



December 2022  
Volume 30 | Issue 10

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## PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Holy Trinity pilgrims visit the Monastery of Saint Savas in desert of Palestine during the 2022 Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. See more Community Life photos on pages 8-15.

THE HOLY TRINITY

# HERALD

*Faith. Family. Community*

**CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!**



**Icon of the Nativity of Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**  
From the Church of the Shepherds Field, Jerusalem

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



Father John Touloumes  
Proistamenos

## Come, believers, let us see the place where Christ has been born

**Kathsima Hymn, Orthros of the Nativity**

My beloved Holy Trinity family,

One of the characteristics of our beautiful Orthodox hymns is how engaging they are. When there is a great feast or major event, such as the Nativity of Christ or His baptism in the Jordan at Theophany, there are constant calls for the worshiper to “come and see” “come let us worship” or “come and behold,” just to name a few. It gives a sense that we are not just remembering something that happened a long time ago far away; it projects a sense—indeed a reality in spiritual time—of here and now, not far away and long ago.

This past month, 33 faithful Christians embarked on a journey responding to the “come and see” call, and we went and saw the very places spoken of by the prophets, described by the Bible and chanted about for centuries in Orthodox hymns. We saw with our own eyes and touched with our own hands the places where Jesus was born, baptized, arrested, imprisoned and crucified. And we venerated the tomb where He rose from the dead by His divine power, defeating death by death and opening the doors to eternal life to all who believe in Him. See the photos in this issue to get a taste of it all. It was a truly amazing and inspiring experience, as described to the right by one of those attending. This trip was hosted by the Holy Trinity Pilgrimage Ministry. The list of upcoming annual pilgrimages can be found on our website at [HolyTrinityPgh.org/pilgrimage](http://HolyTrinityPgh.org/pilgrimage).

But whether or not your feet walked in those places, the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord in the Orthodox Church invites us all to journey there in our hearts to glorify Him with the angels, worship him with the shepherds and bow before Him with the Magi. It is our opportunity to experience Christmas by faith rather than by the many other ways the world around us offers.

May the joy of the Good News of the birth of our Savior fill your hearts and homes with the peace and promise of the One Who has come to save us all!

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

“

“The pilgrimage to the Holy Land proved to be a new level of enlightenment regarding my relationship with Jesus Christ. I sense a deeper closeness and a new identity with Him. I feel as though I walked where He walked, saw what He saw, and traveled where He traveled. When hearing His scriptures, they are truly alive!

Reflections of a 2022 Pilgrim

### OUR VISION

**Faith. Family. Community.**

### OUR MISSION

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



# DECEMBER

## WORSHIP LIFE

### Weekday Services - December

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

- **Mon. Dec. 5:** St. Savas the Sanctified - Nameday of Metropolitan Savas (8:45a Orthros/10:00a Liturgy at Presentation of Christ/Ypapanti Church in E. Pgh)
- **Mon. Dec. 5:** Great Vespers of St. Nicholas (at St. Nicholas Cathedral)
- **Tue. Dec. 6:** St. Nicholas the Wonderworker (9:00a Orthros/10:00a Liturgy at St. Nicholas Cathedral)
- **Mon. Dec. 12,** St. Spyridon the Wonderworker (9:00a Orthros/10:00a Liturgy at St. Spyridon in Monessen)
- **Thu. Dec. 15:** St. Eleftherios the Hieromartyr (SG)
- **Fri. Dec. 23-Sun. Dec. 25:** See below for the schedule of services for the Nativity of Christ

### Services for the Nativity of Christ ... December 24/25

Please remember these festal celebrations for the Nativity of Christ and participate in them with your family. Please note that all Christmas services will be held at Holy Trinity Church.

- **Fri. Dec. 24, 8:30 am: Royal Hours of the Nativity**  
This special service offers readings, prophecies and hymns which point to and interpret the Incarnation.
- **Sat. Dec. 24, 8:30 am Orthros/9:30 Liturgy: Forefast of the Nativity** This service "opens the liturgical day" and begins the celebration of the Nativity. Also, the Holy Trinity Choir will be offering a selection of beautiful Christmas carols following the service. (Note: This is a Divine Liturgy. Those wishing to receive Holy Communion need to observe proper fasting and spiritual preparation during the day)
- **Sun. Dec. 25. 8:30am Orthros/9:30am Liturgy of The Nativity of the Lord**  
This is the main service of the Birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Open the best gift first by attending Liturgy with your family and receiving the Holy Mysteries together! Make it a family tradition to keep the most important thing about Christmas the most important thing in your home!

