once or twice a year, so you can see why first impressions of the parish are so instrumental to keep people coming back. Our aim is to make visitors feel comfortable and welcome and know that they, too, have a place in our parish. Therefore, Council members must also set an example by regular attendance at divine services and participation in the sacramental life of the church.

So who is a suitable candidate for this mission? Father Kodaris simply states, “the best candidates are easy to find—you see them in the church!” Although some are nominated because of their education, business experience, legal background or life experiences, the greatest criterion is one who is Christ-oriented and Christ-centered. A desire to become immersed in the church and all that it means and does is also needed. Members are called to use the gifts with which they have been blessed to



March 11, 2021: The Parish Council and the Festival Committee meet in-person and via Zoom to plan for the 2021 Holy Trinity Greek Festival.

carry out the work of the church. This means there is truly room for anyone to serve since we all possess unique gifts in this life.

To quote our beloved St. John Chrysostom: “The most basic task of the Church leader is to discern the spiritual gifts of all under his authority, and to encourage those gifts to be used to the full benefit of all.”

If all of this sounds intimidating, and you are thinking to yourself that “I could never vow to that kind of commitment,” let’s go to the real life people serving on Council to see what it is really like to serve. I interviewed four current members and one past member to get their remarks on their service.

Why do people volunteer to serve and what does it personally mean to do so? One of our newest members, Ashley Bournias, felt that joining Parish Council gave her the opportunity to “serve God and the community of Holy Trinity.” As a convert before she married her husband Michael, Ashley felt she was warmly welcomed into the church. She got involved in help-

ing with the festival in many capacities (which she really loved) and when she was approached to run for Council, she accepted. Her membership added another woman to the mix of the current Council. In many parishes the Council tends to be mostly populated by men, and a better balance of genders is always good and more reflective of the overall parish population. As a “newbie” in the parish, she especially enjoyed Narthex duty (before COVID temporarily restricted it), where she was able to meet people of the community that she may not have met before and say hello to those who she already knew. She calls it “a natural way of connecting.” The pandemic, her pregnancy and subsequent birth of Theo, Ashley and Michael’s first child, put a halt to that duty for a time. But Council meetings then moved to the Zoom videoconference format and she was still able to stay involved. She looks forward to getting back to church in person soon because she truly misses everyone.

Ashley, like all others that join, definitely did not know how much goes

on behind the scenes in running the church and the various committees. Being a part of this duty makes one feel she is really an instrumental part of the community. She is struck how everyone gets along so well. She says everyone gets to speak their opinion and, as long as the Council keeps the vision of what is best for the church and the community as a whole, good decisions are made. Ashley would say to someone who may think of running in the future to not get overwhelmed with the thought of time commitment, because she finds it is quite manageable.

As current President of the Parish Council, George Danis may take on a bigger workload than some. But he came to this position well-prepared after serving on Council for ten years in the positions of Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President and now President. He learned that each office involved different things and viewed Treasurer as the most challenging. He was coached by Mike Passodelis, who is a CPA, and Alex Trilivas, who had been treasurer for a long time. He still relies on Mike for certain issues. There is always someone in the community willing to help when help is needed.

The pandemic made things challenging in another way. Many things that had never been done had to be creatively established. Working with Father John and the Metropolis in creating ways to continue worshiping and operating the community safely was a great deal of work for all. Different phases were created and worked through which allowed the gradual return of certain percentages of people to church in person. We were so blessed that we have a leader in Father John who is savvy and knows how to create and run media resources to allow parishioners to participate online. Since being able to



Just listen. Take advice and information from everyone. Learn the ropes. Take your time and learn how things operate. Utilize mentoring from others.

Advice to new Parish Council members from George Danis

join our worship services via online broadcast for shut-ins and travelers was already offered by Holy Trinity Church before COVID, that transition was a natural one, but it still had to be “tweaked” to make it function even better when serving a larger population. George feels “it is amazing how well we’ve adapted and adjusted” during these trying times. Why, we even had coffee hour on Zoom for a time, which allowed parishioners to see each other when we were sheltering in place!

