



THE HOLY TRINITY

HERALD

Faith. Family. Community

January 2025
Volume 33 | Issue 1

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PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Church School students offered another original Holy Trinity Christmas Pageant on December 15. See more photos of this and other community events on pages 6-14.

Saint Athanasios the Great, Patriarch of Alexandria - January 18

Icon from the Holy Sanctuary Wall of Holy Trinity Church. Iconographer: Dr. George Kordis

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



Father John Touloumes
Proistamenos

Jesus answered and said to him, “Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.”

John 1.50

My beloved Holy Trinity family,

When Nathaniel met Jesus for what he thought was the first time, Jesus stunned him by revealing that it was He who was behind (what was up to that point in his life) Nathaniel’s greatest encounter with God. Why was he so taken back? Imagine your own deepest and most personal encounter of prayer with God, after which someone approaches you and reveals to you the inner heart of that encounter, including every prayer known only to you and God. Impossible! So when Nathaniel realized that what Jesus revealed to him was known only by him and God Himself, He proclaimed to Jesus, “You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” To which Jesus replied (paraphrased in modern English), “You think that’s amazing? Just watch. You haven’t seen anything yet.”

As we enter 2025, it gives us at Holy Trinity Church another opportunity to look back at the many encounters with and blessings from the Lord we have received in so many ways as we have offered our hopes and prayers to Him. In every phase and every year in the life of this community, the Lord has acted, blessed and revealed Himself in ways that we believers, like Nathaniel, know could only be Him. From impossible challenges to incredible blessings, He has guided us and kept us in His care.

Perhaps the most visible sign of His grace is our presence here in a newly-completed and consecrated temple of His glory, something that was only a dream, a hope, and a prayer for many of us not that long ago. Yet for those who have been life-long or long-term members of this community, it is an astounding thing to realize that what we might still refer to as the “new church” has now been our home for 12 years already. It’s the only church our children know.

As we look toward the future with so much accomplished work behind us, it might be a natural reaction to look at one another and ask, “Now what?” But we are far better off when we look back over where we’ve been and where we are and acknowledge, in the words of the Psalms 188, “This has been done by the Lord and it is wondrous in our eyes.” It is then, offering Him all glory, that we can stand in even more wonder and amazement when we hear Him speak to our hearts as He spoke to Nathaniel, “You think that’s amazing? Just watch. You haven’t seen anything yet!”

We are indeed so blessed and there is so much more to come as we now turn our attention from building buildings to growing ministries. If God has been so faithful and wondrous with bricks and mortar, imagine what He can do with hearts and souls. Let’s dream big, work hard, believe firmly and watch in amazement as the Lord of wonders continues to breathe the power of His Holy Spirit into this community. Remember, good stewards, no matter how far we reach, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible” (Matthew 19.26).

A blessed New Year to all!

Now in our 102nd year!
1923-2025

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.

WORSHIP LIFE

Weekday Services - January

In addition to regular Sunday services (Orthros at 8:15am, Divine Liturgy at 9:30am), the following weekday services will be offered this month. Unless indicated otherwise, for weekday feast days, Orthros is at 8:30 followed by Divine Liturgy at 9:30. Please see the online parish calendar at HolyTrinityPgh.org/calendar for updates. (HT=Holy Trinity Church; SG=Saint George Chapel.)

- **Tue. Dec. 31, 6:30pm: St. Basil the Great (SG)**
(EVENING Orthros/Liturgy begins at 6:30pm)
- **Fri. Jan 3, 8:30am: Royal Hours of Theophany (HT)**
This special service offers readings, prophecies and hymns which point to and interpret Holy Theophany.
- **Sun. Jan. 5: Forefeast of Holy Theophany/Great Blessing of the Waters (HT)**
This is the first of two Theophany Liturgies and services of Great Blessings of the Waters. Please note that this is also a fast day in preparation for the Feast.
Also: *There will be a special Church School Assembly on this day in the Grand Room for the students to celebrate the Blessing of the Waters together.*
- **Sun. Jan. 5, 6:30pm Great Vespers of the Holy Theophany of our Lord (HT)**
- **Mon. Jan. 6: Divine Liturgy - Holy Theophany/Great Blessing of the Waters (HT)**
This is the main Orthros and Divine Liturgy of this great Feast along with the Great Blessing of the Waters. (HT)
- **Tue. Jan 7: Synaxis of St. John the Baptist (SG)**
- **Tue. Jan. 14, 6:30pm: Paraclesis to the Theotokos (SG)**
- **Fri. 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.
- **Thu. Jan 30: The Three Hierarchs (SG)**

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!

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

GOYA Meeting January 5

The GOYA teen ministry will be holding its monthly meeting on Sunday, January 5, in the Conference Room following Church School. All teens are invited to attend.

GOYA Basketball Practices January 9, 16, 23, 30

GOYA will hold basketball practice at North Allegheny Intermediate School (NAI), 350 Cumberland Rd, Lower Gym, from 6:00-8:00pm. Watch the GOYA email list for updates and details.