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

### Church School Starts with Church!

Attention all Holy Trinity parents and youth: Remember, **Church School begins with Divine Liturgy.** So please be

sure to have all our students there at 9:30 am each Sunday. The youth sermon—a special time for your priests to teach and connect with our youth—takes place early in the service after the Gospel, so they won't want to miss that. Also, parents and young people please remember that all youth ministries at Holy Trinity Church begin with Church School. Thanks for your faithful participation!

### Christmas Pageant Full Rehearsal .....December 17

The complete cast rehearsal for the Holy Trinity Church School Christmas Pageant will be held on Saturday morning. Please check the Church School email for details.

### Church School Christmas Pageant.....December 18

The Holy Trinity Church School ministry will be offering its annual Christmas Pageant this Sunday. As always, ALL the students of the Church School will be involved in this event. On that day, following Holy Communion, the students and staff will depart for their classes and final preparations for the pageant. All our parishioners are asked to stay for Hospitality Hour hosted by the Church School Alumni parents. Then, enjoy another original Holy Trinity original Christmas Pageant production. Christ is born! Glorify Him!

## YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

### GOYA Christmas Fireside Chat.....December 4

The GOYA teen ministry will hold its annual Christmas Fireside Chat on Sunday, December 4 from 3:00-6:00pm. Information and location is being sent directly to GOYA families on the GOYA email and Remind systems.

### GOYA Christmas Bread .....Order by December 13

Our GOYA teens will once again offer their delicious and popular Greek Christmas Bread this year. Orders must be placed by Tuesday, December 13 for pickup following Divine Liturgy on Sunday, December 18. **Orders may**

**be placed at the GOYA bread table during Coffee Hour in December, directly with any GOYA teen OR ONLINE at [HolyTrinityPgh.org/goyabread](http://HolyTrinityPgh.org/goyabread).** See the flyer in this issue for more information.

### GOYA Christmas Bread Prep ..... December 16, 17

All GOYAs are asked to help prepare Christmas bread on Friday, December 16, after school and Saturday, December 17, 9:00-11:00am.



**GOYA Basketball Practices .....December 5, 12**

GOYA will hold basketball practice at NAI from 6:00-8:00pm on December 5 and 12. Watch the GOYA email list for updates and details

**PHILOPTOCHOS MINISTRY NEWS****Philoptochos Meeting.....December 11**

Holy Trinity Philoptochos will hold its monthly meeting on Sunday, December 11, in the Fireside Room following Divine Liturgy. All members are invited to attend. Ladies, still not a member of Philoptochos? Get involved. Sign up at the meeting!

**COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS****Bereavement Support Ministry .....December 5**

Join us for our upcoming bi-monthly group gathering on Monday evening, December 5. There will be fellowship and light refreshments at 6:30pm, followed by the Group Support meeting from 7:00-8:00pm.

**Christmas Card Forms .....Due December 6**

If you would like to include your name in this annual community tradition, please be sure to submit your form and donation to the Church Office by December 6. The card will be mailed with the Christmas/New Year bundle.

**Holiday Poinsettias Form.....Due December 6**

Please consider sponsoring of holiday poinsettias for use in the church during the Christmas and Theophany season. To donate one or more flowers in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special person or event, please complete the form and return it to the Church Office with your donation by December 6.

**"Parish Family Game Night" ..... Dec. 9**

Come at 7pm for an evening of games, fun and fellowship for all ages! Lots of great 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!

**Stewardship Sunday .....December 18**

This issue contains a complete list of Holy Trinity stewards who have submitted a pledge card for 2022. We are grateful for your commitment. Your support helps make everything at Holy Trinity possible!

Now, With 2022 coming to a close, the 2023 pledge cards have been distributed in person and mailed. Remember, a **signed pledge card is required each year as part of maintaining your membership in good standing at Holy Trinity.** The Stewardship Committee is requesting that all Holy Trinity members please complete and return your

Holy Trinity 2023 Stewardship Pledge and your Consecration & Completion Pledge by December 18. You may use the printed card or – new this year! – submit yours online at [HolyTrinityPgh.org/stewardship](https://HolyTrinityPgh.org/stewardship). Questions? Contact Holy Trinity Stewardship Chairman George Mellis or email him at [stewardship@HolyTrinityPgh.org](mailto:stewardship@HolyTrinityPgh.org).

**Centennial Kickoff Vasilopita Celebration ..... Jan. 8**

On Sunday, January 8, Holy Trinity Philoptochos will kick off our Centennial year with the first event by offering its annual Vasilopita celebration in the Grand Room following the Divine Liturgy. Proceeds from the Vasilopita celebration go to the Saint Basil Academy, and education and philanthropic institution of the Archdiocese.