There is a lot that goes into being President—especially helping to oversee things on a day-to-day basis. George retired from his job in January, however, and that now allows him to stop into the church office more and sign checks and touch base with Mary Portellos, our Office Administrator, Father John and Dan Tender, the custodian, on how things are running and what needs to be done. He gets to see a lot more now concerning the operation of the church. In person meetings with Father John, whom he describes as a very “hands on” leader, helps to keep communication going.

The Parish Council also coordinates

meetings with the different ministries to help equip them with wherever it is needed and—now in many cases because of COVID—to get them up and running again. In-person meetings were not allowed for a time, so many committees could not perform their usual duties. The Festival Committee, for example, has been doing a great deal of work to create a “new way” of continuing a festival this year after a hiatus last year—albeit an entirely different model. Parish Council will be working with them to support and aid them in this parish-wide undertaking.

What words of advice would George offer to a new council member? “Just listen. Take advice and information from everyone. Learn the ropes. Take your time and learn how things operate. Utilize mentoring from others.” These words truly paint a picture of the interplay and cooperation of existing members of Council.

Parish Council service is not always easy, however. To show another side of the story and perhaps to exemplify how blessed we are in Holy Trinity today, I interviewed a Parish Council past President who served while we were on Pittsburgh’s North Side church. George Georges took on his presidency at a time of extreme change and decision-making for the Holy Trinity community. George had previously served many years on Parish Council. In fact, he was a new member to Council the year that Father John was appointed to serve Holy Trinity by Metropolitan Maximos! He became a member of Council after fellow Council member Gerri Valiant encouraged him to join. Since his boys were little, he felt it was time to “step up” and serve the church—especially as a good role model for his children. George also headed the catering committee for the church hall, so he was already very involved in the church.



April 23, 2005: Parish Council President George Georges turns a shovel of dirt at the Ground Breaking of the Saint George Chapel on the Feast of Saint George.

Much time has passed since then, so newer members of the congregation may not be aware of the challenges and struggles of bringing Holy Trinity Church to where it is today. One challenge that George took on with a lot of energy was the construction of our beautiful Saint George Chapel. The seniors of the parish had voiced a strong desire to have a chapel where the cemetery was located in the North Hills. Dr. Chris Balouris (who preceded George as Council President) started the chapel fund using part of the James Paras bequest, and according to George, they “took the ball and ran with it.” George was determined to “get it done.” He felt he had really good people to work with and presented a plan that engendered a great deal of support, including two other major donations. With money being a sensitive issue, they told the parishioners, “We are building it and it won’t cost you a dime,” he said. They

passed the proposal and broke ground. Bill Fiedler, a parishioner, architect and cemetery chairman, worked with a prolific Orthodox Christian architect from San Francisco, Christ Kamages, on a concept design and Bill completed the construction plans. Tom Mitrakos, a luxury home builder and faithful Orthodox Christian from the area, did the construction. From there, it was smooth sailing, says George, and it was the highlight of his Presidency.

But then came the biggest challenge of all: the prospect of moving the church from its existing North Side location to the North Hills. It was a trying time, to say the least. The process was headed by the Vision Committee, which under the chairmanship of Gus Georgiadis presented a Mission and Vision Statement that was unanimously adopted in 1999. But implementing those ideas in a way that supported by everyone was not easy.

In George’s words, “the church was ripped apart.” Many did not want the church to move. “It was ugly,” he lamented. The proposal to purchase a new property lost by one vote. Another similar proposal was defeated on the second vote. Eventually, however, guided by the Holy Spirit and the strong desire by all to keep the community together as we moved forward, proposals to sell the North Side property and to purchase the current McCandless Township location were supported by all, and here we are today, stronger than ever!

Change is very hard for some people. Staying the same is often comfortable, and it may be impossible for everyone to see what good things change can bring. Our beautiful chapel, church and ministries, however, are results of working through tough times together to find our way to the Lord’s plan. Thank God for leaders and Council members like George and others who step up even when the task at hand is not easy!

George Dickos is another member who has served for many years. Before he came to Holy Trinity Church he had served on the Parish Council at St. Nicholas Cathedral for 15 years. He joined our Parish Council during a partial term in 2002, knowing that he had some administrative skills to share with our community. He has served on Council the entire time from when the decision was made to build the new church until the present and was Parish Council President at its opening. He helped look for properties (the committee surveyed 99 others before find the present one!), negotiate the deals, hire a builder and find a temporary property for the community to use until the church was finished.