GOYA Metropolis Basketball Tournaments January

Our Holy Trinity GOYA teens, coaches and parents will once again be representing our community at the 2025 Metropolis Basketball Tournaments. Holy Trinity Church will participate in these three:

- The first will be hosted by Annunciation Church in York, PA, from January 17-19.
- The second will be at St. Haralambos Church in Canton, OH, from January 31-February 2.
- The third will be hosted by Holy Dormition Church in Oakmont and Ypapanti Church in East Pittsburgh from February 14-16.

Please know that the entire GOYA is so thankful for the many ways this parish supports this vital teen ministry. Funds raised throughout the year assist our youth in attending not only tournaments, but retreats, camps, mission trips and more. And the community is grateful for the faithful witness with which our teams and adults represent Holy Trinity Church through their honorable conduct and good sportsmanship. God bless you all!

COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

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.

Vasilopita Celebration Jan. 26

On Sunday, January 26, Holy Trinity Philoptochos will host our annual Vasilopita celebration (normally held in early January but delayed due to schedule conflicts this year). First, at the end of the Divine Liturgy, a tray will be passed in support of Saint Basil Academy, an education and

philanthropic institution of the Archdiocese. Afterwards, the entire parish is invited to the Vasilopita Blessing and sit-down breakfast in the Grand Room, sponsored by Philoptochos and the Parish Council. There is no charge but free-will offerings will be accepted and proceeds from the Vasilopita celebration will go to the Saint Basil Academy.

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
PLAYTIME & PAREA*
 fellowship for little ones and their parents/caregivers

10:00AM – 11:30AM | **Thursday, Jan 23**
 (Every other Thursday)

FIRESIDE ROOM - AGES 0-4

Join us for a fun, faith-filled playgroup for parents (or caregivers) and little ones to connect, make new friends, and grow together in the love of Christ.

Activities Include:
 Playtime for babies and toddlers
 Story time and music
 Light snacks and fellowship

Questions?
 Contact us at PlaytimeandParea@HolyTrinityPgh.org
*"Parea" is Greek for "a group of friends who gather together to enjoy each other's company and celebrate the everyday joys of life"

New Ministry! "Playtime and Parea" January 23

Holy Trinity Church is pleased to announce the addition of a new ministry: "Playtime and Parea"! It is a fun, faith-based playgroup for little ones (ages 0 to 4) and parents (or caregivers) to connect, make new friends, and grow together in the love of Christ. Meets twice a month on Thursdays from 10:00am to 11:30am in the Fireside Room starting January 23. For information, contact PlaytimeandParea@HolyTrinityPgh.org. ("Parea" is Greek for "a group of friends who gather together to enjoy each other's company and celebrate the everyday joys of life")

Parish Council Election Results

Thank you to all those whose names were submitted for Parish Council elections this year. The results from the vote have placed the following members on the Council for the 2025-2026 term: Anthony Balouris, Penny Balouris,

George Dickos, Andrew Fournaridis, George Mellis and Dean Passodelis. Continuing on for the remainder of their two-year term through 2025 are: Alex Anetakis, Evan Danis, George Danis, Tom Germanos, Mike Passodelis, Chris Sarandou and Jeanne Willow. Thank you to all those whom you have selected to serve in this important ministry, and remember: they serve the Lord and His Holy Church for you and with you, not instead of you, so when they call for support, please answer, "Yes, here I am!" Thank you.

Parish Council Installation January 5

As per the Parish Regulations, the 2025 Holy Trinity Parish Council will be installed following Divine Liturgy on Sunday, January 5. 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!

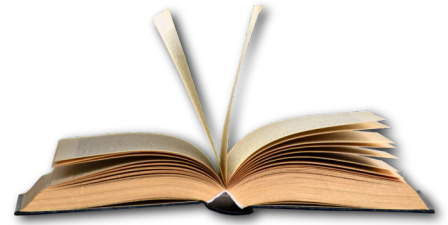
Stewardship 2025 is Here – Time to Pledge!

Thanks to the dedication and offerings of so many faithful stewards, 2024 was a record year for Holy Trinity Stewardship. As we strove together for "Stewardship Independence" we reached levels never seen before. Glory to God and many thanks to the faithful stewards who stepped up to the challenge! This year, let's maintain and grow as our theme for 2025 calls us to be "Stewards of God's Blessings." There are two ways to pledge: using a 2025 Stewardship pledge card or by going online to your Holy Trinity Realm account (see below). And there are many ways to give: in person via cash; in person or by mail via check; online at HolyTrinityPgh.org/give; via text by texting HOLYTRINITYPGH to 73256; via the Realm app on your phone; and using the giving kiosk in the Narthex. However you choose to support our ministries, thank you!

Your Holy Trinity Realm Account is Ready to Use!

With the adoption of Realm, Holy Trinity Church's membership and stewardship have entered a new era of convenience and functionality. That means every parishioner now has a Holy Trinity Realm account at HolyTrinityPgh.org/realm. But in order to access that account and use its many 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 or call 412-366-8700. Or have you forgotten your password? Just visit HolyTrinityPgh.org/realm, enter your email address and click "Forgot Password." You will sent a link to reset your password and you'll be up and running! ❖

The Crucifixion of the King of Glory



Vividly bringing the meaning and events of the Crucifixion to life

“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 will be available for purchase at the Three Hierarchs Bookstore in the Gallery.