**Hospitality Hour Hosts Needed for January/February**

Thank you to everyone who has stepped up to host our newly reformatted "Hospitality Hour" following our Sunday Divine Liturgies. There are a number of available Sundays in January and February. Remember a loved one. Celebrate a special event. Contact Stacy Dickos at 412-298-9409 or email [hospitality@HolyTrinityPgh.org](mailto:hospitality@HolyTrinityPgh.org) to reserve.

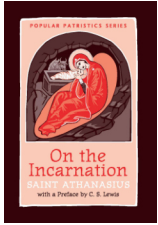
**REALM NEWS****Realm is Here!**

As announced over the past few weeks, Holy Trinity Church has taken a momentous leap forward in its ability to serve and communicate with all our members by launching the new Realm software platform. On a membership level, Realm brings new giving and pledging opportunities for our stewards to donate and track their Stewardship treasures offered in support of our ministries. And that's just the beginning. As new features are rolled out over the next few months, Realm will provide better communications and interaction on every level for our offices, ministries and parishioners. Keep watching for information and announcements on how to make Realm work for you!

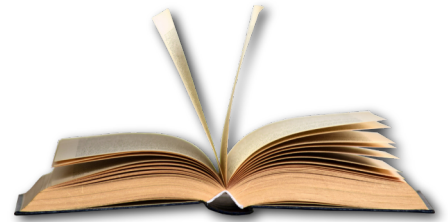
**Activate Your Holy Trinity Realm Account Today**

With the adoption of Realm, Holy Trinity Church's membership and stewardship databases have been converted and imported in the new system. That means every parishioner now has a Holy Trinity Realm account. But in order to access that account and use its features, it must be activated by responding to the invitation sent to all our parishioners by the office. This is one of the many security features Realm offers to protect your data and your privacy. Are you a member of Holy Trinity Church but did not receive your invitation? Contact by the Church office by sending a request to [realm@HolyTrinityPgh.org](mailto:realm@HolyTrinityPgh.org) or call 412-366-8700. ❖





# ON THE INCARNATION



The classic authoritative Orthodox work for understanding Christ and why He came into the world

*"The Orthodox Bookshelf" is a Holy Trinity Herald column by Rick Paese focusing on books of Orthodox Christian interest for everyone. Many of the books highlighted are available for purchase at the Three Hierarchs Bookstore in the Gallery.*

## Introduction

As Christmas approaches, it is time to turn our attention toward the Nativity of Christ. There are few better ways to do that than to read St. Athanasius' "On The Incarnation." This is the classic authoritative Orthodox work for understanding Christ and why he came to earth. Fortunately, it is also a very accessible book to read.

## The Word Creates

St. Athanasius starts his work with creation and the fall of man. God created the universe and all that is in it from nothing through the Word. Man, created rational and in God's image, is the pinnacle of His creation. We were created to know God and to be known by Him. We were also created with free choice and given the Law in case we chose wrong.

## The Law of Death Prevailed

Because humans were created from nothing, we could only have lived forever if we had abided in God, who is immortal. Instead, humans turned to evil, or non-being (evil being non-being), and returned to a state of mortality. Corruption prevailed and became ever stronger. This

corruption caused human's rationality to disappear, obliterating the work of God and our knowledge of Him. The law of death prevailed.

Yet, we must know Him "lest [our] being should be profitless." We could not be renewed rational beings if we did not know the Word. However, we ignored the many ways Christ has revealed himself to us.

## Renewing the "In the Image"

It would be improper for God to allow man, made in His image, to be carried away by evil and corruption. At the same time, He could not go back on His Law of "sin causes death." So, what was God to do?

Only the Word could change the corruptible to incorruptible and maintain the consistency of the Law. He alone, the One who created the universe in the first place, could recreate the universe. Therefore, He renewed again the "in the image" so that we would once again be able to know God. This could only occur by the coming of the very image of God, Christ, who accomplished this aim by the destruction of death and corruption.

The Word took a body like ours and offered it to God so that "with all dying in Him the law concerning corruption in human beings might be undone (its power being fully expended in the lordly body and no longer having any ground against similar human beings)." The coming

of Christ turns humans from corruptible to incorruptible and gives life from death through the resurrection.

The Word Himself cannot die, therefore He takes on a human body. His body was offered in substitute for all, satisfying the requirement of death and clothing all of humanity with incorruptibility. Death no longer reigns. Like a king who enters a city, the city is reckoned worthy of all care. All plights of the enemy cease.