As Parish Council President from 2013-2017, he helped form the Parish Development Committee in an effort

March 31, 2019:
Parish Council
member Karen
Georgiadis speaks
before unveiling
the new Paver
Project with co-
chair Kathy
Balouris.



to move all the ministries forward and now is looking forward to the completion of the church and its consecration. "I can't imagine how amazing the church will be," he says with awe. Although the most important thing in the church is spiritual growth of the community—that is what really matters—the physical structure is also important and reflective of Orthodox Christian tradition and spirituality. He attributes so much of our growth to the leadership of Father John. "He is very forward thinking, but also very supportive of the Council's work. He doesn't try to drive the bus," George remarks.

George has served on what he calls "very good councils" all these years. "We had the right Presidents at the right time," he says. His favorite moment was when he was honored to open the door of the church, along with Vision Committee chairman Gus Georgiadis, at it was blessed by His Eminence Metropolitan Savas. It is a memory he will always hold dear. He tells people who may want to get involved in Parish Council that it is "a way to serve the church in another way."

"It has been wonderful," says Karen Georgiadis, of her experience on Council. Due to a Metropolis policy adding a year to the term of existing Council members during COVID, her years of service have been extended to 7 years. "I truly love our parish. We have an awesome congregation, Priest and Presvytera." Karen says that when you get on Parish Council, you will discover a cohesive unit where people get along with each other. There are very few decisions where there is a butting of heads on decisions. She found learning about the operation of the church "eye opening". Most people do not realize all the intricacies of how much it costs to simply run it. "It's like a house on steroids," she says. "When you add up the cost of utilities, security, secretarial, janitorial, etc. and even copying and printing, it is quite astounding."

Karen's favorite accomplishment was the Paver Project, which is just outside the main entrance of the church. She worked with social committee co-chair Kathy Balouris to coordinate the entire project. When they got all the pavers engraved, she finally felt very successful. But it was a process. She found Council so helpful to her in

leading the project. Karen and Kathy worked worked extremely well together. "Everyone here is all in. It is truly a unique group of people." Her advice to new members is to not let yourself get overwhelmed at first. "Stick with it," she says, "and you will surely find enjoyment."

I hope you were able to get a pretty good feel of what it is like to be on Parish Council. It is a ministry of utmost importance but also one that will allow you to experience community and satisfaction of accomplishment. Duties are rotated so one will not be expected to serve every single Sunday or Feast Day.

Perhaps you will be approached by someone to run for Council during the next election, and we hope you will consider adding your thoughts, talents and creativity to this ministry. Finally, we want to welcome George Mellis as the very newest member, who was just installed last week. You may have noticed a pattern here of a certain name... watch out if your name is George...you may be asked to serve next! ❖

Comments, feedback or just want to say thank you for this article? Contact Anita via email at pened1@aol.com

HOLY TRINITY 2021 GRADUATES

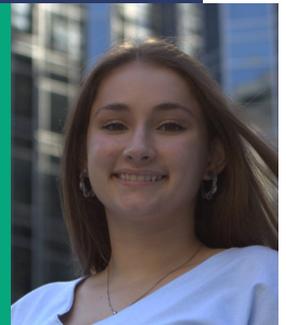


Ekaterini Balouris | Pine-Richland High School

Ekaterini was a four-year Vice-President of Student Government and chair of Mini-Thon. She not only played basketball and volleyball, but was the captain of each during her senior year. She was active in every part of Holy Trinity Church life and youth ministries including HOPE, JOY, Church School, Greek Dance and GOYA, where she was an Outreach Coordinator and Vice-President. She also attended the Metropolis summer camp program. Ekaterini will be attending Michigan State University studying Nursing.

Ana Bordeianu | North Allegheny Senior High School

Ana is graduating as a member of the National Honor Society and recipient of the Girl Scouts Golden Award. At NA she participated in High School orchestra, Speech, Debate, NABA and Computer Science camp as a counselor and instructor. She was active in Church School and GOYA, tournaments, camps, Greek Dancing and more. Ana is currently GOYA President. She will be attending Northeastern University to major in Computer Science and Criminal Justice.



