



THE HOLY TRINITY

HERALD

Faith. Family. Community

December 2024
Volume 32 | Issue 10

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to Return

*Christ is Born!
Glorify Him!*

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Holy Trinity Church once again honored our veterans and service members on Military Appreciation Day, November 10. See more photos on pages 6-9.



Ss. Nicholas the Wonderworker | Feast Day: Dec. 6 | Icon from Holy Trinity Church | Nicholas Zekios, Iconographer



Father John Touloumes
Proistamenos



Now in our 101st year!
1923-2024

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.

In everything I showed you that by working hard in this way you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

Acts 20.35

My beloved Holy Trinity family,

Who among us does not remember the excitement of Christmas morning? No matter how big or how small the gifts under the tree were, it was so exciting because, in a child's mind, there was something under there for **me!** It's not because it was selfish, but in a child's world everything—food, clothing, shelter and, yes, gifts—are received from somewhere, usually our parents. So it follows suit that the excitement about Christmas, as we have come to know it in modern America is, for children, about receiving.

But as Saint Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians, "When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me" (13.11). And one of the "ways of childhood" we must all come to recognize at some point is that the world is not all about us. And the tiny hands that used to open empty towards others with the intent to receive eventually need to grow into big hands that open full towards others with the intent to give. Which leads to true joy and the blessing Saint Paul explained during his travels to Ephesus, where he offered the quote above: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

It is hard to explain the depths of inspiration and gratitude that rise in my heart when I think of the many generous ways the members of this community continue to give and support others in so many ways: the "Angel Tree" gift tags that have put literally thousands of Christmas presents in the hands of needy children over the years; our annual food drives; the backpack program that has equipped children with school supplies; the many charities near and far regularly supported by our Ladies Philoptochos; the emergency assistance provided by the Agape Fund; the homes built by our Project Mexico teams over the years; the labors of love offered by other mission teams to Native American families and those in the poverty of Appalachia; and so many, many other ways.

And through all that, we have been able to grow the support for our church in ways we would have not thought possible years ago. When our "Stewardship Independence" drive began this year, we knew it would only be by the work of the Holy Spirit it would actually come true. But it has, and words cannot fully express our thanks and amazement. Glory to our amazing God!

In conclusion, let's remind ourselves that there is an important exception to the giving/receiving idea that turns it all upside down. As we prepare for Christmas, it is the Love above all other love that calls us to be receivers...receivers, that is, of the Good News of the coming of the Messiah. Receivers of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ...Who makes all things possible...as He comes into the world, into our lives and into our hearts, through His divine Incarnation and Holy Nativity. God's blessings to all. Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Yours in the newborn Savior,

WORSHIP LIFE

Weekday Services - December

In addition to regular Sunday services (Orthros at 8:15am, Divine Liturgy at 9:30am), the following weekday services will be offered this month. Please see the online parish calendar at HolyTrinityPgh.org/calendar for updates.

(HT=Holy Trinity Church; SG=Saint George Chapel.)

- **Tue. Dec. 3:** Prophet Zepheniah (HT - NOTE LOCATION - Service at Holy Trinity Church followed by Seniors Christmas Luncheon)
- **Wed. Dec. 4:** St. Barbara the Great Martyr and St. John of Damascus (HT - NOTE LOCATION - Service at Holy Trinity Church because relics of St. Barbara are in the Holy Altar Table of the Church)
- **Thu. Dec. 5:** St. Savas the Sanctified - Nameday of Metropolitan Savas (9:00a Orthros/10:00a Liturgy at the Metropolis Chapel, 5201 Ellsworth Ave., Pgh.)
- **Thu. Dec. 5:** St. Nicholas the Wonderworker (6:30p Great Vespers at St. Nicholas Cathedral)
- **Fri. Dec. 6:** St. Nicholas the Wonderworker (9:00a Orthros/10:00a Liturgy at St. Nicholas Cathedral)
- **Mon. Dec. 9:** Conception by St. Anna of the Most Holy Theotokos (SG)
- **Tue. Dec. 10, 6:30pm:** Paraclesis to St. Paisios (SG)
- **Thu. Dec. 12,** St. Spyridon the Wonderworker (9:00a Orthros/10:00a Liturgy at St. Spyridon in Monessen)
- **Tue. Dec. 17,** St. Dionysios of Zakynthos (SG)
- **Tue. Dec. 24-Wed. Dec. 25:** See below for the schedule of services for the Nativity of Christ

Services for the Nativity of Christ Dec. 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 (HT).

