



THE HOLY TRINITY

# HERALD

*Faith. Family. Community*

January 2022  
Volume 30 | Issue 1

## INSIDE

Father John's Message	2
News & Events	3
Faith & Family Weekdays	4
Stewardship	5
Reflections	
Community Life	6
Photo Journal	
Nativity Flower	12
Donations	
PanHellenic	15
Scholarship	
IOCC Soup Sampling	16
IOCC Youth Health	17
Kit Drive	
Ask the Elders:	18
The Essence of Christian Service	
The Word of God	20
As Our School	

## PHOTO OF THE MONTH



The littlest carolers offered their sweet-voiced version of "Mary Had A Little Boy" during the 2021 Holy Trinity Church School Christmas Pageant on December 19.



**SAINT MAXIMOS THE CONFESSOR - FEAST DAY JANUARY 21**

Icon by Presvytera Loredana Bordeianu

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



Father John Touloumes  
Proistamenos

**You have need of endurance, so that  
when you have done the will of God  
you may receive what is promised.**

**Hebrews 10.36**

My beloved Holy Trinity family,

One of the things that greatly impressed me during my sabbatical travels throughout Greece was the incredible endurance the Christians there have had throughout history. We visited monasteries that had been rebuilt after raids, fires and even complete massacres. We prayed in churches that had been built over time by the dedication and perservance of many generations. We also visited numerous exhibits celebrating the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Greek revolution and freedom from the centuries of opression of the Ottoman Turkish yoke.

In all those cases, endurance was needed. And faith. And hope. As we enter the year of the Lord 2022, it is hard to believe that this will be the third year in a row our lives are being affected by the pandemic. You may remember it was back in 2020 that severe restrictions changed our worship and community life in ways we could have never imagined before. But we endured. With faith. And hope.

And here we are, entering another year, indeed by the grace of God. By now it may be tempting to have the thought of still dealing with the pandemic tire us out, wear us down or even steal our hope. Saint Paul, in his admonition to the Hebrews cited above, is not letting us get away with that. "You have need of endurance," he says.

So as we press forward into 2022, let us indeed endure. Endure what? Whatever is before us, knowing that "in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Romans 8.28). The "those who love Him" part is referring to us, and that places us squarely and surely in the path of God working for our good.

As your priest I must confess I am continually inspired and overwhelmed by the love of God and His Holy Church you have, and how many ways that is made evident. The photos in this issue reflect that quite well. Your love for those in need can be seen in the dozens of Christmas gifts for needy children and in over 1,000 food items donated to the hungry. Your love for your children is witnessed through the support you offer the youth and religious education ministries of this church. Your love and respect for the elders and senior member of the community can be seen in the joy of the Christmas celebration offered to them. And—so close to the heart of a priest—your love for God Himself through your return to attendance at worship services and your re-uniting with Jesus Christ through the receiving of His Holy Body and Blood at Holy Communion is inspiring beyond words.

Sustain yourself on that love. If we think, "Oh, how long can we put up with this?" it will be impossible. But if we are encouraged, inspired and uplifted by those many ways of love, all things are possible, because love "bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails" (1 Cor. 13.7-8). With prayers for a blessed new year in Christ,

### OUR VISION

**Faith. Family. Community.**

### OUR MISSION

**The mission of Holy Trinity  
Greek Orthodox Church is  
to proclaim and live the Or-  
thodox Christian Faith in its  
fullness as faithful members  
of the Body of Christ.**



# JANUARY

## WORSHIP LIFE

### Weekday Services - January

In addition to regular Sunday Orthros at 8:30am, and Divine Liturgy at 9:30am, the following weekday services will be offered this month at the same time unless otherwise indicated. Please see the online parish calendar at [HolyTrinityPgh.org/calendar](http://HolyTrinityPgh.org/calendar) for updates. (Location code: HT=Holy Trinity Church; SG=Saint George Chapel.)

