



THE HOLY TRINITY

HERALD

Faith. Family. Community

April 2025
Volume 33 | Issue 4

CHRIST IS RISEN! TRULY HE IS RISEN!

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PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Church School students and staff carry icons in the March 9 Sunday of Orthodoxy procession and celebration. See more Community Life Journal photos on pages 10-11.

Come, all you faithful, let us venerate the holy Resurrection of Christ; for behold, through the Cross, joy has come to the whole world. Ever blessing the Lord, let us praise His Resurrection; for having endured the Cross for us, He has destroyed death by death. (The Resurrection Ode)



Father John Touloumes
Proistamenos

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 Orthodox Christian Faith in its fullness as faithful members of the Body of Christ.

We knew not whether we were in heaven or on earth. For on earth there is no such splendor or such beauty, and we are at a loss how to describe it. We know only that God dwells there among men, and their service is fairer than the ceremonies of other nations. For we cannot forget that beauty.

Visitors to Hagia Sophia, Constantinople, 987 A.D.

My beloved Holy Trinity family,

In 987 A.D., Prince Vladimir of Kiev is said to have sent emissaries to different countries to learn about the religion and worship of each. He was searching for an appropriate faith for his people. In Constantinople, they were taken to Hagia Sophia, the Cathedral of the imperial capital. Their report is quoted above: "We knew not whether we were in heaven or on earth."

What is so striking about this account is that this educated group of emissaries who were in search of truth did not return speaking of theology and dogma, but of beauty. That was what embraced them; that is what convinced them. And that is not surprising, because when it comes to our understanding of and relationship with God, we were created with an attraction to beauty: the beauty of the world He created for us; the beauty of His love; and the beauty of His house. As it says in Psalm 26.8, "O Lord, I love, the beauty of Your house; and the place where Your glory dwells."

Anyone can experience a taste of that beauty any day of the year just walking into Holy Trinity Church. I hear it constantly from visitors, newcomers and even long-time members. Simply entering the Church brings one into an encounter of beauty that speaks not just to the eyes, but to the heart and the soul.

And there is no better time to fully immerse oneself in the full beauty of it all than the services of Holy Week and Pascha. From beginning to end, the Church takes us by the hand and leads us with hymns, prayers, practices and, of course, the Holy Scriptures through the events of the last week of Jesus Christ on earth and His rising from the dead. Long before the age of multimedia, the wisdom of the Church knew that this "full immersion" experience opened the doors of all our senses so we could embrace His divine truth with our entire being.

I traveled to Constantinople in 2007 and stood on the floor in the middle of that sacred space. It is overwhelming simply as a building, let alone a sacred space. Closing my eyes I imagined standing in that same spot 1,400 years earlier and how incredibly beautiful and powerful it had to be in its glory. How exciting!

Here's the great news: you don't need to travel back in time or to Hagia Sophia. Take the journey to the Resurrection right here at home—your home: Holy Trinity Church. We have been so blessed to be surrounded by such beauty. Be sure to "fully immerse" yourself this Pascha. You won't know "whether you are in heaven or on earth."

Paternally in the Risen Christ,

BECOME WHAT YOU WERE MADE TO BE. DISCOVER LIFE ANEW.

LIVING FOR CHRIST

PRAY, FAST, ATTEND, REPENT, CONFESS, GROW

“Let your manner of life be worthy of the Gospel of Christ” (Philippians 1.27)

WORSHIP LIFE

Weekday Services - April

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

Holy Martyrs of Ntaou Penteli Monastery April 22

During the Consecration of the Saint George Chapel, three relics were sealed in the Holy Altar table: Saint Panteleimon, Saint Kyrikos, and the Holy 179 Martyrs of the Ntaou Penteli Monastery. The Feast of the 179 Holy Martyrs falls each year on Bright Tuesday, so we will offer services in their honor on that day at the Chapel, with Orthros at 8:30am followed by Divine Liturgy. Hronia Polla!