- **Tue. 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.
- **Tue. Dec. 24, 6:30pm: Vespers Liturgy 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)
- **Wed. 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 RehearsalDecember 14

The complete cast rehearsal for the Holy Trinity Church School Christmas Pageant will be held on Saturday morning, 9am-12pm. Please check the Church School email for details.

Church School Christmas Pageant.....December 15

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 Holy Trinity original Christmas Pageant production!

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

GOYA Christmas Fireside Chat.....December 8

The GOYA teen ministry will hold its annual Christmas Fireside Chat on Sunday, December 8 from 3:00-6:00pm. Information and location is being sent directly to GOYA families on the GOYA email and GroupMe systems.

GOYA Christmas BreadOrder by December 7

Our GOYA teens will once again offer their delicious and popular Greek Christmas Bread this year. Orders must be placed by Saturday, December 7 for pickup following Divine Liturgy on Sunday, December 15. 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. See the flyer in this issue for more information. Thank you for supporting our teens!

GOYA Christmas Bread Prep December 12, 13, 14

All GOYAns are asked to help prepare Christmas bread on

Friday, December 13, after school and Saturday, December 14, 9:00-11:00am. Parents' help is needed all day Thursday and Friday. See Presvytera Becky for info and to sign up.

GOYA Basketball Practice Dec. 5, 12, 19

GOYA will hold basketball practice for the 2025 season on Thursday evenings, Dec. 5, 12 and 19, from 6:00-8:00pm at North Allegheny Intermediate School (NAI), 350 Cumberland Road, Upper Gym. All GOYAns are invited.

COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

Bereavement Ministry Dinner Dec. 2

As we soon end another year, the Bereavement Support Ministry Team has decided to do something different. Please join us for dinner and casual conversation on Monday, Dec 2, 6:00 p.m. at Olive Garden, McIntyre Square. It will be a relaxing evening together as we share stories and celebrate the lives of our loved ones who have fallen asleep in the Lord. Feel free to contact Amy Armanious with questions at visitation@holytrinitypgh.org.

Fall Food Drive..... Through December 8

The Holy Trinity Church School is holding its annual Fall Food Drive and once again, it's Church School vs. the Community! For Church School students, each Sunday bring your bags (with your nametag attached) to the Conference Room. For the Community, there is a collection bin located in the Gallery. Items will be donated to the Orthodox Christian ministry at the Neighborhood Resilience Project in the Hill District of Pittsburgh. A shopping list of requested items was included as an insert in the November edition of the Herald and extra copies can also be found at the church office window. Thank you!

"AOA" Active Older Adults Christmas Movie Dec. 12

The AOA will be showing the movie "Christmas with the Karountzoses", a funny, cute movie about a Greek family during Christmas on Thursday, Dec. 12 at 1:30pm in the Fireside Room. Following the movie we will have a meatless potluck lunch. Pizza and drinks will be provided. Whoever wishes can also bring a meatless dish to share. We'll also have a gift exchange for those who wish to participate (Bring a wrapped gift if you do). Questions or comments call Tasy at 724-612-9245.

Community Christmas Caroling Dec. 18

The entire community—adults and youth alike—are invited to this special, joyful evening of traditional Christmas carols sung by members and youth of our Holy Trinity community to our neighbors across the street at the Sisters of Divine Providence on Wed. Dec. 18. Meet at Holy Trinity at 6:30pm, then head over to bring Christmas blessings and cheer to

these faithful sisters!

Visitation Ministry Needs Your Help

Currently, we have a few elderly parishioners who are in need of help in their homes. They need regular visits for companionship, light housekeeping, laundry care, and grocery shopping. It would require about 1-2 hours depending on the person's schedule and needs. If you can offer some help and time, please contact Amy Armanious, Visitation Ministry coordinator at visitation@holytrinitypgh.org Or you can contact the church office and ask Amy to call you. Any help is greatly appreciated.

Visitation Ministry Christmas Gifts

This year, the Visitation Ministry will be mailing small Christmas gifts to our parishioners and extended family members. These gifts were designed and crafted by our Creative Team. They are gifts of love as we prepare for the Nativity of Our Lord. If you &/or your loved one would enjoy receiving a gift, please contract Amy Armanious at visitation@holytrinitypgh.org

Christmas Outreach Opportunities

A huge "Thank You" to everyone who picked up Christmas Angels. All 120 of them were distributed, and shoppers are now busy making children's and seniors' wishes come true! Please remember to return the gifts (with the tag attached) on or before December 8. You may ask, "What Else Can We Do?" Please check out the list of widely-supported reputable charities that have wish lists of items needed or can use monetary help. Please visit their websites. Remember: Your donations change lives!