Why didn't He save us in some other way? Because humans are always looking to understand with our senses. We want to see and touch. We are too focused looking downward, incapable of understanding heavenly things. Christ came as a man to meet us in our weakness and show us The Way through the material world, allowing us to know God through the works of Christ and, therefore, become rational beings again who are capable of participating in the saving work of our Lord.

## Partakers of His Divine Nature

In short, St. Athanasius tells us, in his most quotable line, "God became man so that man might become god." This is what Orthodox spirituality calls "theosis," or becoming "godlike." Christ came to us so that we may be partakers of His Divine nature and be restored to true life in Him. ❖

*Rick Paese*

# The Gifts of the Magi

## The Spirit of Stewardship



**T**he Gifts of the Magi icon presents the Wise Men offering gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the Christ Child. These wealthy scholars and priests of the East endured numerous dangers, and traveled great distances to offer their treasures to Christ, the newborn king. What a beautiful and meaningful example of stewardship they set for all future generations, helping us to understand the blessing of properly using and sharing God's gifts.

To begin with, the Magi represent a sincere desire to seek after God, searching through science, nature, and their cultural traditions to communicate with their Creator and discover His will for them, even when it was something so unexpected. Imagine their long, arduous journey, possibly a 1500 mile expedition from Persia to Bethlehem, over mountains and deserts, a journey that took many months. What faith, determination and sacrifice they must have had. They surely faced questions and skepticism

at the start. During their journey, unexpected challenges and discouraging setbacks would have been commonplace. Yet they persevered. They overcame the difficult trials and tests of their journey, and persisted in their search for God's truth.

When they finally met the Christ Child, they bowed down in worship. They offered Jesus the most precious of their gifts. Even when the journey surprisingly took them beyond the king's palace in Jerusalem to the insignificant village of Bethlehem, they went forward in faith. In humility they approached the Christ Child to worship Him and offer the best of their gifts – gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

The Story of the Magi is not simply a cute part of Christmas, but it represents central characters who model a path of faith and stewardship worthy of imitation.

In connection with this inspiring story of the Magi, we can also reflect on St. John Chrysostom's words, "The rich man is not the one who has much,

but the one who gives much. For what one gives away, he keeps for all eternity." Each of us is called to act as a proper and good steward of these gifts. Ultimately, whatever we have isn't ours! All is God's, and we are simply caretakers of His riches. As we learn to generously give of ourselves, of our time, talents and treasure, we only increase our wealth and make eternal investments.

Christian Stewardship is all about becoming good caretakers of all that God has given us. Think about all that God has given us – our health, our family, our opportunities in life, our intelligence, our talents. God has given each of us special and unique gifts. And through Holy Scripture He teaches us all that we have is a loan. He lends everything to us, and reminds us that one day He will ask us to give a detailed accounting of what we have done with the gifts He has given us. How have we used our time, our talents, and our treasure? Have we used them in a self-centered way or God-glorifying ways? Archbishop Anastasios of Albania has noted that "we find ourselves by offering ourselves." Have we learned the blessedness of generously giving to others of all we have?

The Gifts of the Magi and the words of St. John Chrysostom help clarify our understanding of Christian Stewardship and what it means to act as a faithful follower of Jesus Christ.

Father Luke A. Veronis ❖



# Faith & Family Weekdays

## Something for Everyone

### JOM

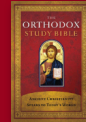
**Journey of Marriage**  
1st Tuesday, 7:00pm



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 couples to share and grow together. Dec. 6, Jan. 3, Feb. 7, Mar. 7, Apr. 4, May 2.

### ETW

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



Father Radu continues his exploration of the Holy Bible, this time with a survey of the Old Testament. Learn about prophets, biblical history and the story of God's chosen people in their journeys and struggles. Fall dates: Remaining Fall dates: Dec. 7, 14.

### MPS

**Monthly Paraclesis Service**  
Monthly on Tuesdays, 6:30pm



Come and spend an hour in hymns and prayer, honoring the Theotokos, Saint Nektarios and Saint Paisios of Athos at our beautiful Saint George Chapel. Pray for those in need. Renew your spirit in peace and prayer. Dec. 13, Jan. 10, Feb. 20 (Mon.).

### FGN

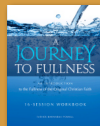
**Family Game Night**  
Second Friday, 7:00pm



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! Dec. 9, Jan. 13.

### JTF

**Journey to Fullness**  
Mondays (6-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. Dec. 5, 12, 19. Repeats Apr. 24, May 1, 8, 15 & 22, Jun. 12.