Max Ferrari | Shadyside Academy

Max Ferrari ran cross-country, played baseball, and sang in the chamber choir at Shady Side. He performed in two JCC musicals, starred in the TV show TTYYS, and wrote and played his own music. Max also enjoyed pilot lessons in a Cessna 182. He has served as an Acolyte at Holy Trinity Church. Following a cross-country trip in his customized school bus RV (Instagram: @thebuscalledbessie), Max will be attending the College of Computing and Digital Media at DePaul University.

Demitri Marsh | Pine-Richland High School

Demitri R. Marsh is graduating on the Honor Roll. Throughout his school years he participated in Pine Richland Youth Basketball, Ski Club, GOYA, GOYA Basketball and serves as the Outreach Coordinator for the GOYA. Demitri is an avid outdoorsman and enjoys spending his free time with his family skiing, fishing, boating, hiking, and riding his quad. Demitri's ultimate mission is to help the underprivileged. He plans to take a gap year and attend CCAC to pursue his real estate license.



Sophia Mellis | Oakland Catholic High School

Sophia is a recipient of the Oakland Catholic President's Award, a member of the National Honor Society and was on the High Honor Roll. She lettered in cross-country and varsity lacrosse, participated in a nursing home community outreach program and volunteered at Animal Friends. She has been active in GOYA, played in tournaments, went to the Houston mission trip and was a Greek dancer. Sophia will attend St Francis University's Physician Assistant program and will also be playing D1 Lacrosse.



BEST...ROCK...ACT!

HOLY TRINITY'S OWN ARIS PAUL WINS NATIONAL HONOR

Pittsburgh musician Aris Paul (Aris Pantelas) delved deep into family history for his song, "Better Man's Shoes," and ended up winning a national award for his band.

The Aris Paul Band received best rock song honors in the recent Hollywood Music in Media Awards.

"I had no expectations," Paul said. "I was stunned when we were even nominated." He didn't even stay up to watch the awards livestream on Jan. 27. "It was at 11 or 12 o'clock. I was in bed — I had to work the next day," he said. He found out by checking his phone the next morning.

Winning was made sweeter for Paul and his family because "Better Man's Shoes" is a tribute to his late maternal grandfather, Herbert "Bing" Kosanovich, a veteran of both World War II and the Pittsburgh steel mills.

Paul, 29, was 10 when Kosanovich died.

To accompany the song on YouTube, Paul wrote this tribute: "A dignified, quiet man who served his country during WWII and was awarded 7 bronze stars for his heroism. A man who spent his life working in a Pittsburgh steel mill to provide for his family. A man who trained as a boxer, sang in the opera, and stood as a pillar of the Southside Serb community. A man who treated all men and women fairly regardless of creed or color ... A real man."

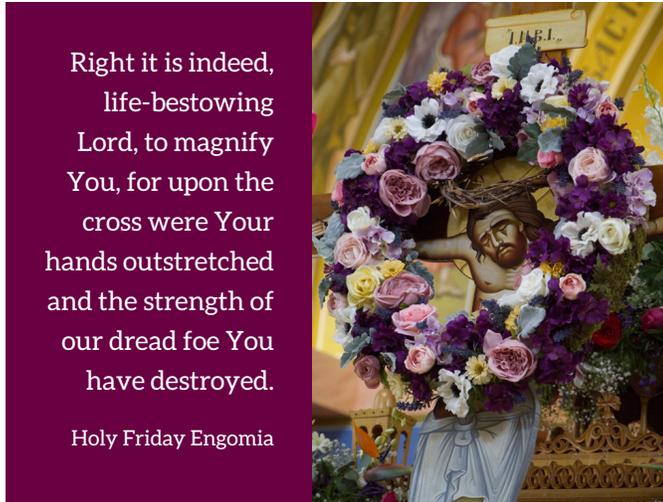
"The family is very proud of it," Paul said. "We play it loud in the house, because we feel like he's listening."

Both sides of Paul's family have deep roots in Pittsburgh's South Side. "Everything we've done in the past 100 years has been within 10 blocks on the South Side," he said.

Paul lives in a house that's been in the family for generations. His father, Paul Pantelas, was a touring guitarist in the 1970s and '80s and the family also owns Excuses Bar & Grill, a venerable South Side blues bar. Kosanovich was a crane operator at the Jones and Laughlin mill "right across from the bar," Paul said.