- Neighborhood Resilience Project: neighborhoodresilience.org/donate/
- North Hills Community Outreach: www.nhco.org/sharing-project-donations
- MHY Family Services: mhyfamilyservices.org/mhy-giving-program/
- IOCC (Int'l Orthodox Christian Charities): iocc.org/
- FOCUS North America: focusnorthamerica.org/
- Lending Hearts: www.lendinghearts.org/donate

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 by Dec. 6. ❖

Faith & Family Weekdays

Grow Your Knowledge and Practice of the Faith!

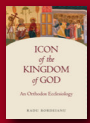
JOM



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. 3, Jan. 7, Feb. 4, Mar. 4, Apr. 1, May 6.


ETW



Explore the Word
Wednesdays, 6:30pm

Father Radu leads us through his new book, "Icon of the Kingdom of God." Drawing on a rich knowledge of scripture, the Church fathers, and theologians, learn what the Church is and means to us. Remaining Fall dates: Dec. 4, 11. Resumes in January.

MPS



Monthly Paraclesis Service
Second Tuesday, 6:30pm

Join in hymns and prayer, to honor the Theotokos, Saint Nektarios the Wonderworker and Saint Paisios of Athos at our beautiful Saint George Chapel. Pray for those in need. Renew your spirit in peace and prayer. Dec. 10, Jan. 14, Feb. 11.

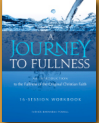
LCC



Liturgical Cooking Class
Dates TBD

Did you know that the Prosforo (bread for the Divine Liturgy), Kollyva (memorial wheat), Artoclasia (for the Blessing of the Loaves) are not bought from a store but made by parishioners? You can learn how to make them, too! Watch for dates of these free classes!


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. Remaining date: Dec. 2. Repeats in the Spring.

P&P



Prayer & Panera
1st & 3rd 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. Dec. 19; Jan. 2, 16 & more.

Orthodox Christian life happens every day, not just Sunday! Faith and Family Weekdays offers many ways during the week to grow in our faith and share in the community life of the Church. Ready to learn more about the Bible, about your Faith, about navigating life's challenges as a Christian, a women or a man? It's all there.

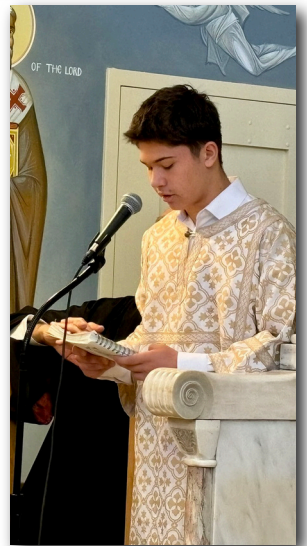
Newly engaged? Prepare for Christian marriage at the Journey of Marriage sessions. Share the journey and grow together with other couples. Spend quiet time in prayer and fellowship time over coffee at the Saint Nikodemos "Prayer and Panera" Men's Prayer Fellowship. Learn more about Orthodox faith, history, and worship on the Journey to Fullness. 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 for details and locations.

AND DON'T MISS OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS OUTREACH EVENT: CHRISTMAS CAROLING AT THE SISTERS OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE! WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

The entire community—adults and youth alike—are invited to this special evening of Christian holiday outreach to our neighbors at the Sisters of Divine Providence on Wed. Dec. 18. Meet at Holy Trinity at 6:30pm, then head over to bring Christmas blessings and cheer to these faithful sisters!









A View from the Summit

What's Next?



Dear Holy Trinity Stewards,

As we are just about to reach the “summit” of Stewardship Independence Mountain, we should all take a moment to appreciate just how far we've come. Accepting the challenge to support your church through Stewardship is an amazing accomplishment! For many years we have relied on the annual Greek festival to close our budget shortfalls. But now we are nearing full support of the church through Stewardship, and we all should be extremely thankful.

The questions may be asked: where has this all gotten us? What's next? It only gets more exciting from here! Now that we have nearly fulfilled our role of supporting the church through our Stewardship offerings, we can begin exploring how to share the extra blessings that are the fruits of all your labors and your unwavering love for God's holy church. Those funds—and they are substantial—can now be used to grow and bless, both inside and outside the walls of the Holy Trinity parish.