### P&P

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



Prayer and Christian fellowship for men. Meets at church promptly at 7:00 a.m. for a 15-20 minute morning prayer and scripture, then moves up the hill to Panera for 45 minutes of coffee & conversation. Jan. 5 & 19, Feb. 16, Mar. 2, 16, more.

**F**aith and Family Weekdays offers something for everyone to grow in their faith and share in community. 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.

Enjoy games, fun and fellowship with other parish families of all ages at **Family Game Night**! For adults and young people, too! Newly engaged? Prepare for Christian marriage at the **Journey of Marriage** sessions. Share the journey and grow together with other couples. Spend quiet time in prayer and fellowship time over coffee at the **Saint Nikodemos "Prayer and Panera" Men's Prayer Fellowship**. There are lots of other opportunities to learn about the Faith, the Bible, marriage and Christian living. Watch the bulletin and check the online calendar at [HolyTrinityPgh.org/calendar](http://HolyTrinityPgh.org/calendar) for details and locations.

### ALSO WATCH FOR THESE SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES!

**Saint Euphrosynos Liturgical Cooking Classes:** Learn how to make Prosforo (Divine Liturgy Bread), Kollyva (Memorial Wheat), Arto (Bread for the Blessing of the Five Loaves) and Fanouropita (St. Fanourios bread). Dates TBA.

**Community Christmas Caroling:** Adults and youth will head over to the Sisters of Divine Providence on Wed. Dec. 21 at 6:30pm to bring Christmas blessings!



Top: Members of the Holy Trinity Philoptochos Board are installed on Philoptochos Sunday, November 11.  
Left: Alyssa Kyritsis, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries of the Metropolis of Pittsburgh speaks to our youth during a pastoral visit on October 16.  
Bottom: Holy Trinity Church hosted the 2022 Regional Parish Council Candidates Seminar on November 29. Clergy and Parish Council nominees from around the area participated in presentations and discussion groups, sharing ideas and challenges..The guest speaker was Danny Papakalos.





Top: The Holy Trinity Greek Dance Troupe participated in professional instructions and performed at the Metropolis Folk Dance Festival in Columbus. Bottom: The JOY ministry gathered for a Thanksgiving movie discussion with Father John and made Christmas ornaments for shut-ins.





TIBERIAS:  
Boat Ride on the Sea of Galilee



From October 26 through November 2, the Holy Trinity Pilgrimage Ministry hosted a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, with 33 faithful from Holy Trinity Church and 3 other parishes participating.

In the coming months, they will have the opportunity to share the blessings, joy and spiritual transformation they experienced. For this issue, however, we wanted to offer just a taste of it by sharing a few photos and the excerpts below, drawn from reflections written by the pilgrims:

"The pilgrimage to the holy land is the most remarkable experience I've had in my lifetime."

"A true pilgrimage to the Holy Land is, quite simply, the most significant trip anyone can make."

"It is our duty as Orthodox Christians to support our brothers and sisters in Christ in their mission to keep our presence the Holy Land secure."

"The most beautiful thing I encountered during our pilgrimage was the overwhelming feeling of love for Jesus and the unexpected emotion I felt at times."

"It was a trip that changed my life. Tears still come to my eyes having this experience."



BETHLEHEM:  
Birthplace of Christ



JERICO:  
The Jordan River





JERUSALEM:  
At the Patriarchate in front of the  
domes of the Church of the Resurrection



JERUSALEM  
The Patriarchate



PALESTINE:  
St. Savas Monastery



LYDDA:  
Tomb of St. George



MOUNT OF OLIVES:  
Site of the Ascension



JORDAN:  
St. Gerasimos Monastery





BETHLEHEM:  
Church of the Shepherds Field









Top: Holy Trinity Church had the rare blessing to have two hierarchs serving Divine Liturgy on Sunday, November 27. Bishop John (Abdalah) of Worcester and Bishop Anthony (Michaels) of Toledo presided.  
Bottom: Guy Guimond and family honor kidney donor Maddy Czekalski in thanks for her life-saving gift of love.





Holy Trinity Philoptochos hosted a very successful and creative "Festival of Tables" on November 12. Tables were beautifully decorated and many attended. Entertainment was provided by ventriloquist and comedienne Cindy Speck and her puppet friends.