- **Fri. Dec. 31 - 6:30PM EVENING Orthros/Liturgy - St. Basil the Great (SG)**  
*Start the new year right with the most important thing first: worshiping the Lord Who loves and saves us!*
- **Wed. Jan 5, 8:30am: Royal Hours of Theophany**  
*This special service offers readings, prophecies and hymns which point to and interpret Holy Theophany. (HT)*
- **Wed. Jan. 5, 6:30PM Vespertal Liturgy of Theophany**  
*This is the first of two Theophany Liturgies and services of Great Blessings of the Waters. Please note that this is also a strict fasting day in preparation for the Feast. (EVENING Liturgy begins at 6:30pm) (HT)*
- **Thu. Jan. 6: the Holy Theophany of our Lord**  
*This is the main Orthros and Divine Liturgy of this great Feast along with the Great Blessing of the Waters. (HT)*
- **Fri. Jan. 7: Synaxis of St. John the Baptist (SG)**
- **Mon. Jan. 17: St. Anthony the Great**  
*Note: This service is being offered at Saint Anthony Church in Clairton (424 Miller Ave.) as part of the outreach ministry of Holy Trinity Church. 9:00am Orthros/ 10:00am Divine Liturgy.*

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

### Church School Reminder: Bring Your Children!

Attention Church School parents and families: **Remember, "Church School" starts with "Church!"** All families are asked to attend Divine Liturgy each Sunday, starting at 9:30. The Youth Sermon, a special feature of our Sunday Liturgy at Holy Trinity Church, is offered following the Gospel, so be sure to arrive on time for a message created for the students. Thank you, parents!

### No Church School Class .....December 26, January 2

Attention, parents: there will be no Church School class on December 26 and January 2 due to the holiday break. But this is *not a break from worship*, so please join together to worship as a family on those days.

## YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

### GOYA Basketball Practices .....January

GOYA will hold basketball practice at Franklin Elementary School from 6:00-8:00pm on January 3, 10, 24 & 31.

## MINISTRIES NEWS

### Visitation Ministry Drivers Needed

The Holy Trinity Visitation Ministry Team is in need of drivers to help parishioners with medical appointments, shopping, local errands and pharmacy drive thru. If anyone can assist, please contact Amy Armanious at [visitation@HolyTrinityPgh.org](mailto:visitation@HolyTrinityPgh.org) or see Amy in person. Any helping hands are appreciated. Thank you!

## COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

### Vasilopita Celebration .....January 9

On Sunday, January 9, Holy Trinity Philoptochos will offer the annual Vasilopita celebration in the Grand Room following the Divine Liturgy. Proceeds from the Vasolita celebration go to the Saint Basil Academy, an education and philanthropic institution of the Archdiocese.

### Parish Council Installation .....January 9

As per the Parish Regulations, the 2022 Holy Trinity Parish Council will be installed following Divine Liturgy on Sunday, January 9. Please continue to support and pray for them as they serve you and this community, and always be ready to step up and respond when the Parish Council sends out the call for laborers in vineyard to serve the Church!

### Reminder: House Blessings Moved to September

Starting last year, **Holy Trinity Church has moved the offering of annual house blessings to September.** This has been done for two reasons: 1) it offers the blessing at the start of the new Ecclesiastical Year (Sep. 1) instead of the civil New Year (Jan. 1); and 2) it avoids concerns and rescheduling due to snow and ice in January. So please watch for announcements in the Fall to have your house blessed. **Note:** If you have moved into a new house during the course of the year, you may request an individual house blessing from Father John at any time.

### Holy Trinity on Pittsburgh Faith & Family Channel

Holy Trinity Church services have been on the Pittsburgh Faith and Family Channel for a number of years. Our services are broadcast on Sundays at 2pm, Tuesdays at 4am and Fridays at 11am. They can be found on Armstrong channel 95, FIOS channel 472 and now Comcast has been added at channel 1185.

# Faith & Family Weekdays

## Something for Everyone!

### JOM

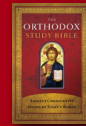
**Journey of Marriage**  
1st Tuesday, 7:00pm



Marriage seminar aimed at preparing couples for their wedding. Based on the "Journey of Marriage" course by Dr. Philip Mamalakis. Conducted as group sessions with other couples to share and grow together. Jan. 4, Feb. 1, Mar. 1, Apr. 5, May 3.