Until live music venues reopen, they've been doing livestreams whenever they can. ❖

(Article excerpted from triblive.com)



Right it is indeed,
 life-bestowing
 Lord, to magnify
 You, for upon the
 cross were Your
 hands outstretched
 and the strength of
 our dread foe You
 have destroyed.

Holy Friday Engomia

2021 Lenten and Paschal Flowers

This year we were back together in-person, and your love and donations poured out to the Lord so freely! Thank you to the many parishioners and friends who offered donations for Lent and Holy Week. May those who have given and those whom they have honored be blessed always.

Salutations to the Theotokos Icon

- Efthalia & Lynn Barkerin memory of the Kalogeras and Geanous families
- Connie Fries..... for the health of family & friends
- John & Georgia Franciscus in memory of John Beckas and Vasiliki Petropoulos
- Matt & Nancy Palamara..... for the health of the Anh & Palamara families
- Jon Stipanovich.....in memory of George, Stella, and Greg Stipanovich

Lent, Holy Week and Resurrection Services

- Annunciation Icon Flowers..... Chris & Kathy Balouris, in memory of Helen Balouris
- Flowers for the Veneration of the Cross..... Gus & Penny Georgiadis, for their family's health & in memory of their parents
- Sat. of Lazarus Icon Dr & Mrs Mark Georgiadis, in memory of Mary & Peter Georgiadis, George Sarris and Donald Lorenz
- Palm Sunday Icon Flowers..... Vaso Kourouklis, in memory of Achille Kourouklis, Stavroula Repana and Dimitrios Repanas
- Palm branches for Palm Sunday..... Salvatore & Katina Re, for the health and well-being of their families
- Christ the Bridegroom (Nymphios) Icon Flowers Reggie & Marianne Bonfield, for the health of family and friends
- Burial Shroud Sheet for Epitaphion..... Arlene Metropulos, in memory of her husband Dean Metropulos
- Holy Friday Rosewater..... Chris T. Balouris & Family in memory of his father Themistocles C. Balouris
- Holy Friday Icon Flowers Vaso Kourouklis, in memory of Achille Kourouklis, Stavroula Repana and Dimitrios Repanas

Epitaphion Flowers

- Holy Trinity Offering Envelopes, plus...
- Dennis Bossick & Penny Fakles-Bossick in memory of John & Sophia Regas, John Theodore Fakles & Paul John Balouris
- The Durosko Family in memory of James & Elli Stephanou
- Frank & Katina Erdeljac..... in memory of Mike & Theologia Alexiades and Mary Alexiades
- John & Georgia Franciscus in memory of George and Betty Beckas
- Andreas & Valori Fournaridis..... in memory of Steve Cocheres
- Andreas & Valori Fournaridis..... for the health of Elenie Cocheres
- Andreas & Valori Fournaridis..... for the health of Maria Tsarnas
- Gus Kalaris in memory of his wife Stella Kalaris
- Dr. James & Mrs. Bettina Kermes in memory of family and friends
- Jonathan Kohan for the health of family and friends
- Penny & Jeff Mercadante for the health of family and friends
- Meno & Jean Mitaras and family in memory of the deceased members of the Mitaras and Condos families
- James Sicalias in memory of his mother Bessie Cocheres Sicalias
- Joanna Sideris in memory of Eftihia and Olga Litsakis & Sophie and Sid Sideris
- Anthony & Aspasia Zissis..... in memory of their parents, Anna and Fotie
- Anthony & Aspasia Zissis..... in memory of their parents, Vasiliki and George
- Anthony & Aspasia Zissis..... for their health and well-being

Pascha & Paschal Season Flowers & Items

- Bay Leaves for Holy Saturday Chris & Kathy Balouris, in memory of Father John Androutsopoulos
- Bay Leaves for Holy Saturday Pamela Bolkovac, in memory of her parents Nick & Mary Bolkovac (2 large baskets)