# Stewardship 2022 Roster

Rev. Fr. John & Pres. Becky  
Touloumes

Rev. Fr. Radu & Pres. Loredana  
Bordeianu

Rev. Fr. George & Pres. Evangelia  
Daskalakis

Dr. & Mrs. Andrew Abboud

Mr. & Mrs. Mark Adamczyk

Ms. Gabrielle Alberty

Mr. Alex Alexiades

Mr. Nicholas Alexiades

Mr. & Mrs. Justin Ambrose

Mr & Mrs Victor Amurgis

Ms. Georgiana Anargyros

Mrs Beatrice Andromalos

Mr Michael Andromalos-Dale

Victoria Andromalos-Dale/Frank  
Blakemore

Ms. Mariya Apostolova

Mr. and Mrs. H. William Areheart

Mr & Mrs Mark Armanious

Mr & Mrs Harry Athanasiou

Mrs. Tessie C. Athens

Ms. Andrea R. Athens

Mrs. Desi Anthou Austin

Mr & Mrs Alvin Backeris

Mr & Mrs Van Backeris

Dr & Mrs Christ A. Balouris

Dr & Mrs Constantine A. Balouris

Mr & Mrs James T. Balouris

Mr. Anthony Balouris\*

Mr. & Mrs. Anthony C. Balouris

Mr & Mrs. Chris T. Balouris

Mr. Nicholas Balouris

Mrs. Katherine Balouris

Ms. Penny T. Balouris

Mr. & Mrs. Lynn Barker

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Barron

Mrs. Anne-Marie Battaglia

Mrs Georgia Beckas Miller

Mrs Olga Beckas

Victoria and Maurice Bedel

Ms. Constance Bistolas-Walters

Mr. Michael J. Bober Jr.

Mrs. Athena Bober

Mr. Todd Bogdanovich

Ms. Pamela M. Bolkovac

Dr. & Mrs. Christopher Bonfield

Dr & Mrs Reggie Bonfield

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Bounos

Dr. & Mrs. Alexander Bournias

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Bournias

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Brewer

Mrs Sophia Bridoux

Clifford Brubaker & Sondra Balouris

Mr & Mrs James Buldas

Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Caromano

Mr. Peter J. Castellano

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. Eleni Cocheres\*

Mr. & Mrs. Steven E. Cole

Amanda and Ryan Copeland

Ms. Cynthia Morris Criss

Ms. Chelsea Cross

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

Krystina and Sebastian Dovenor

Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Duroske

Margo & Josh Elliot

Mr & Mrs Frank Erdeljac

Dennis Bossick &

Penny Fakles-Bossick

Mr. & Mrs. Christian Farmakis

Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Ferrari

Mr & Mrs William Fiedler

Mrs. Carol Fiffas

Mr. & Mrs. Brian Fitzpatrick

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

Mr. & Mrs. Josh Skrba

Mr & Mrs Markos Gambieris

Mrs. Joan Gatsiopoulos

Mr & Mrs Thomas Geanopulos

Mr. & Mrs. George Geanopulos

Ms. Efthalia Geanous

Mrs. Fabiola Georgallis

Mr & Mrs George Georges

Ms Melina Georgiades

Dr. and Mrs. Mark Georgiadis

Mr & Mrs Gus Georgiadis

Mr & Mrs Steven Georgiadis

Mr & Mrs Thomas Germanos

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

Mrs. Faye Henigin

Eugene and Tina Houmis Connors

Mr. & Mrs. George Hulse

Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Humbert

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



Thank you to the following faithful stewards who have submitted their pledge cards for the 2022 pledge year. Please join them in their support for the ministries of Holy Trinity and complete your 2023 pledge today by card or using Realm online or in the Realm app!

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\*=Reposed

TO GOD BE THE GLORY! ❖

*Holy Trinity GOYA  
is pleased to take your order for*

# *Homemade Greek Christmas Bread*

*Only \$12 per loaf*

Order deadline: Tuesday, December 13th  
Bread will be available for pick-up on Sunday Dec. 18th  
following Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity Church



Order in-person from any Holy Trinity GOYA teen - OR -  
**Place your order online at [HolyTrinityPgh.org/goyabread](http://HolyTrinityPgh.org/goyabread)**

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985 Providence Boulevard, Pittsburgh, PA 15237 [GOYA@HolyTrinityPgh.org](mailto:GOYA@HolyTrinityPgh.org)



GOYA PRESENTS AN OFFICIAL HOLY TRINITY CENTENNIAL EVENT

# 10 YEARS



HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

1923·CENTENNIAL·2023

*Let this be recorded for a generation to come, so that a people yet to be created may praise the Lord*

*Psalm 102.18*

**Holy Trinity GOYA's 2023 Centennial Valentine Brunch has a very special theme in honor of our parish's Centennial Celebration:**

## **HONORING OUR ROOTS**

**and *you* get to join the celebration by sharing *your* roots!**

Looking to the roots of our family trees, everyone comes from somewhere, and GOYA would like to celebrate the entire tapestry of ancestry that makes up the beauty of this community. Maybe you trace your roots back to the founders of the parish and Greece's mainland or islands. Maybe it's another foreign land. Or maybe your roots are from right here in America. No matter where they are, those roots are where you started! Let GOYA know and they will be sharing the whole story with special displays.