Saint George Chapel Feast Day April 23

The Feast of Saint George the Great Martyr, Patron Saint of our Chapel, falls on the Orthodox calendar on April 23 and is usually celebrated at the Chapel on that day or on Bright Monday if it falls during Lent. Hronia Polla for the Feast of Saint George and glory to God for the beautiful Chapel which is so much a part of our community life!

LENT AND PASCHA

2025 Lenten Theme: “Living for Christ”

Each year we offer a theme for Lent which builds on our Orthodox Christian tradition in a way that helps us grow and connect with Christ in today’s world. This year the theme is “Living for Christ” taken from Philippians 1.27: “Let your manner of life be worthy of the Gospel of Christ” During the Lenten journey, you will hear lessons on the many opportunities the Church provides as we restore our relationship with Jesus Christ and His Holy Church and how we can re-evaluate the priorities of our life and live it in a manner worthy of our high calling as His servants and disciples.

Lenten and Holy Week Schedules of Services

This issue of *The Herald* contains a complete schedule of services for Holy Week. Both the Lenten and Holy Week schedules are also available online at our website. Please post them in a conspicuous place in your home. Make a family plan and circle the services you are able to attend and place them on your schedule and on your phone and computer calendars! As the hymn from the Book of Psalms tells us during the Great Compline service, “God is with us.” He has planted the desire for His peace in our hearts and souls. Let’s let nothing keep us from it.

Lenten Soup Sales

Holy Trinity GOYA is once again offering its very popular Lenten soup sales through Palm Sunday. Among the many good reasons to buy some to take home are that they are strict Lenten recipes, they provide fund-raising support for our GOYA ministry ... plus they taste great and they are good for you! Please visit the Lenten Soup Sales table in Gallery during Hospitality Hour each week! Thank you!

Lenten Hospitality Hours

Please keep in mind that throughout Lent our Hospitality Hours following the Divine Liturgy observe Orthodox Lenten fasting practices. Any families or ministries hosting a Memorial or Ministry Hospitality Hour and any families hosting providing the Church School snacks are asked to take care that non-meat and non-dairy items are provided. The Hospitality Hour and Church School ministries can provide suggestions if needed. Thank you for helping our community grow in this proper and helpful Orthodox spiritual practice and discipline.

Lent: A Good Time for Holy Confession

In addition to the special services being held in this holy season, please remember that one of the main focuses of Lent is increased attention to our spiritual life through prayer, fasting and Holy Confession. Orthodox Christians should participate regularly, and Lent provides a good reminder to do so. Through this Holy Mystery we receive

the gift of God's divine forgiveness (John 20.23) and the opportunity to share our deepest concerns and receive counsel and encouragement toward spiritual growth. If you would like to receive this blessing during Lent—or any time—please speak with Fr. John or Fr. Radu to set up a time for Holy Confession. *Kali Metanoia!* (Good repentance!)

Saturday of Lazarus Palm Crosses/Candles... Apr. 12

Calling all Holy Trinity Church School students and staff, their families, friends relatives, and everyone at Holy Trinity Church: Your help is needed to prepare Palm Crosses and candles for our Holy Week services! Divine Liturgy is at 9:30 a.m. followed by a Lenten breakfast and the project. The GOYA teens will also be setting up for the Palm Sunday luncheon. And Holy Confession is available for the young people and teens. This is a family event for all.

GOYA Community Palm Sunday Luncheon.... April 13

The GOYA teen ministry will be hosting their very popular annual Community Palm Sunday Fish Luncheon again this year in the Grand Room of Holy Trinity Center. Please make plans to attend with your family and be sure to buy your tickets in the Gallery after Liturgy or online at HolyTrinityPgh.org/events by April 8, because advance purchase is required. Take out will be available, too!

Help Decorate Kouvouklion on Holy Friday!... April 18

As we prepare to celebrate Pascha, please consider taking the day off from school or work on Holy Friday. All ages are invited to come to the church and help with decorating the Kouvouklion (the Tomb of Christ) with flowers immediately following the 8:30am Service of the Royal Hours. Important note: this is a family opportunity, not a "drop-off" event. Young children must be accompanied and supervised by a parent or responsible adult.