Many books have been written about Christ’s crucifixion. However, they often lack an understanding of the historical and cultural context in which Christ’s death took place. We tend to overlook the background of first-century Judaism, Jewish law, and the relationship between the Jewish people and the Romans. “The Crucifixion of the King of Glory” by Eugenia Scarvelis Constantinou bridges these gaps and vividly brings the events to life.

Setting the Stage

The book begins by addressing the “why.” Three key events catalyzed the Jewish leaders’ desire to eliminate Jesus:

1. Raising Lazarus from the dead
2. The triumphal entry into Jerusalem, where the crowd publicly acknowledged Jesus as the Messiah
3. Cleansing the temple and Jesus’ claim that He would “destroy this temple and raise it again in three days.”

Each of these events caused increased tension between Jesus and the Jewish leaders. Why? Because they challenged their authority.

Challenge to Jewish Authority

There was a hierarchy of Jewish leadership in first century Judea: the priests, Levites, Sadducees, Pharisees, elders, and the Sanhedrin. Under Roman rule, the Jewish authorities were allowed to govern their own religious and civil affairs, provided they kept the peace. However, they worried Jesus’ actions and teachings were disturbing this peace. Jesus’ popularity risked Roman intervention, jeopardizing their autonomy, wealth, and positions of influence. Though they were meant to be spiritual leaders, many acted selfishly, prioritizing their power and prestige over their flock of Jewish believers. Their motives blinded themselves. Particularly concerning was Jesus’ supposed threat to the temple.

Significance of the Temple

The temple in Jerusalem was the heart of Jewish life. It was the central part of their worship and identity. All Jews were required to travel there three times a year for the major festivals, including Passover. Constantinou provides fascinating detailed descriptions of the temple’s architecture, its role in daily life, and its significance with respect to Christ’s persecution and death. She describes how Jesus’ cleansing of the temple and His supposed statement about “destroying” it struck at the core of Jewish identity and religious authority. Consequently, the Jewish leaders saw Jesus as a literal threat to the temple and their way of life.

Trials of Jesus

Of course, the Jews eventually found an excuse to prosecute and kill Jesus. They conducted two separate trials. There was a night trial and a morning trial. Both trials violated Jewish law. Night trials were forbidden. Also, it was forbidden to hold trials on the eve of a Sabbath or festival, both of which were true of Jesus’ morning trial. Moreover, a guilty verdict was not permitted on the same day as the trial. Ultimately, Jesus was condemned because He claimed to be the Son of God. This was blasphemy, according to the rigged trials.

King of Glory

The reason Jesus did all this can be misunderstood. His blood was not demanded by the Father to “pay a price” for our sins. It was not forced upon Him. He was not a victim. Jesus freely chose to go to the cross to conquer death. He willingly gave up His spirit to bring us the victory of eternal life. His sacrifice was not to satisfy a demand but to overcome the power of sin and death, granting humanity a path to salvation.

Constantinou reveals the profound depth of Christ’s sacrifice and the rich historical and cultural context surrounding it. Through this lens, we see not only the events of the crucifixion but also the triumph of God’s love for humanity. It is more than a story of suffering. It is a story of love and victory over death. ❖

Rick Paese





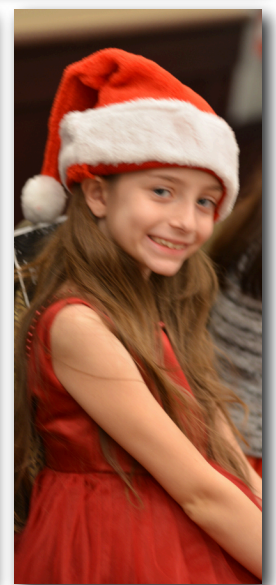
December 3: Holy Trinity Philoptochos hosted its annual Seniors Christmas Luncheon in the Grand Room. The morning began with Orthros and Divine Liturgy. Following that, our beloved seniors enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by the Philoptochos volunteers surrounded by long-time friends and new acquaintances.

Highlighting the afternoon was a visit from Santa, who greeted everyone and handed out gifts. The group sang Christmas carols and, of course, the traditional Greek "Kalanta." There was also a Christmas Trivia Quiz.

Many thanks to our Philoptochos and all the volunteers for honoring our seniors with this wonderful event and spreading the joy of the season to all!