**Use the website below to enter your roots. Have a historic photo?**

**GOYA wants you to email those, too!**

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JANUARY 31, 2023**

**GOYA ANNUAL CENTENNIAL VALENTINE LUNCH DATE: FEBRUARY 12, 2023**



### **HOW TO DO IT:**

**Let GOYA know your roots by visiting [HolyTrinityPgh.org/roots](https://HolyTrinityPgh.org/roots)**

**And email a photo/map/image of your roots/home/village/family to:**

**[roots@HolyTrinityPgh.org](mailto:roots@HolyTrinityPgh.org)**



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FAITH·FAMILY·COMMUNITY

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10



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1923·CENTENNIAL·2023

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# 2023 CONSECRATION & CENTENNIAL WEEKEND

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3  
CONSECRATION VESPERS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4  
CONSECRATION SERVICE  
CONSECRATION LUNCHEON

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5  
DIVINE LITURGY  
CENTENNIAL GALA CELEBRATION

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!  
WATCH FOR DETAILS TO COME!





A banner for the 100th anniversary of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. It features the text "SUBMIT YOUR HISTORICAL PHOTOS & DOCUMENTS HERE!" at the top, followed by "100 YEARS" in large letters. In the center is a circular logo with a dome and cross, surrounded by the church's name and "PITTSBURGH". At the bottom, it says "HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH" and "1923-CENTENNIAL-2023".

We Need Your Holy Trinity History Photos!

Help celebrate 100 Years of Holy Trinity Church history (1923-2023)! It's time to dig through your family albums and submit photos of parish events, weddings, baptisms, group photos, historical documents ... everything!

A close-up photograph of a vintage camera, showing its lens and bellows.

A black and white photograph of a group of children and an adult, possibly a teacher or parent, in a classroom or playroom setting.

A black and white photograph of a large group of people, likely a church choir or a group of parishioners, posed for a formal portrait.

**SUBMIT YOURS NOW:**

**DEADLINE MARCH 1, 2023**

**PLEASE INCLUDE NAMES/DATES/INFORMATION/DESCRIPTIONS**

# 10 YEARS

1923·CENTENNIAL·2023

Help celebrate 100 Years of Holy Trinity Church history (1923-2023)! It's time to dig through your family albums and submit photos of parish events, weddings, baptisms, group photos, historical documents ... everything!



**PLEASE INCLUDE NAMES/DATES/INFORMATION/DESCRIPTIONS**



# FAITH AND HOPE

## IN GOD

**If one is not attentive to matters of faith and worship, he can gradually become forgetful and may even become insensible, to the point of not believing in anything.**

**Gheronda, I notice that some people who do not believe in God have a strong desire to get to know the world and to always be entertained.**

When one does not believe in the other life, he seeks to know this world, to enjoy in this life one thing and then another and another ... but in the end what comes of it? He always has a nagging emptiness inside. However, if he believes in God, he comes to know God; God knows him, and then he feels fulfilled within.

**Wouldn't people change if they realized that this life is temporary?**

It depends. If we were to say, "The world is coming to an end," one who does not believe will become even more brazen, and fling himself into evil, into sin. But one who does believe will put the brakes on, and say "Why should I waste myself away on things that are already lost? I should look after my soul and live spiritually, and do some acts of mercy."

**Some people, Geronda, say that their faith is shaken when they see good people suffering.**

Even if God were to burn all the good people, one must not have negative thoughts; instead, he must think that everything that God does, He does out of love. God knows His work. For God to allow something bad to hap-

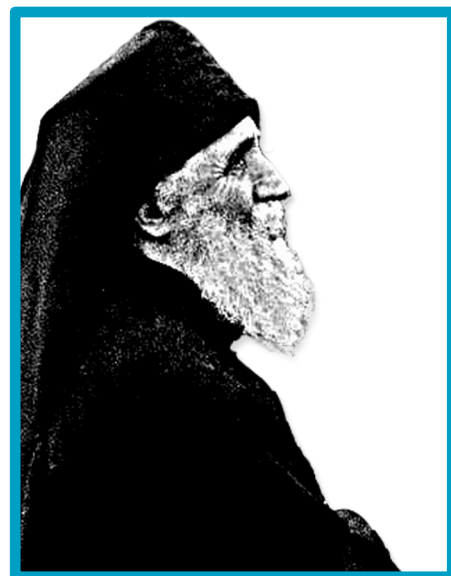
pen, then something far better will occur.