This is how we have arrived at the theme of the 2025 Stewardship Campaign: **Stewards of God's Blessings**. God has given us so many gifts—both as individuals and as an Orthodox Christian community—that we now share the awesome responsibility of deciding how to properly steward these gifts from God.

Stewarding God's blessings means discerning His purpose for all we have and how the Lord is calling us to use those resources both internally (to bless and grow the community *of* the church) and externally (to bless and the serve the community *around* the church). There are opportunities to send our students to summer camps such as Ionian Village, provide college scholarships, and more. There are many other investments to be made within the grounds of the building itself. Yes, we have regular

maintenance upgrades, such as lighting, plumbing, and so on. But we can also think about festival grounds upgrades to ensure our summer festival is a continued success. It is all part of our responsibility of stewards of this parish and our desire to keep it all “like new” always.

In addition, and equally importantly, we can now share our blessings outside the walls of the church as well, in our local community and beyond. At the beginning of the year, we provided a check to North Hills Community Outreach, as a first step. It was a small “promise” to ourselves that we were going to reach “Stewardship Independence” and share our blessings with those in need. Rather than wait until the end of the year to see if we made it, we put the promise into action ahead of time because we believed our goal was within reach and your love was up to the task. And what better way to start than to provide food for those so near us, right within our community?

A resulting milestone in the life of the Holy Trinity parish occurred on November 3 with the establishment of a “Giving Fund” and a Giving Committee, chaired by Mike Kritiotis, which will recommend to the parish the allocation of a portion of our festival proceeds towards philanthropic giving in our neighborhood and around the world. We want to make these external gifts as high-impact as possible. Rather than several small gifts, we want to be deliberate about our giving, and make a few very meaningful gifts to charities and organizations that align with our mission in Pittsburgh. While sharing locally is certainly a key goal, we will also consider national or international support if they align with the mission of our ministry. For example, we sent aid to the victims of wildfires in Greece last summer.

While this responsibility is exciting, it should not be taken lightly. St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians affirms our mission: “Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”

So now is our time to demonstrate our faith! As we crest the summit of stewardship independence, the time has come to share the blessings of God in our local community and beyond! We will be true “Stewards of God's Blessings!” ❖

QUESTIONS? CONTACT US! WE'RE HERE TO HELP!
 Stewardship Questions: stewardship@HolyTrinityPgh.org
 Realm Questions: realm@HolyTrinityPgh.org



IONIAN VILLAGE 2025

REGISTRATION OPENS FEB. 4, 11AM!

Official Greek Summer Travel Summer Camping Ministry of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America



IONIAN VILLAGE is a special place where campers and staff embark on a unique journey to deepen their understanding of Orthodox Faith and Hellenic Culture. They also have the incredible opportunity to connect with faith-centered peers from all corners of the country. Teens and young adults create unforgettable memories during their time here, forming bonds and friendships that endure a lifetime.

Since 1970, more than 20,000 campers have become part of a 53-year-old tradition dedicated to building “Faith and friendships that last a lifetime.”

The goal of Ionian Village is simple: to provide our campers and staff with a life-transforming summer experience by bringing them closer to their Orthodox faith and exploring the richness of Hellenic culture and history. This happens through a program full of travel, worship, and meaningful content. Campers travel to sites of both religious and historical significance, not as tourists but as pilgrims, as people on a journey to learn more about their faith, their culture, and ultimately, themselves.

Ionian Village is not just another summer camp; it is like nothing you have ever experienced. Campers and Staff come not only to understand their Orthodox Faith and Hellenic Culture in a more realistic and tangible way, but

also to meet and interact with other young people just like them from all over the country. Through this interaction, their eyes are opened as to what the reality of being an Orthodox Christian in this world truly should be; to be people who live Christ-centered lives, to be people of love.

The program is marked by excursions to places like Ancient Olympia, Bartholomio, Patras, Zakynthos, Kefalonia, Kalavrita, Aegina, and even Athens! It’s the best combination of faith and heritage while also having the time of your life, surrounded by your peers.



Summer 2025 Dates: Session One June 22– July 11; Session Two: July 20–August 8.

Don't wait! Sessions fill quickly. Registration opens Feb. 4, 11am. Find information at ionianvillage.org.