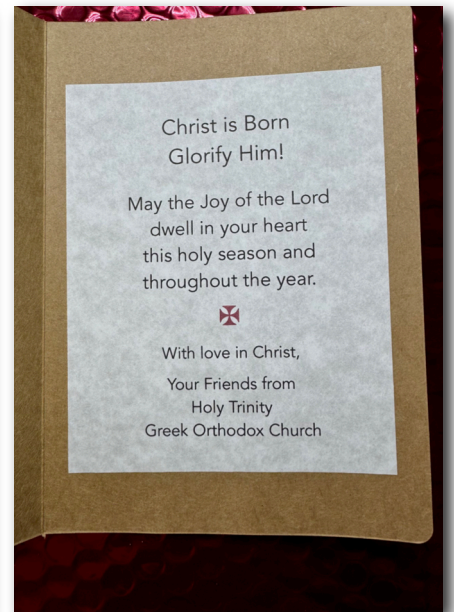
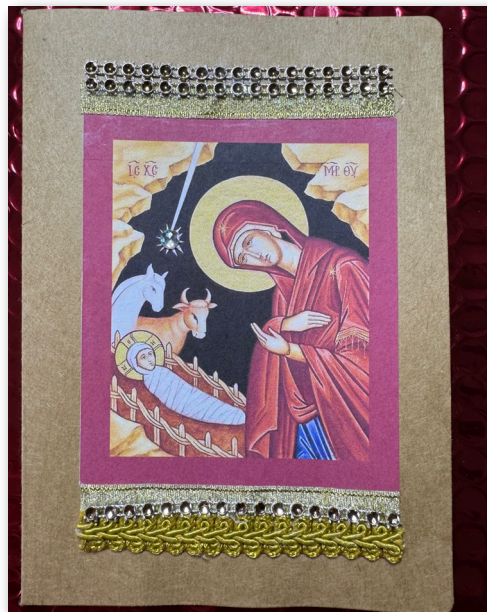








Top: A number of Orthodox choirs offered hymns and music of the season at the Pan-Orthodox Christmas Concert at Saint Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church in Monroeville. Middle: 27 teens gathered for the annual GOYA Christmas Fireside Chat at the Bounos home on December 8. Below: Beautiful handmade gifts were delivered to seniors and shut-ins by the Visitation Ministry.





HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
PLAYTIME & PAREA*
fellowship for little ones and their parents/caregivers

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Stewardship 2024 Roster

Rev. Fr. John & Presvytera Becky
Touloumes
Rev. Fr. Radu & Presvytera Loredana
Bordeianu
Rev. Fr. George & Presvytera Evangelia
Daskalakis
Dn. Matthew & Diakonissa Nina
Palamara

Dr. Andrew & Mrs. Anna Abboud
Eleni & Joseph Abdalah
Mark & Teddi Adamczyk
Mr. Sotiris & Mrs. Amy Aggelou
Victoria & Justin Ambrose
Mr & Mrs Victor Amurgis
Ms. Georgiana Anargyros
Christy Andromalos
Mr Michael Andromalos-Dale
Ms Victoria Andromalos-Dale
Alexander & Katherine Anetakis
Tiffany Ann
Mr. & Mrs. Henry William Areheart
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Armanious
Mr & Mrs Harry Athanasiou
Mrs. Desi Anthou Austin
Mr & Mrs Alvin Backeris
Mr & Mrs Van Backeris
Anthony & Alexandra Balouris
Chris & Chrysoula Balouris
Chris & Kathy Balouris
Dr. & Mrs. Constantine Balouris
Mr. & Mrs. James T. Balouris
Mr. & Mrs. John R. Balouris
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas A. Balouris
Penny Balouris
Lynn & Ethel Barker
Anastasia & Joseph Barron
Mrs. Anne-Marie Battaglia
Mr. Arthur G. Beckas
Mrs Olga Beckas
Mrs. Athena Bober
Mr. Michael J. Bober Jr.
Mr. Todd Bogdanovich
Ms. Pamela M. Bolkovac
Helen Bonaros
Dr & Mrs Reggie Bonfield
Dennis Bossick & Penny
Fakles-Bossick
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Bounos
Dr. & Mrs. Alexander Bournias

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Bournias
Jason Brewer
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Brewer
Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Caromano
Mr. Peter Castellano
Mr. & Mrs. Doug Cervenak
Mr & Mrs Charles Chapas
Mr & Mrs James Chapas
Mr. Thomas J. Chapas
Mr Louis Cherpes
Ms. Sherry Clayton
Steven & Jill Cole
Mr. & Mrs. Ryan Copeland
Ms. Cynthia Morris Criss
Alexander Danis
Mr. Demetrios G. Danis
Mr. & Mrs. Evan Danis
George & Sophia Danis
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Dedousis
Mrs. Helen DeMoss
George & Stacy Dickos
Samuel Dickson
William & Jennifer Dickson
Mr. & Mrs. Nikolas Doris
Theodore & Jennifer Drapas
Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Durosco
Josh & Margo Elliott
Mr & Mrs Frank Erdeljac
Mike Erdeljac
Mr & Mrs Christian Farmakis
Matthew Farmar
Nannette and Thomas Farmar
Bill & Tina Fiedler
Mrs Carol Fiffas
Mr. Brian & Mrs. Angie Fitzpatrick
Mr. & Mrs. John W. Fitzpatrick
Todd Fleming & Melissa Karidis
Andreas and Valori Fournaridis
Mr. Andrew Fournaridis &
Ms. Anna Mamo
Mr. & Mrs. John Franciscus
Mrs Tessie Frankos
Mrs Constance Fries
Miss Diana Fries
Mr John Fries
Ms Georgia Gagianas
Yianni & Marika Gagianas
Dr & Mrs Peter Gagianas
James Gambieris
Mr & Mrs Markos Gambieris