LENTEN AND PASCHAL FLOWERS & DONATIONS

Rose Petals for Holy Saturday	Art & Christina Avlon, in memory of Stella Kalaris
Resurrection Icon Flowers.....	Irene Karavolos, for the health of her family
Resurrection Banner Ribbons.....	The family of Chrissie Georgiadis in her memory
Priest's Resurrection Candle	A faithful parishioner, for the health of her children
Priest's Resurrection Candle	A faithful parishioner, for the health of her grandchildren
Prosforon (Offering Bread).....	Katherine Balouris, Stacy Dickos, Nancy Palamara and Mary-Magdalene Welsh
Red Eggs for Pascha.....	Holy Trinity Philoptochos
Myrrh Bearing Women Icon Flowers.....	Cindy Morris Criss, In memory of Tom & Dora Morris
Pentecost Icon Flowers	Mary-Magdalene Welsh, in memory of her mother Julia Welsh

Paschal Lillies

Presvytera Ethel Androustopoulos	in memory of Father John Androustopoulos (5 plants)
A faithful parishioner	for the health of family and friends
Bill & Lynda Areheart.....	in honor of Mary-Magdalene Welsh
Amy & Mark Armanious.....	for the health of the Armanious and Balash families
Efthalia & Lynn Barker	in memory of the Kalogeras and Geanous families
Pamela Bolkovac	in memory of her parents Nick & Mary Bolkovac (3 plants)
Reggie & Marianne Bonfield	in memory of John and Mary Bonfield
Reggie & Marianne Bonfield	in memory of John and Helen Chapas
Reggie & Marianne Bonfield	for the health of family and friends
The Bonfield & Chapas Families	in memory of Frank and Anne Chapas (2 plants)
Cindy Morris Criss.....	for the health of the Morris family (5 plants)
Christine Dickos	in memory of her husband Dinos Dickos
George & Sophia Danis	in memory of Demetrios and Shea Danis
George & Sophia Danis	in memory of George and Vasiliki Gatsiopoulos
George & Sophia Danis	in memory of John and Sophia Regas
The Durosoko Family.....	in memory of James & Elli Stephanou
Frank & Katina Erdeljac.....	in memory of Mike and Theologia Alexiades (2 plants)
Frank & Katina Erdeljac.....	in memory of Mary Alexiades
Andreas & Valori Fournaridis.....	in memory of Steve Cocheres
Andreas & Valori Fournaridis.....	in honor of Elenie Cocheres
Andreas & Valori Fournaridis.....	in honor of Maria Tsarnas
John & Georgia Franciscus	in memory of George and Betty Beckas (2 plants)
Connie Fries.....	for the health of family & friends
Connie Fries.....	in memory of George Lemberopoulos
Connie Fries.....	in memory of Spiros & Catherine Giannoutsos
Connie Fries.....	in memory of John & Toula Giannoutsos
James S. Johnson and Kristina Johnson.....	in memory of their parents Stella & Homer J. Johnson
James S. Johnson and Kristina Johnson.....	in memory of Augustina Makris
Irene Karavolos	in memory of Steve and Kelly Karavolos
Irene Karavolos	in memory of Charles Siebott
James & Bettina Kermes	in memory of family and friends
Nicholas & Joy Loomis.....	for the health of Joy (5 plants)
George & Veronica Mellis	in memory of Anna & James Mellis (2 plants)
Milita Mellis	in memory of Constantine Metropulos
Penny & Jeff Mercadante	in memory of George and Elaine Christ (2 plants)
Christine Metropulos	for the health of her husband, Dave Steiner
William J. Pagonis	in memory of James & Mary Pagonis (2 plants)
Matt & Nancy Palamara.....	for the health of the Anh and Palamara Families
George & Rhea Pantelakis	in memory of John and Maria Pantelakis
George & Rhea Pantelakis	in memory of John and Stavroula Scopelitis
Orestes & Arlene Paras.....	in memory of John and Maria Paras
Orestes & Arlene Paras.....	in memory of Albert, Rose and Arthur Russell
Salvatore & Katina Re	for the health of their families
Presvytera Eileen Sedor	in memory of Father David Sedor
Presvytera Eileen Sedor	for the health of Cara Green, Jo Sedor, Tami Sedor & Julia Gladis
James Sicalias	in memory of his mother Bessie Cocheres Sicalias
Joanna Sideris	in memory of Mary Constantino
Anthony & Aspasia Zissis.....	for their health and well-being (2 plants)

How Christian Life Begins In Us

There is a moment, sharply marked out in our Christian life, when a person begins to live in a Christian way.