Make Plans for the Anastasi Dinner April 19

Don't forget to make plans to attend the Resurrection Orthros, Liturgy and Dinner on Holy Saturday evening/the early morning hours of Pascha. Following the Paschal Divine Liturgy, join your Holy Trinity family to celebrate the Feast of Feasts at the Holy Trinity family table! Reservations are not required, but there will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex during Holy Week to sign if you plan to attend so we can plan for food preparation.

Agape Vespers & Paschal Candy Hunt..... April 20

The Church School ministry is again sponsoring the annual Paschal Candy Hunt on the Main Lawn of the church (weather permitting) on Pascha following the Agape Vespers Service at 12:00 p.m. All the children are invited to come for this bright, beautiful service. It is a great way for those with children who are not able to attend the midnight service to share in a special celebration of Pascha. Are you

able to donate candy or treat items for this event? Visit HolyTrinityPgh.org/events to volunteer. Thank you!

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

GOYA Meeting April 6

The GOYA teen ministry will be holding its monthly meeting on Sunday, April 6. All teens are invited to attend.

Summer Camp Registration Is Open!

The Metropolis of Pittsburgh has announced the dates for its 2025 Summer Camp season. They are as follows:

- Week 1 (Grades 2-4): June 15 - June 21
- Week 2 (Grades 5-7): June 22 - June 28
- Week 3 (Grades 7-9): June 29 - July 5
- Week 4 (Grades 10-12): July 6- July 12

IMPORTANT: The standard fee for 2025 is \$695, but all active youth participants of Holy Trinity Church member families may register for camp using code "**SC25HTP**" to receive \$395 off the registration fee, reducing the fee to only \$300. Registration opens April 8 at 7:00pm. The code **must** be used at the time of registration. Early registration deadline is May 8. Find information and to register for camp, visit y2am.pittsburgh.goarch.org/summercamp.

COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

Hospitality Hour Hosts Needed

Thank you to everyone who has stepped up to host our reformatted "Hospitality Hour" following our Sunday Divine Liturgies. There are still a number of available Sundays in the Spring and plenty during the summer. Remember a loved one. Celebrate a special event. Share your hospitality with the community. Contact Stacy Dickos at 412-298-9409 or email her at hospitality@HolyTrinityPgh.org to reserve.

Stewardship Independence: Let's Keep It Up in 2025

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 the giving kiosk in the Narthex. However you choose to support our ministries, thank you! ❖

TAKE UP THE

CROSS

AND FOLLOW CHRIST

The Romans might have invented it as tool for cruel punishment, torture, and execution. However, Christ transforms all things, and He turns even sorrow and pain into paths towards healing and redemption.

The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." (Matthew 16.24)

Today we mark Godparent/Godchild Sunday and we remember our baptism when, most probably, our godparents offered us a cross that we still wear around our necks. Second, we celebrate the Sunday of the Cross. In both, we are reminded to take up our own cross and follow Jesus. What does it mean to take up the cross, what are some examples from our Tradition, and how can we follow Christ's example?

The Cross was a horrible way to die. A person would asphyxiate when they could no longer open up their lungs by either pulling themselves up or pushing with their legs. They had to give up when exhausted, so they were aware of death. In a sense, they participate in their own execution. Moreover, Romans made the condemned carry their own cross while they were being displayed publicly in shame, throughout the city. Note again the cruelty of forcing the condemned to participate in their own execution. No one would ever volunteer for such a thing, and yet, Jesus asks his disciples to do that on their own, not forced by a Roman occupier: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." This was a surprise to his disciples, though they heard something similar before: "if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile" (Mt. 5:41). We have the English expression, "Going the extra mile," which means to work harder or to be extra nice. But the original context was much more powerful: a Roman soldier was allowed by law to force the person in the occupied territory to carry their shield, helmet, and sword for a mile; Jesus' disciples, out of love for enemy, need to offer to go an extra mile. Note the similarity between these two passages: a Christian volunteers to suffer at the hand of the enemy.