Lord, when did we see you **hungry and feed you?**

Matthew 25.37



**North Hills
COMMUNITY
OUTREACH**
People Helping People



Stewardship Independence is how we are not only filling the plates of the customers at our own festival tables with great Greek food they pay for, but also putting food as a free gift of love on the tables of needy neighbors around us through the donation of thousands of dollars to the North Hills Community Outreach food bank. Each gift of love is a conversion, helping us turn our focus from inward to outward. Each gift of love helps us turn a hand that receives and is closed into a hand that is open and gives. And each gift of love is multiplied by the love you have offered to make it possible. (Father John's homily, Nov.17)

NHCO provided 27,415 services to 4,738 households.
Here is a snapshot of some of the services we provided:

1,531
Families and Individuals Were Served by NHCO's Three Food Pantries
Food insecurity and general financial hardship were the top two reasons people sought help at NHCO.

563
Tax Returns Completed Through NHCO's Free Tax Prep Program

183
Households Received Housing Assistance
We assist individuals and families with rental assistance or help with a security deposit to prevent homelessness.

453
Assisted Through NHCO's In Service of Seniors Program

1,164
Unduplicated Families Assisted Through NHCO's Seasonal Sharing Project

Sharing Winter Warmth Thanksgiving Dinner Holiday Toys

Spring Cleaning Products Winter Coat Distribution Personal Care Items

Back to School Supplies

483
Utility Applications Completed
NHCO helps qualifying families and individuals with utility bills through various programs.

How our donations help NHCO help others in our neighborhood

- Religious Organizations**
- Adat Shalom Synagogue • All Saints Episcopal Church • Allison Park Church • Assumption Church • Bakerstown United Methodist Church • Bellevue United Presbyterian Church • Berkeley Hills Lutheran Church • Bethlehem Lutheran Church • Christ Episcopal Church • Christian Mother Woman's Guild St. Matthew Parish • Community Presbyterian Church of Ben Avon • Covenant Community Presbyterian Church • Elfinwild Presbyterian Church • First United Church of Christ • Glenshaw Valley Presbyterian Church • Good Shepherd Lutheran Church • Greenstone United Methodist Church • Hampton United Presbyterian Church • Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church • Ingomar United Methodist Church • Knights of Columbus #3907 • Knights of Columbus #4029 • McKnight United Methodist Church • Memorial Park Church • Mt. Troy United Church of Christ • Muslim Association of Greater Pittsburgh • Nativity Lutheran Church • North Boroughs Church, Inc. • North Hills Christian Church • North Hills Church of Christ • North Hills Community Baptist Church • North Hills Community of Christ • North Hills United Presbyterian Church • North Park Church • Northmont United Presbyterian Church • Orchard Hill Church • Parkwood United Presbyterian Church • Perry Highway Lutheran Church • Regina Coeli Parish • Salem United Methodist Church • Salvation Army - Western PA Div. • Sisters of Charity of Nazareth • Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities • St. Aidan's Parish • St. Alexander Nevsky Orthodox • St. Bonaventure Church • St. Brendan's Episcopal Church • St. Catherine of Sweden • St. James Catholic Church • St. John Neumann Church • St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church • St. Martha and Mary • St. Mary's Church • St. Matthew Parish • St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church • St. Paul's United Methodist Church • St. Richard's Church • St. Sebastian • St. Stanislaus Koska Church • St. Ursula Church • Temple Ohav Shalom • Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church • Trinity United Church of Christ • Unitarian Universalist Church of the North Hills • Vincentian Sisters of Charity • Wexford Community Presbyterian Church

Holy Trinity Church recognized in the NHCO 2023-2024 Annual Report as one of the many donor churches from the area.

Holy Trinity GOYA is pleased to take your order for



Homemade Greek Christmas Bread

Now available in two styles!



Traditional Round



Holiday Multi-Colored Loaf

Both available with or without Sesame Seeds. Still only \$12 per loaf.

Order deadline: Saturday, December 7th
Bread will be available for pick-up on Sunday Dec. 15th
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

Homemade with love by Holy Trinity GOYA

985 Providence Boulevard, Pittsburgh, PA 15237 GOYA@HolyTrinityPgh.org

Thank you for your support of the Holy Trinity GOYA Ministry!

God's Providence for Man

God has a way of providing. He sees our needs, our desires, and, when something is for our good, He gives it to us.

Geronda, Abba Makarios says our God gives us heavenly gifts, and this we believe. Should we believe He will also give us earthly gifts, which are not so important?

What earthly gifts?

Whatever we need.

Yes, you put it well. God loves His creation, His image, and provides the things which man needs.

Must everyone believe this and not worry?