### ETW

**Explore the Word**  
Alternate Wednesdays, 6:30pm

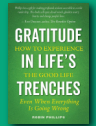


Father Radu continues his exploration of the Holy Bible, this time with a survey of the Old Testament. Learn about Genesis, Exodus, Job, the poetry of the Book of Psalms and the Prophecies of Samuel, Isaiah, Jeremiah. Bring your Bible and your questions!

### PBC



**Parish Book Club**  
Alternate Wednesdays, 6:30pm



Men and women of all ages can learn more about Christian living in the midst of challenges with a discussion of the book, "Gratitude in Life's Trenches: How to Experience the Good Life Even When Everything's Going Wrong." Sounds like help everyone could use!

### SLF

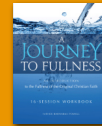
**St. Lydia Women's Fellowship**  
2nd & 4th Tuesday, 7:00pm



Our longest-running study group, aimed at giving women the opportunity to share and grow together. This year based on the new book, "Seven Holy Women: Conversations with Saints and Friends." Jan. 11 & 25; Feb. 8 & 22; May 10, 24

### JTF

**Journey to Fullness**  
Mondays (7-week series), 7:00pm



An overview of the Orthodox Christian Faith for newcomers interested in joining or life-long members yearning to deepen their understanding. Format: Videos and Q&A/discussion. Spring series May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 & Jun. 6, 13.

### P&P

**Prayer & Panera**  
2nd & 4th Thursday, 7:00am



Prayer and Christian fellowship for men. Meets at church promptly at 7:30 a.m. for a 15-20 minute morning prayer and scripture, then moves up the hill to Panera for 45 minutes of coffee & conversation. Jan. 13, 27; Feb. 10, 24; Mar. 10, 24 & more.

**F**aith and Family Weekdays is back, and there is something for everyone! Ready to learn more about the Bible, about your Faith, about navigating life's challenges as a Christian, a woman or a man? It's all there. New this season: the **Parish Book Club**, based on the Orthodox Christian book "Gratitude in Life's Trenches." Having been through the challenges of the past two years, we could all use a perspective that helps us find blessings and thanks even in the most challenging situations. Also new: **Family Game Night**. Enjoy games, fun and fellowship with other parish families of all ages! For adults and young people, too!

There are lots of other opportunities to learn about the Faith, the Bible, marriage and Christian living. Something for everyone! Watch the bulletin and check the online calendar at [HolyTrinityPgh.org/calendar](http://HolyTrinityPgh.org/calendar) for details and locations. ❖

### FGN



**Family Game Night**  
First Friday, 7:00pm

Games, fun and fellowship for all ages! Board games, skill exercises and more. Bring your own favorites with you to share! Popcorn, snacks and drinks provided. It's for the entire family, so bring Papou & Yiayia, Mom & Dad, too! Jan. 7, Feb. 4.



# God is Always With Us

Ted Stewart, Stewardship Ministry

**A**s the pandemic roars into 2022, we may be asking ourselves, "Will this be a repeat of 2021?" It's a challenging thought.

At the beginning of 2021 our church made plans, set goals and had high expectations of great accomplishments to come. While we did meet some of those goals, we did not meet all of what we set out to do. As with anything in life, reaching those goals is not always a direct line. There are detours, change in navigation routes, overcoming obstacles, etc. We must remain flexible and vigilant not to be discouraged when our path looks blocked.

While there appears to be some similarities when comparing 2021 to the first part of 2022, the answer to the title of this article depends on us. We need to ask ourselves how well did I do with my time, talent and treasures that God has given to me last year and what can I improve on this year? Everyone has different circumstances

but each of us has a responsibility to God and His church to ensure we are giving Him our best, not out of duty but out of love. So, putting it into different words, the question is: **"How much more will I demonstrate my love for God this year compared to last year?"** To be honest we should be asking ourselves this question every day.