Mr. & Mrs. Josh Skrba
Mrs. Joan Gatsiopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. George Geanopoulos
Mr. Gregory G. Geanopoulos
Mr & Mrs Thomas Geanopoulos
Effie Geanous
Mrs. Fabiola Georgallis
George & Arnette Georges
Mr & Mrs Gus Georgiadis
Dr. and Mrs. Mark Georgiadis
Michael Georgiadis
Ms. Rebecca Georgiadis
Mr & Mrs Steven Georgiadis
Mr & Mrs Thomas Germanos
Alex & Marina Giallonardo
Mr & Mrs Peter Giannoutsos
Spiros & Stacy Giannoutsos
Mr. & Mrs. Jason Gidas
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Glew
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Glyptis
Mrs. Eugenia Graser
George Gregorich
Mr & Mrs Timothy Gross
Alexandra Guthrie
Christine Guthrie
Constantinos & Lorraine Hadjipanayis
George & Anna Halkias
Ms Pennie Hareras
Mrs Voula Hareras
Mr. & Mrs. John Anthony Hastings
George & Amanda Hulse
Mr & Mrs Carlo Iasella
Mr & Mrs James Johnson
Dr. Kristina Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. George Kachulis
Mr & Mrs Nick Kakavis
Mr & Mrs Evangelo Kaparakos
Dr. & Mrs. Gregory Karabin
Mrs. Irene Karavolos
Mr. & Mrs. George Karpakis
Dr & Mrs James Kermes
Dr Imad Alizray and Ms Zelfa Khalil
Mr. & Mrs. Lazarus Kirifides
Mr. & Mrs. James Kolovos
Fanny Kostos
Ms Elenie Kourouklis
Mrs Vasiliki Kourouklis
Mr. & Mrs. Dean Kraniou
Dr & Mrs Dimitris Kraniou
Marios & Julia Kritiotis

Thank you to the following faithful stewards who have submitted a 2024 Stewardship pledge. Please join them in their support for the ministries of Holy Trinity and complete your [2025 Stewardship Pledge](#) today by card or using Realm online or in the Realm app! Or click the QR code below. Let's keep the momentum!

Mike & Julie Kritiotis
 Mr. & Mrs. James Kukunas
 Paul & Ashley Kukunas
 Mr. Stephen T. Kukunas
 Mr & Mrs Wayne Kurtz
 Mrs Despina Ladakos
 Mr. James L. Lakes
 Mr. & Mrs. Philip LeDuc
 Mr & Mrs Michael Leist
 Nektarios & Jill Leontiadis
 Anthony & Amy Loomis
 Mr. and Mrs. Chris Loomis
 Mr & Mrs Louis T. Loomis
 Nicholas Loomis
 John Lowman
 Brett and Eleni Lucido
 Douglas Lupnacca & Vaia
 Kolovos-Lupnacca
 George & Mary Magnone
 Mr. Curtis Magnuson &
 Ms. Karen Joseph
 Mrs. Anita Sinicrope-Maier
 Gregory & Karen Manis
 Nick & Sarah Manis
 George Manolangas
 John & Agnes Markanich
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Marsh
 Maria Mason
 Mr & Mrs John McCann
 Mrs. Jaymee McClain
 Marc McMullen and
 Alexandra Valliant
 George & Veronica Mellis
 Mrs. Milita Mellis
 Mr & Mrs Jeff Mercadante
 Eleni Mermigas
 Mr. & Mrs. James Mermigas
 Mrs. Mary Mermigas
 Mrs. Arlene Metropulos
 Herb Miller & Georgia Beckas Miller
 Mr & Mrs Meno Mitaras
 Mr. Gregory Morris
 Thomas Mourtacos
 Mr & Mrs George Nakis
 Mr & Mrs Mark Opacic
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Paese
 Mr. Michael Pagonis
 Mr & Mrs William Pagonis
 Gen. & Mrs. William Pagonis
 Mr. & Mrs. George Pandelios
 Mr. George Pantelakis

Mr. & Mrs. George P. Pantelas, Jr.
 Mr & Mrs Paul Pantelas
 Ronald Pantelas
 Mr. Dimitrios J. Pantzoulas
 Mr. & Mrs. Danny Papakalos
 Dr. & Mrs. Robert Papas
 Loukia Papatheodorou
 Mr & Mrs Andrew Pappas
 Dr. Orestis Pappas & Marina Diapoulis
 Mr. Anthony Pappis
 Mr. Michael Pappis
 Orestes & Arlene Paras
 Mr. Basil Paschaledis
 Dean & Ann Passodelis
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Passodelis
 Nicholas & Gabriella Passodelis
 Mr. & Mrs. George Pastor
 Mr. Chris Patsilevas
 Mrs Anna Gahagan Patsilevas
 Sierra Patsilevas
 Gregory & Kelly Karavolos-Pefferman
 Charlie & Jan Petredis
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles W. Petredis
 Mr. Christian Petredis
 Mr. & Mrs. John Petropoulos
 Mr. & Mrs. Joseph P. Phaturos
 John & Pamela Phillips
 Mrs. Betty Pickios
 Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Pickios
 Ms Rania Pontikos
 Katina and Salvatore Re
 Matthew Reed & Amy Brock-Reed
 Mr. & Mrs. Evan Rigas
 Ms. Julianne Rogozewicz
 Mr & Mrs Stephen Roman
 Mrs. Afaf Saikaly
 Chris Sarandou
 Nick & Jane Sarandou
 Irina Pergoncev
 Christopher and Sandra Schall
 Kristi & Michael Schmitt
 Mrs Angeliki Scoumis
 Dr. & Mrs. Dean Scoumis
 Mr. Vasilios Scoumis
 Presvytera Eileen Sedor
 Stephanie Sedor
 Jamie and Lorne Seifert
 Manny & Joanna Sideris
 Ms. Theone Stateson
 Robert & Marianne Stearns
 Mr. Stephen Daniel Stearns