Geronda, what does this talk of a “new life in Christ” mean?

The grace-filled Christian life is supposed to begin in baptism. But those who preserve this grace are rare; the majority of Christians lose it. We see some people who are more or less depraved in their present lives, because they had poor beginnings which were allowed to develop and take root in them.

Others perhaps had good beginnings, but during the early years of their youth, whether by personal inclination or through temptation from others, forgot these beginnings and acquired evil habits. Such people no longer lead a true Christian life.

If we are not on the path of Christ, how can we get there?

Our holy faith offers the Mystery of Repentance for this. We have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous (1 Jn. 2:1). If you have sinned, acknowledge the sin and repent. God will forgive the sin and once again give you a new heart ... and a new spirit (Ez. 36:26). There is no other way: Either do not sin, or repent.

Judging by the number of those who have fallen away from baptism, one could even say that repentance has become for us the only source of true Christian life. It is necessary to know that in the Mystery of Repentance

some merely have to be cleansed, and the gift of the grace-filled life, previously assimilated and operating within them, will be rekindled. For others, the beginning of this life has just been established within them, or it is being given and accepted anew. We will be examining the latter case.

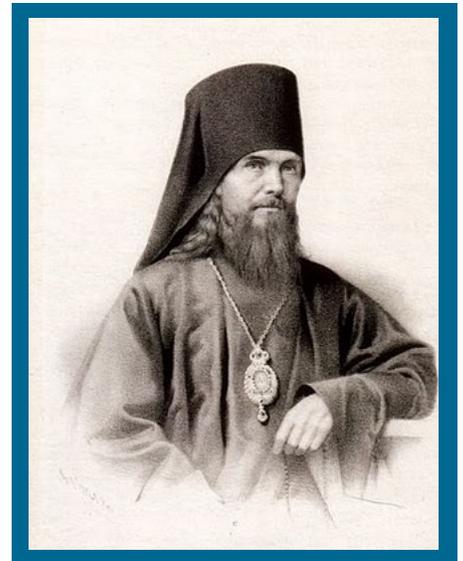
What is a sign this has begun in us?

It is a decisive change for the better, a breaking of the will, a turning away from sin and a turning to God, or a kindling of the fire of zeal for exclusively God-pleasing things. It is above all characterized by an extreme breaking of the will. If a person has acquired evil habits, he must now rend himself.

A repentant person experiences the pain of a woman giving birth, and, in the feelings of the heart, he encounters, as it were, the tortures of hell. Within the repentant person there is first fear, then the lightness of hope; sorrow, then comfort; terror to the point of despair, then the breath of the consolation of mercy. One thing replaces another, and this supplies or keeps a person who is in a state of corruption or parting with life in the hope, however, of receiving new life.

This sounds like a difficult process.

It is something painful, but it saves. It is therefore inevitable that whoever has not experienced such a painful break has not yet begun to live



Saint Theophan the Recluse (+1894)

through repentance. It is impossible for a person to begin cleansing himself in everything without having gone through this crucible.

Geronda, it is so hard to separate myself from my sinful choices! What can I do?

Decisive and active resistance to sin comes only from hatred of it. Only here does a person sense with his whole heart what a great evil sin is; afterward he will run from it. Without this painful experience, even if he begins cleansing himself in some other way, he will be able to cleanse himself only slightly, more outwardly than inwardly. That is why his heart will remain unclean, like unsmelted ore.

Such change is brought about in the human heart by divine grace. This alone can inspire a man to raise his hand to himself and bring himself to God in sacrifice. This does not come about without free assent. In baptism, grace is given to us at the moment the mystery is performed upon us; however, free will comes later and assimilates to itself what has been given. In repentance, then, free assent must participate in the very act of change. ❖

Excerpted from *The Path to Salvation*

THE HOLY TRINITY
HERALD
Faith. Family. Community

About the Herald

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CREATED TO BE HAPPY

God desires us to be happy. He loves us and has created us to share in His goodness. Yet we must choose to become sharers in the joy of His Kingdom.



While He loves us with a love which is unconditional, our Heavenly Father always respects our freedom. He forces nothing upon us. Rather, he calls us to choose His kingdom, to experience His love, to know His joy.

Father Tom & Kyriaki FitzGerald: "Living the Beatitudes"