God wants us to do what we do for Him out of love, not obligation. He has every right to demand this from us, but He doesn't. He loves us more than we could ever comprehend and all He asks from us is our obedience and to love Him in the manner He loves us. God gave us our time, He gave us our talents and He gave us our treasures, so why do we limit in giving back to Him? Why do we find it so easy to put other things before God? He deserves to be the number one priority in our lives.

There will be more challenges to face this year, that is a guarantee as it re-

mains one of "life's constant gifts."

The good news is that **God is always with us** to help us through those challenges, even when we can't see or feel His presence. He is depending on us to do our part and be faithful in carrying out our responsibilities.

Lastly, if you haven't fulfilled your stewardship tithe/pledge you committed to last year, please do it now, you still have time. Here is one more suggestion if you haven't incorporated this practice yet. Begin 2022 by giving back to God "FIRST" before you fulfill any other commitments you may have. Look for ways to incorporate your time, talents and treasures in ways you haven't previously used. This demonstrates that you are making Him a priority in your life first. We as a church have many obligations to meet this year and we are depending on each and every one of us to do our part.

Thank you all for the continued outpouring of love, obedience and commitment to God and His church. May the Lord continue to draw us all closer to Himself and love Him the same way He loves us. ❖

Faithfully yours,  
The Holy Trinity Stewardship Ministry







December 2: Holy Trinity Philoptochos hosted its annual Seniors Christmas Luncheon once again, after having to cancel it last year due to the pandemic. It featured holiday cheer, a visit from Santa, live music and a Christmas quiz! Thank you to the Philoptochos for hosting the event and bringing our seniors back together again to celebrate the holiday!









December 19: The Holy Trinity Church School Christmas Pageant returned live and in-person this year, after being virtual last year. The theme was “The Gift of the Magi,” which wrapped the pageant around the O. Henry story truly wise giving. The program opened with music by the Pageant Orchestra, followed by acting, singing, the Nativity story and the presentation of the graduating seniors.







Row 1: (L) Church School students organize the 1,735 items donated for the Thanksgiving Food Drive. They were donated to the needy served by NRP. (R) GOYA gathered for its annual Christmas Fireside Chat with Father John on December 5 at the Balouris home.

Row 2: (L) Workers braved heights and cold to work on repairs designed to fix the leak in the church dome. (R) Christmas Angel Tree gift coordinators Mike and Julie Kritiotis prepare dozens of gifts for needy children of the area for delivery.

Row 3: (L) The Visitation Ministry delivered dozens of Christmas cards and beautiful 3-D icon boxes designed by Nancy Palamara. (R) GOYAns celebrate the completion of over 500 loaves of Christmas bread!

Left: AXIOS to the newly-ordained Deacon Demetrios Constantine, pictured here with family.



# HOLY TRINITY CHURCH SCHOOL

# CHRIST IS GLORIFY





BORN!  
Y HIM!  
TO OUR STAFF, STUDENTS  
LIES FOR MAKING THIS  
POSSIBLE

# 2021 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT





The only-  
begotten Son is  
seen as a mortal,  
lying in a spare  
manger; and He,  
the Lord of glory,  
is wrapped in  
swaddling  
clothes.

Christmas Eve Service  
of the Royal Hours



# 2021 Nativity Poinsettias

Thank you to the many parishioners and friends who  
offered donations to adorn the Church with  
beautiful poinsettias for the celebration of the  
Nativity of Christ. May those you have honored be  
blessed and remembered always!