Mr. & Mrs. Craig Steiner
 Christine Metropulos and Dave Steiner
 Dr & Mrs Samuel Stepanow
 Mr. & Mrs. Kirk Stephen
 Luke Stephen
 Mr. & Mrs. Daniel C. Stephenson
 Theodore & Mary Ellen Stewart
 Jon & Judith Stipanovich
 Brian Tabb & Elaina Balouris Tabb
 Nicholas & Maria Terezis
 Mr. & Mrs. James Thomas
 Mr & Mrs James Thomas
 Jessica Thomas & Erik Francken
 Mrs Georgia Touloumes
 Mr and Mrs Michael Tzanakakis
 Ms Constance Bistolos-Walters
 Mr & Mrs Gerri Valliant
 Chad and Alecia Vomer
 Maria & Alex Voukounas
 Mrs. Joanne Ladakos Watson
 Sonia & Christopher Welch
 Miss Mary-Magdalene Welsh
 Mr & Mrs Eric White
 Daniel & Jeanne Willow
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Zagnacky
 Mr & Mrs George Zappas
 Katrina & Nick Zbur
 Dr & Mrs Antonios Zikos
 Ms Anna Zissis
 Mr & Mrs Louis Zozos
 Deborah Zuniga



**IT'S TIME TO
 SUBMIT YOUR
 2025 PLEDGE!**

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



2024 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!

- Lynda Areheart In honor of Mary Magdalene Welsh
- Mark & Amy Armanious..... For the health of the Armanious Family
- The Athanasiou Family In memory of Stella Athanasiou
- The Athanasiou Family In memory of George Athanasiou
- The Athanasiou Family In memory of George Bertos
- The Athanasiou FamilyFor the health of the Athanasiou and Bertos Families
- The Athanasiou FamilyIn appreciation for the overwhelming love and support of their Holy Trinity Family
- Chris & Kathy BalourisIn memory of Rev Fr John Androustopoulos (3 plants)
- Chris & Kathy Balouris In memory of Helen Balouris
- Chris & Kathy Balouris In memory of Anthony Balouris
- Ethel & Lynn Barker In memory of the Kalogeras and Geanous Families
- Joseph & Anastasia Barron..... In memory of Sophie & Eleftherios Parikakis
- Joseph & Anastasia Barron..... In memory of Danielle Zagnacky
- Anne-Marie W. Battaglia In memory of Maria Andrews
- Pamela Bolkovac In memory of her parents Nick & Mary Bolkovac (4 plants)
- Helen Bonaros..... In memory of Nicholas
- Helen Bonaros..... In memory of Emanuel
- Helen Bonaros..... In memory of Drakula
- Reggie & Marianne Bonfield In memory of John & Helen Chapas
- Reggie & Marianne BonfieldIn memory of John & Mary Bonfield
- Reggie & Marianne Bonfield For the health of family & friends
- The Bonfield & Chapas FamiliesIn memory of Frank & Anne Chapas (3 plants)
- Alexandra Cameron For the health of Irene Petredis
- Alexandra CameronFor the health of Dorothy Macut

NATIVITY FLOWER DONATIONS

Doug & Jody Cervenak.....In memory of Josh Cervenak
Doug & Jody Cervenak..... For the health of the Cervenak Family
Bill & Connie Chapas..... In memory of their parents
Bill & Sophea Chapas..... In memory of John & Helen Chapas
Jim & Bobbie Chapas In memory of John & Helen Chapas
Jim & Bobbie Chapas In memory of their niece Samantha Stroehlen
Sherry Clayton For the health and happiness of her Holy Trinity Family
George & Sophia Danis In memory of Demetrios & Evdoxia Danis
George & Sophia DanisIn memory of George V. Gatsiopoulos & Vasiliki Gatsiopoulos
George & Sophia Danis In memory of John & Sophia Regas
Helen DeMoss..... In memory of John DeMoss and Steve & Anthoula Pefanis
Helen DeMoss..... For the health of the DeMoss, Gross and Stum Families
Christine Dickos In memory of her husband Dinos Dickos
William & Jennifer Dickson..... For the health of family and friends (2 plants)
Frank & Katina Erdeljac..... In memory of Mike Alexiades
Frank & Katina Erdeljac.....In memory of Theologia Alexiades
Frank & Katina Erdeljac..... In memory of Mary Alexiades
Frank & Katina Erdeljac..... In memory of Alex Alexiades
Bill & Tina Fiedler..... For the health of family and friends
Bill & Tina Fiedler..... In memory of their beloved parents, grandparents, niece, family & friends
John & Georgia Franciscus and Family In memory of George & Betty Beckas
John & Georgia Franciscus and Family In memory of John Beckas and Vasiliki Petropoulos
John & Georgia Franciscus and Family In memory of Demetra Kastanis and Peter Katsafanas
Tessie Frankos In memory of her beloved husband James and daughter Dimitria Frankos
Connie Fries..... For the health of family & friends
Connie Fries.....In memory of George & Margaret Lemberopoulos
Connie Fries..... In memory of Mary & Peter Panos
Connie Fries..... In memory of Konstantinos & Fanie Athanasopoulos
Connie Fries..... In memory of John & Toulia Giannoutsos
Connie Fries..... In memory of Spiros & Catherine Giannoutsos
Connie Fries..... In memory of Lou & Marge Parikakis
Connie Fries.....In memory of Georgiann Bounos
Connie Fries..... In memory of James Statheas
Connie Fries..... In memory of Alex Trilivas
George & Phyllis Geanopulos In memory of Harry & Helen Geanopulos
George & Phyllis Geanopulos In memory of John & Erma Haas
Gus & Penny Georgiadis In memory of George & Mary Kalodikis