**In the past I would pray with faith to God, and everything I asked for was granted to me. Now I don't have this faith. Why is this?**

It's because of your worldly logic. Faith is shaken by worldly logic. The Lord said, "Have faith, and doubt not...", "whatsoever you ask in prayer, believing, you shall receive." This is where the entire base is. We move about in the sphere of the miraculous in the spiritual life. One plus two does not always equal three; it can also make equal five thousand, even a million!

**I think that the only way to correct myself is through my own efforts and this is why I am not progressing.**

What is it that you can do by yourself? As long as one is hooked upon himself, he blocks the mercy of God and remains stagnant; he cannot progress. If you had a little faith, almost everything would change, and if you had a little humility, the Grace of God would be with you. You are in this predicament because your faith and humility are faltering. This is how God is "bound" and unable to help you because He respects your free will. You should ask Christ for faith — "increase our faith" — and try to culti-



Saint Paisios of Athos

vate humility. Even when one has faith, it is rendered inactive by pride.

**Geronda, our grandparents used to tell us that a time will come when we will have plenty of all the good things of the earth, but we will not be able to eat them. Today people seem to have doubts about almost everything we eat.**

What can we do? The environment has been polluted. But do not be frightened. Cross yourself and do not be afraid. I know of people who turn their lives into a torment by being afraid of everything—and these people are Christians; they are Baptized and Chrismated, receive Holy Communion, read the Gospel and know the Christian verses by heart. Don't they see what power there is in the Grace of God? Christ said, "Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you." When one has the Grace of God, he is not afraid of anything. This is why we must always ask for the Grace of God when we cross ourselves. ❖

Excerpted from  
*Spiritual Counsels*, Vol. 5



THE HOLY TRINITY

# HERALD

*Faith. Family. Community***About the Herald**

The Herald is the Monthly Newsmagazine of  
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

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**About the Parish**

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Phone: 412-366-8700 | Fax: 412-366-8710 Web site: www.  
HolyTrinityPgh.org | Email: office@HolyTrinityPgh.org

Holy Trinity Church is a parish of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh (pittsburgh.goarch.org) and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America (goarch.org) under the Spiritual Jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

**Parish Administration  
Clergy**

Rev. Fr. John Touloumes, Proistamenos  
Rev. Fr. Radu Bordeianu, Assistant Priest

**2022 Parish Council**

George Dickos, President (pcpresident@holytrinitypgh.org)

Alvin Backeris	Evan Danis	Michael Passodelis
Anthony Balouris	Tom Germanos	Chris Sarandou
Ashley Bournias	George Mellis	Alexandra Valliant
George Danis	Dean Passodelis	Jeanne Willow

**Ministries**

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

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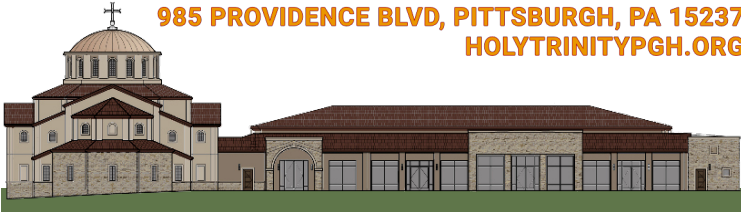
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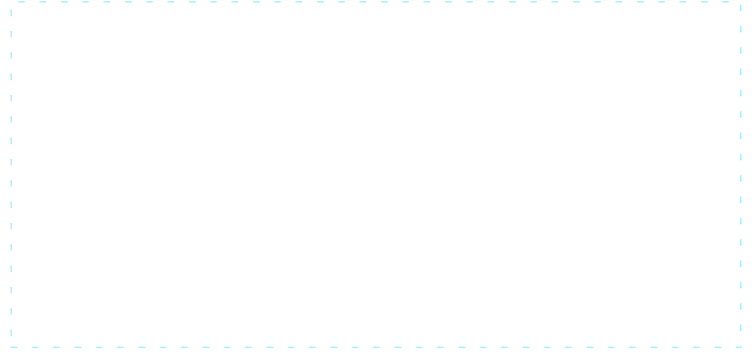
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## THE PRAISE OF THE SHEPHERDS AND THE ANGELS



“The choir of shepherds abiding in the fields was overwhelmed by the strange sight they were accounted worthy to behold: for they looked upon the all-blessed offspring of an all-pure Bride; and they saw also the ranks of bodiless angels, who sang in praise of Christ the King, incarnate without seed.”

Canon of the Nativity