If one does not believe this and struggles by himself to acquire these earthly gifts, he will suffer. But even if God does not provide some of these earthly, material things, a person who is leading a spiritual life will not worry about it. If we seek first the Kingdom of God and this is our only concern, all the other things will be given to us, as well. Will God abandon His creation? The manna which God provided for the Israelites in the desert would spoil if they kept it for the next day. God arranged things this way so that the people would have confidence in His divine providence.

Q: Geronda, while many times we have felt the omnipotence of God, why is it that we do not also see His Divine Providence for us?

This is a trap of the devil. The devil throws ashes in man's eyes so he won't see God's providence. For when man sees the providence of God, his granite heart will soften, become sensitive and burst out in praise of God,

and this is not what the devil wants. Someone had made a fishery and all day long he would express his gratitude, "Glory be to You, O God," for he could see constantly the providence of God. He told me that a tiny fish, from the instant it is fertilized and is as tiny as the head of a pin, it also has a tiny pouch of liquid from which it feeds until it grows enough to be able to feed on the micro-organisms in the water. God provides for the tiny fish its own supply of food! If God provides for the tiny fish, how much more does He provide for man! But man often plans and decides for all things without God.

Sometimes, Geronda, I have a wish, and God fulfills it, without me asking Him. How is this done?

God has a way of providing. He sees our needs, our desires, and, when something is for our good, He gives it to us. When someone needs help in something, Christ and Panaghia help. The Elder Philaretos was often asked, "Geronda, what would you like us to provide for you?" And he would answer, "Whatever I want, Panaghia will send it." And that is what would happen. When we entrust ourselves to God, the Benevolent God looks after us and provides for us. Like a good provider, He gives each of us what is needed, and provides for our material needs even down to the smallest detail. And in order for us to feel His providential care, He gives us exactly what we need.



Saint Paisios of Athos

However, you must not expect God to give you first; you must give yourself completely to God. For if you constantly ask of God, but do not entrust yourself completely to God, this implies that you have your own home and are estranged from the eternal heavenly mansions. Those who give everything to God and entrust themselves to Him dwell under the great dome of God and are protected by His divine providence. Trust in God is a constant secret prayer that quietly brings the powers of God where they are needed and when they are needed, and then His *philotimo*-filled children constantly praise Him in gratitude.

When out of *philotimo* we make God rejoice over our life, then He bestows His blessings abundantly upon His *philotimo*-filled children, the moment they need them. After that, all of life flows with the blessings of divine providence. ❖

Excerpted from
Spiritual Counsels, Vol. II

(Note: *Philotimo*, in the saint's words, is the reverent distillation of goodness, the love shown by humble people, whose hearts are full of gratitude towards God and their fellow men.)

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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 Sherry Clayton Lucy Klimko

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About the Parish

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
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Web site: 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
 Deacon Matthew Palamara, Deacon

2024 Parish Council

Anthony Balouris, President (pcpresident@HolyTrinityPgh.org)

Alexander Anetakis	Evan Danis	Dean Passodelis
Andrew Fournaridis	George Dickos	Michael Passodelis
Ashley Bournias	Tom Germanos	Chris Sarandou
George Danis	George Mellis	Jeanne Willow

Ministries

Please visit the Holy Trinity website at 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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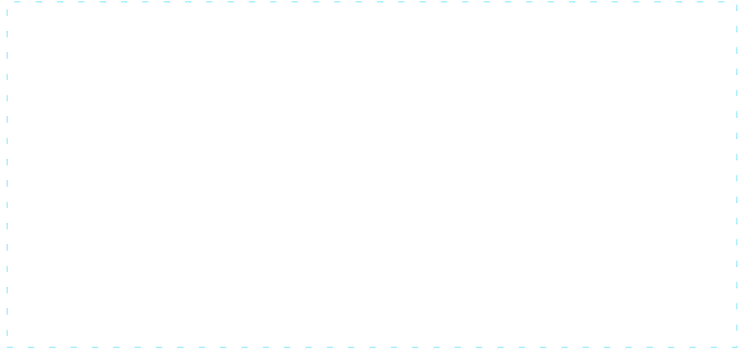
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PRAYING FOR PEACE TO RETURN



October 2022: Pilgrims from Holy Trinity Church during a time of peace visited the Church of the Shepherds' Field (in Beit Sahour, southeast of Bethlehem, West Bank, Palestine), where the Angel announced the birth of the Messiah. Please join in praying for violence to end and for peace to return to the Holy Land and its people from now until the coming of the Lord!