NATIVITY FLOWER DONATIONS

Gus & Penny Georgiadis In memory of Peter & Mary Georgiadis
Dr. & Mrs. Mark Georgiadis..... In memory of their parents
Eugenia GraserIn memory of her husband Robert Graser and parents Michael & Maria Patsalos
George & Anna Halkias For the health of family and friends (2 plants)
Pennie HarerasIn memory of Gus Hareras, Angelo Hareras and Athena Hareras
Pennie Hareras In memory of Jim Statheas and Eleftheria Koutsouflakis
Eugenia Hoehn In memory of the Phaturros Family
Zita & Carlo Iasella In memory of John & Helen Balouris (3 plants)
Zita & Carlo IasellaIn memory of Paul & Sandy Balouris (2 plants)
James S. Johnson and Kristina Johnson.....In memory of their parents Homer J. & Stella Johnson
James S. Johnson and Kristina Johnson..... In memory of their grandparents George & Augustina Makris
Betty & Nick KakavisIn memory of Scott Kakavis
Evan & Kelley Kaparakos In memory of Nick Kaparakos and the Kaparakos Family
Irene Karavolos For the health of her family
Irene Karavolos In memory of Charles E. Siebott
Irene Karavolos In memory of Steve & Kelly Karavolos
Dr. James & Mrs. Bettina Kermes For the health of family & friends
Vaso & Elenie Kourouklis.....In memory of Achille Kourouklis
Vaso & Elenie Kourouklis.....In memory of Georgios Kourouklis
Vaso & Elenie Kourouklis..... In memory of Stavroula Repana
Vaso & Elenie Kourouklis..... In memory of Dimitris Repana
Mike & Julie Kritiotis For the health of family and friends
Mike & Julie Kritiotis In memory of Agapios & Maria Kritiotis
Nicholas T. LoomisIn memory of his beloved wife Joy
George & Anita MaierFor the health of Betty & Ernest Rossi
John & Tasy McCannFor the health of Connor, Alyssa, Henry & Cora (2 plants)
Jeff & Penny Mercadante In memory of George & Elaine Christ
Christine Metropulos & Dave Steiner In memory of their loved ones
Meno & Jean Mitaras and family In memory of the Mitaras & Condos families
William J. PagonisIn memory of James & Mary Pagonis (2 plants)
Deacon Matthew & Diakonissa Nina 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
Elizabeth Pickios..... In memory of her beloved husband Anthony Pickios (5 plants)
Rania PontikosIn memory of Polixeni Pontikos (2 plants)
Sal & Katina Re For the health and well-being of their families and friends (2 plants)

NATIVITY FLOWER DONATIONS

Steve & Electra Roman	In memory of George & Metaxia Roman and family
Steve & Electra Roman	In memory of Bill & Harriet Amurgis and family
James F. Sicalias	In memory of his mother Bessie Cocheres-Sicalias
Joanna Sideris	In memory of Mary Constantino
Josie Stofko	In memory of Olga Regakis
Nick, & Maria Terezis	For the health of the Terezis family
Gerri & Paula Valliant	In memory of Anthony & Helen Balouris
Gerri & Paula Valliant	In memory of Peter & Helen Valliant
Joanne Ladakos Watson	For the health and well-being of the Holy Trinity family (10 plants)
George Zappas	In memory of Paul Zappas
George Zappas	In memory of Agnes Zappas
George Zappas	In memory of William Zappas
The Zissis Family	In memory of Anthony & Aspasia Zissis
The Zissis Family	In memory of Frank & Anezo Zissis
The Zissis Family	In memory of George & Bessie Christodoulos
The Zissis Family	In memory of Thea Kiki, Thea Fofa, Thea Tasoula and Soc
Julie & Lou Zozos	In memory of Eileen Hoffmann
Julie & Lou Zozos	In memory of Thea Helen Sfakainos
Julie & Lou Zozos	In memory of George & Persephone Zozos



Youth and the Acceptance of Christ

One must consciously place upon oneself the good yoke of Christ, choose the life of Christianity, and exclusively dedicate oneself to God

Q: Geronda, parents love and provide for their children in many ways. What is the most important thing?