Victor Amurgis & Family .....	In memory of their loving parents William & Harriet Amurgis (3 plants)
Lynda M. Areheart .....	In honor of Mary Magdalene Welsh
Mark & Amy Armanious .....	In memory of Georgette, Wadie and Mofeed Armanious
Joyce & Harry Athanasiou .....	In memory of Stella Athanasiou
Joyce & Harry Athanasiou .....	In memory of George Athanasiou
Joyce & Harry Athanasiou .....	In memory of George Bertos
Art & Christina Avlon .....	In memory of Stella Kalaris
Van & Karen Backeris .....	In memory of Dean & Marie Backeris
Anthony C. Balouris .....	In memory of his wife Helen Balouris (2 plants)
Chris & Kathy Balouris .....	In memory of Rev. Fr. John Androutsopoulos (2 plants)
Chris & Kathy Balouris .....	In memory of Helen Stambolis Balouris
Chris & Kathy Balouris .....	For the health of Presvytera Ethel Androutsopoulos
Chris & Kathy Balouris .....	For the health of Anthony C. Balouris
Pamela Bolkovac .....	In memory of her parents Nick & Mary Bolkovac (3 plants)
Reggie & Marianne Bonfield .....	In memory of John & Helen Chapas
Reggie & Marianne Bonfield .....	In memory of John & Mary Bonfield
Reggie & Marianne Bonfield .....	For the health of family & friends
The Chapas and Bonfield Families .....	In memory of Frank & Anne Chapas (2 plants)
Dr. Dennis Bossick & Mrs. Penny Fakles-Bossick .....	In memory of Sophia & John Regas
Jody Cervenak .....	For the health of the Cervenak Family
Jody Cervenak .....	In memory of Josh Cervenak
Bill & Sophea Chapas .....	In memory of John & Helen Chapas
Bill & Sophea Chapas .....	In memory of Anne & Frank Chapas
Jim and Bobbie Chapas .....	In memory of Helen & John Chapas
Jim and Bobbie Chapas .....	In memory of their niece Samantha Stroehlen
Gregory Cherpes .....	In memory of Penny Cherpes (5 plants)
Gregory Cherpes .....	For the health of Louis Cherpes (5 plants)
John R. Clayton .....	In memory of his wife Michele Clayton
John R. Clayton .....	In memory of Betty and John R. Clayton, Sr.
Cynthia Morris Criss .....	For the health of the Morris Family (5 plants)
George & Sophia Danis .....	In memory of Demetrios & Evdoxia Danis
George & Sophia Danis .....	In memory of George V. Gatsiopoulos & Vasiliki Gatsiopoulos
George & Sophia Danis .....	In memory of John & Sophia Regas
Christine Dickos .....	In memory of her husband Dinos Dickos

Frank & Katina Erdeljac.....	In memory of Mike Alexiades
Frank & Katina Erdeljac.....	In memory of Theologia Alexiades
Frank & Katina Erdeljac.....	In memory of Mary Alexiades
Teddy Fakles .....	In memory of Sophia Regas
Bill & Tina Fiedler.....	For the health of Josephine Fiedler and Eleftherios Parikakis
Bill & Tina Fiedler.....	For the health of Joyce & Phil Dreer, family and friends
Andreas & Valori Fournaridis.....	For the health of Elenie Cocheres and Maria Charnas
Andreas & Valori Fournaridis.....	For the health of Esther (Despina) Ladakos
Andreas & Valori Fournaridis.....	In memory of Steve Cocheres and Costa Fournaridis
John & Georgia Franciscus and Family .....	In memory of George & Betty Beckas
John & Georgia Franciscus and Family .....	In memory of John Beckas and Vasiliki Petropoulos
Connie Fries.....	For the health of family & friends
Connie Fries.....	In memory of Mary & Peter Panos
Connie Fries.....	In memory of Amalia Stamoolis
Connie Fries.....	In memory of John & Toulia Giannoutsos
Connie Fries.....	In memory of Spiros & Catherine Giannoutsos
Diana Fries.....	In memory of Olga Regakis (3 plants)
Diana Fries.....	In memory of Marian Pantelas (3 plants)
Diana Fries.....	In memory of Mary Panos (3 plants)
George & Phyllis Geanopulos .....	In memory of Harry & Helen Geanopulos (2 plants)
George & Phyllis Geanopulos .....	In memory of John & Erma Haas (2 plants)
Gus & Penny Georgiadis .....	For the health of their family (2 plants)
Dr. Mark & Karen Georgiadis .....	In memory of Mary, Pete, Nick, Ernie, George, Rick and Don
Dr. Mark & Karen Georgiadis .....	For the health of Mark
Mr. & Mrs. Spiro Giannoutsos & Family .....	In memory of Mr. & Mrs. John and Toulia Giannoutsos
Eugenia Graser .....	In memory of her husband Robert Graser and parents Michael & Maria Patsalos
Pennie Hareras .....	In memory of Gus Hareras, Angelo Hareras and Athena Hareras
Pennie Hareras .....	In memory of Bill Koutsouflakis and Eleftheria Koutsouflakis
Brian & Debbie Jewell .....	In memory of Samuel G. Booras
Brian & Debbie Jewell .....	In memory of Georgia K. Booras
Brian & Debbie Jewell .....	In memory of Marsha L. Booras
Brian & Debbie Jewell .....	In memory of Jan Hartman
Brian & Debbie Jewell .....	In memory of Jodi Menni
Brian & Debbie Jewell .....	For the health of John Fulton
Brian & Debbie Jewell .....	For the health of Marie Fiduccia
Kristina Johnson and James S. Johnson.....	In memory of their parents Stella & Homer J. Johnson
Kristina Johnson and James S. Johnson.....	In memory of Augustina Makris
Gus G. Kalaris.....	In memory of Stella Kalaris
Gus G. Kalaris.....	In memory of George & Pauline Kalaris
Gus G. Kalaris.....	In memory of Gus & Panagiota Bistolas
Irene Karavolos .....	In memory of her husband Charles Siebott
Irene Karavolos .....	For the health of her family
Vasiliki Kourouklis.....	In memory of Lucky Kourouklis
Vasiliki Kourouklis.....	In memory of Stavroula Repana
Vasiliki Kourouklis.....	In memory of Dimitris Repana
Vasiliki Kourouklis.....	In memory of Georgios Kourouklis
Angela M. Leist and Eugenia Hoehn.....	In memory of James Phaturos
Angela M. Leist and Eugenia Hoehn.....	In memory of Margaret Phaturos
Angela M. Leist .....	For the health of Mary Magdalene Welsh
Nicholas T. Loomis .....	For the health of his soulmate, Joy
Anita Sinicrope Maier .....	In Memory of Richard Maier



## NAVITY FLOWER DONATIONS

Anita Sinicrope Maier .....	In memory of her parents George & Katherine Malames
Gregory Manesiotis.....	In memory of Louis & Nelle Manesiotis
Gregory Manesiotis.....	In memory of Victor & Audrey Mus
Gregory Manesiotis.....	In memory of Michael & Georgia Manesiotis
George Mellis .....	In memory of James & Anna Mellis
George Mellis .....	In memory of Theodore Kukunas
Milita Mellis .....	In memory of Constantine Metropulos
Arlene Metropulos .....	In memory of her beloved husband Dean (2 plants)
Christine Metropulos & Dave Steiner.....	For the health of all their family
Meno and Jean Mitaras & Family .....	In memory of the deceased members of the Mitaras and Condos Families
William J. Pagonis .....	In memory of James & Mary Pagonis (2 plants)
Matt & Nancy Palamara.....	For the health of the Palamara family & the Anh family
George Pantelakis.....	in memory of his beloved wife Rhea
Orestes & Arlene Paras.....	In memory of John & Maria Paras and Michael & Diana Paras
Orestes & Arlene Paras.....	In memory of Albert & Rose Russell and Arthur Russell
Sal & Katina (Tanner) Re.....	For the health of their families
Tresa Roman .....	In memory of Paul & Efthemia Makris (3 plants)
Tresa Roman .....	In memory of the George & Metaxia Roman (2 plants)
Stephanie Kostopolos Sedor.....	In memory of Father John and Presvytera Louella Kostopolos
Stephanie Kostopolos Sedor.....	In memory of Joseph & Anastasia Sedor
James F. Sicalias .....	In memory of his mother Bessie Cocheres-Sicalias
Georgia Touloumes.....	For the health of family and friends
Constance Bistolas Walters & Family.....	For the health of family & friends
Joanne Ladakos Watson.....	For the health of Despina Ladakos (5 plants)
Mary Magdalene Welsh .....	In memory of her mother Julia Welsh
George Zappas.....	In memory of Paul Zappas
George Zappas.....	In memory of Agnes Zappas
George Zappas.....	In memory of William Zappas
Julie & Louis Zozos.....	In memory of Eileen Hoffmann
Julie & Louis Zozos.....	In memory of Helen Sfakianos
Julie & Louis Zozos.....	In memory of George Zozos
Julie & Louis Zozos.....	In memory of Persephone Zozos ❖