The chief aim of a Christian upbringing is that a person as a result of [being raised in the faith] might say within himself that he is a Christian. And if, when he comes to full awareness of himself he will say, "I am a Christian, obliged by my Savior and God to live in such a way so as to be granted the blessed communion with Him and with His chosen ones in the future life," then in the very midst of his independent existence or the unique, rational ordering of his life, he will place for himself as his first and essential duty to preserve in an independent way and to warm the spirit of piety in which he previously walked under the guidance of others.

Q: We only have them for a while. What happens when they are out on their own?

A: There must be a special moment when one intentionally renews in one's awareness all the obligations of Christianity and place upon oneself their yoke as an unfailing law. In baptism they were accepted without awareness because then they were kept more by the mind and attitude of someone else and in simplicity, but now one must consciously place upon oneself the good yoke of Christ, choose the life of Christianity, and exclusively dedicate oneself to God, so that later all the days of one's life one might serve Him with enthusiasm.

Here only does a man himself begin the Christian life.

It existed in him previously, also, but one may say it proceeded not from his own activity, nor from his own person. Now he himself, in his own person, begins to act in the spirit of a Christian. Before this, the light of Christ was in him like the light of the first day (of creation), which came not from one central source, but was diffused. But just as centers had to be provided for the light, drawing it to the suns and planets, so also this (spiritual) light must be gathered together around the central point of our life—our consciousness.

Q: There are so many forces out there teaching so many kinds of "truth" to our children. How can we protect them?

A: A person becomes entirely human when he comes to self-awareness and independence of mind, when he becomes the complete master and commander of his own ideas and deeds and holds certain ideas, not because others have given these to him, but because he himself finds them to be true. A person, when he becomes a Christian, still remains a man, and therefore in his Christianity he must also be rational, only this rationality he should turn toward the profit of holy faith...

He must be a conscious confessor, so that acting in this way, he acts as



Saint Theophan the Recluse

he should. All this he does when he consciously places upon himself the good yoke of Christ. Only here does one's personal faith, or one's good life according to faith, become firm and unshakable.

One will not be scandalized by a bad example, will not be attracted by empty thoughts, because he is clearly conscious of the obligation of thinking and acting already in a definite way. We see in the lives of all who have preserved the grace of baptism that there was in these lives a moment when they decisively dedicated themselves to God; this is indicated by such words as "he became inflamed in spirit," "he was ignited by a divine desire."

Q: So we can offer, but it is ultimately up to them to choose, correct?

Indeed, let him who has become conscious of himself as a Christian, or has consciously decided to live in a Christian way, himself now preserve with all care the perfection and purity of life which he has received at a younger age, just as others have preserved this life before him. ❖

Excerpted from
The Path to Salvation

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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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.

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 Deacon Matthew Palamara, Deacon

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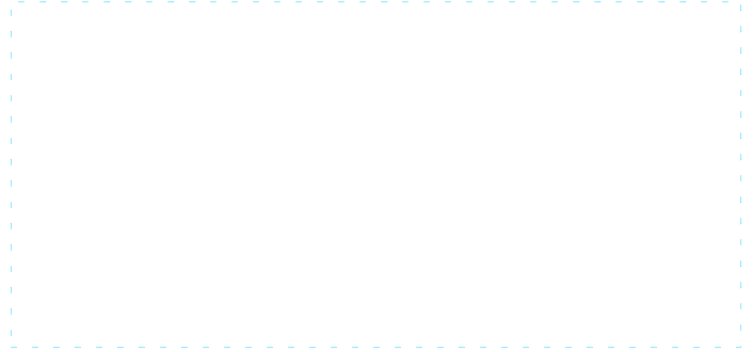
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MAXIMS FOR DAILY LIFE FROM FATHER MAXIMOS

It's a new year. Forget about resolutions. Adopt maxims. A maxim is "a rule, principle, or helpful guide." These are excerpted from a larger list by Father Maximos Conostas, distinguished Orthodox clergyman, monastic, author and speaker.

- ✘ Start your day with prayer.
- ✘ Be grateful at being alive and having twenty-four brand-new hours to live. Remember that every day is a chance to make a new beginning.
- ✘ Commit to memory a meaningful phrase from your morning devotions (from the Epistle, Gospel, or other spiritual reading) and call it to mind throughout the day.
- ✘ Use red traffic lights or traffic jams to slow down, take a breath, and say the Jesus Prayer.
- ✘ At the office, take regular breaks.
- ✘ Don't eat lunch at your desk. Change environments. Go for a walk.
- ✘ Before going to work, or to a meeting, think about what you want to accomplish, what you need to say, and who you need to be.
- ✘ Learn to see your work as a contribution to the good of all and not merely a means to personal enrichment or advancement.
- ✘ Try and relax and restore yourself before going home so you don't bring accumulated negative feelings, thoughts or frustrations home with you.
- ✘ Practice looking for the positive things in your work and your fellow priests and colleagues. Express your gratitude and appreciation to them regularly for their good work.