# \$250,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS

\$20,000 awarded to Music and Arts Majors

**\$200,000**

**20 Awards of \$10,000 each**  
based on academic merit and financial need

**\$50,000**

**20 Awards of \$2,500 each**  
based solely on academic merit



## 2021/2022 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

**Now Available - Apply Online!**

Applications from eligible college students accepted through **January 31, 2022**.  
The application and qualification criteria, requirements, and guidelines are available  
at **[www.panhellenicsf.org](http://www.panhellenicsf.org)**.

If you are an undergraduate of Hellenic descent, we encourage you to  
apply for the scholarship awards!

**For any questions or inquiries:**

**Please email [vpanos@panhellenicsf.org](mailto:vpanos@panhellenicsf.org) or call (312) 357-6432**



scan to apply



**PANHELLENIC  
SCHOLARSHIP  
FOUNDATION**

PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation  
8501 West Higgins Road • Suite 210  
Chicago, Illinois 60631

☎ 312.357.6432  
☎ 312.872.0090  
🌐 [panhellenicsf.org](http://panhellenicsf.org)  
✉ [info@panhellenicsf.org](mailto:info@panhellenicsf.org)



Saturday, February 5, 2022 | 11:00 am – 2:00 pm

**Sample five homemade soups for \$10,  
and take your favorite quart home for a \$10 donation.  
Experience tastes from around the world!**

**HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

985 Providence Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA 15237

(North Hills, across from UPMC Passavant)

**Register at [iocc.org/pittsburgh](https://iocc.org/pittsburgh)**

For questions or to pre-order soup, contact Vera  
at 412-833-0839 or [croitv@verizon.net](mailto:croitv@verizon.net)



Youth groups & children's ministries from all jurisdictions  
will assemble health kits. All area youth are invited!  
Donations are needed to purchase bulk health kit supplies.  
Please help to sponsor kits. Call Nick Terezis at 740.282.5198.

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**INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES**

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## *Youth Health Kit Drive and Assembly* *Youth Volunteers and Monetary Donations Needed!*

February 5, 2022 | 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

*Kit assembly will take place during International Soup Sampling to Benefit IOCC.*



HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
985 Providence Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA 15237  
(North Hills, across from UPMC Passavant)

All Orthodox Youth Groups are asked to participate  
in a Pan-Orthodox Health Kit Assembly Project.

**OUR GOAL IS TO ASSEMBLE SEVERAL THOUSAND HEALTH KITS.  
DONATIONS ARE NEEDED TO PURCHASE BULK HEALTH KIT SUPPLIES.**

Please make checks payable to "Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church-AGAPE Fund"  
with "Health Kit Project" in the memo, and mail to

**Nick Terezis, c/o IOCC, 306 Marberry Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15215**

Please contact Ava Terezis at 614.569.2414 or [AvaT.Orthodox@gmail.com](mailto:AvaT.Orthodox@gmail.com)  
to coordinate your youth group attendance.

INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

# The Essence of Christian Service

The one who strives to relay the true essence of Christian service to others is in absolute need of the mystery of Christian love.

**T**he *appearance* of service involves outward forms: sermons, rites, particular activities organized to serve the needs of the children, and the division of responsibilities, teaching and providing others with the necessary tools of service.

**Gheronda, those are all good, but it sounds like there is more to it.**

The essence of service is the transmission of eternal life to the children whom God has placed in our charge: "From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand'" (Matt. 4.17).

The transmission of eternal life involves a person's acceptance of the work Christ accomplished for his sake, which He also bequeathed to the Church for its transmission to any and every person who believes in it through the Gospel and the Holy Mysteries.

**That is a high calling usually done by clergy and monastics, isn't it?**

In fact, it is not difficult to accomplish the external aspect of Christian service. It may be done by anyone. However, no human being, no matter how virtuous or talented, can accomplish

the essence of Christian service on his own. Service touches God's own life; therefore, it cannot be successfully accomplished by ordinary, visible means. The essence of service is a deeply mystical thing, far beyond human nature. Only if we correctly understand the inner essence of service can we avoid repeating any past mistaken attempts to accomplish it.

**What do I need to be prepared to serve others in this manner?**

What is needed for active faith is a pulsating life, not the natural life that is latent in the mustard seed, but eternal life, the life of God. Or, to put it another way, man must believe in God and live by Him.

This is the essence of Christian service—to tell others about the eternal life by which we live, with the hope that they might eventually experience it with us. This living faith that comprises such a vital part of the essence of service is giving freely and generally to everyone who accepts it.

Living faith subsists on a full trust in God and never ceases to rely on His primary title and attribute—"Almighty." Faith never abandons the conviction that He will fulfill all that He has promised. Thus, the fruits of living



Matthew the Poor

faith depend on this conviction and trust in God's word. If living faith (and the conviction and trust that accompany it) were ever removed from the service, then all that would remain would be the appearance of service.

**Gheronda, what else can I offer in Christian service besides faith?**

Christian love is ever-living, and it breaks out and expands in every direction. It is a love that can grow and thrive even in the worst of circumstances. Christian love is stronger than death itself, for it contains within it the mystery of Christ's Resurrection and eternal life.

Therefore, there can be no sincere and active service without the presence of this mystical love, for active service needs the power to resurrect weak and dying souls. This will never happen without the power of love.

Any servant can relay the words and teachings of Christ to others without losing a thing—he might even earn fame and accolades—but the servant who strives to relay the true essence of service (spirit and life) to others is in absolute need of the mystery of Christian love. ❖

Excerpted from  
*If You Love Me*



THE HOLY TRINITY

# HERALD

*Faith. Family. Community*

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The Herald is the Monthly Newsmagazine of  
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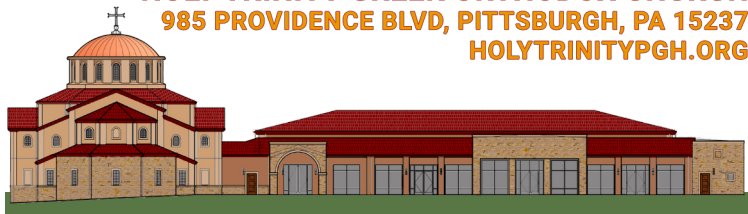
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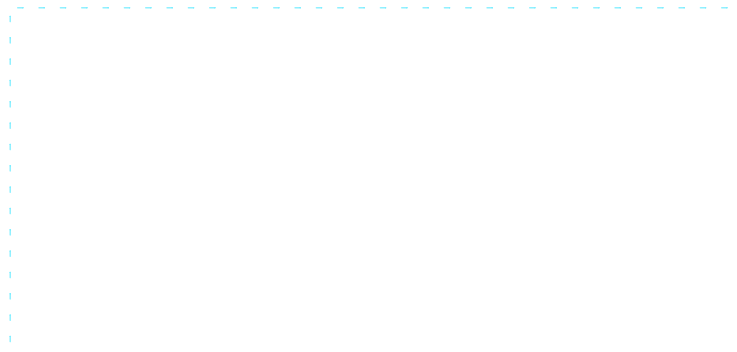
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## THE WORD OF GOD AS OUR SCHOOL

**T**he word of God contains the knowledge of His mystery and of His holy and perfect will for our salvation. It teaches us the language of God, with which the Lord speaks to us, so we are able to speak to Him in prayer with the same language. Then the Holy Spirit, Who gave us this language, will pray within us with the same words.

The word of God becomes our school, in which we learn the humble spirit and selfless love that continuously attract the traces of the presence of God. When these traces multiply in the heart and reach a certain fulness, then the holy temple of God, where the Lord is well pleased to dwell with His Father and the Holy Spirit, is built up in us.

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