To better understand what it means to take up the cross, let us look at examples of people who volunteered to do that. First and foremost, Jesus came to his passion of his own will. In the Divine Liturgy we hear the words: "on the night on which he was betrayed—



or rather, gave himself up for the life of the world—he took the bread ... and the cup ...” These might be the most beautiful words in the Divine Liturgy and they show that Jesus came to his Passion voluntarily. Indeed, he was betrayed, but, above all, he took up his Cross for us by his own will. That is why the text appears to correct itself (“or rather”) but in fact it emphasizes a larger truth.

Second, remember the example of Simon of Cyrene. Jesus could no longer carry the Cross, so Simon carried it. This is an important lesson for us: if Jesus himself needed help to carry the cross, how much more do we? We do not carry our cross alone. We can ask for help from the saints, God, our loved ones, and friends. We might fall alone, but we are not saved alone. We are saved with others and we should ask others for help to carry our cross.

Third is the model of “The Martyrdom of St. Ignatius,” who lived in the beginning of the second century. He was a bishop in Antioch and had escaped numerous persecutions. Then there was a short period of peace, when persecutions had ceased for a little time. But Ignatius was grieved “that he had not yet attained to a true love to Christ, nor reached the perfect rank of a disciple. For he inwardly reflected that the confession which is made in martyrdom would bring him into a yet more intimate relation to the Lord.” Indeed, that moment came shortly after that, when he was arrested, put in chains, and taken to Rome. Several Christians offered to use their influence and liberate him, but St. Ignatius wrote them that they should not do so. Rather, they should let him be martyred, to be one with Christ. That is precisely what happened in the year 108, when St. Ignatius was devoured by beasts in the circus, for



the entertainment of the masses. But the saint had not been defeated; after his death, he appeared in a vision to some Christians who were gathered in his name, around his relics, in prayer. In that vision, the saint comforted them, embraced them, prayed for them, while standing by Christ, filling them with great joy. This saint is an embodiment of our gospel reading: he takes up his cross by his own will, follows Jesus in martyrdom, shares with Jesus in his victory, and helps others carry their own cross by offering them consolation and his prayers, as he now intercedes for them to Christ, standing next to Christ.

That is truly the meaning of the Cross: the Romans might have invented it as tool for cruel punishment, torture, and execution. However, Christ transforms all things, and He turns even sorrow and pain into paths towards healing and redemption. He destroys death by death. When you feel down, when you feel powerless, remember the power of Christ to lift you up. Take up the

Cross to share in victory with Christ. The most significant symbol of death in the ancient world has become a symbol of life and resurrection for us. The cross is, for us, a symbol of our suffering in imitation of Christ and a promise of His victory. The Holy Cross is the sign of the liberation and restoration we have been given because of Christ's sacrifice.

In summary, the Cross is not merely a beautiful piece of jewelry that we received from our Godparents at Baptism. It is, above all, a reminder to take up our cross and follow Christ. It was a cruel means of execution and Romans forced those condemned to carry it in a public display of humiliation and increased suffering. And yet, Jesus will take up the Cross voluntarily and asks his disciples to do the same: “If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.” In doing so, we are not alone. First and foremost, we are united with Jesus in his suffering so that we will also be united with him in his glory. Second, we have the help of the saints, just as Simon of Cyrene helped Jesus carry his Cross, or St. Ignatius of Antioch chose martyrdom to be with Christ and comfort the Christians left in this world.

Listening to today's Gospel reading and seeing the examples of the saints, we learn to live in faith, hope, and love by taking up our cross and following Christ. In faith, we know He is with us especially in trials. In hope, we know that the Light of the Resurrection awaits us on the other side of the cross. In love, we learn that the way to God's glory is through perseverance in times of trials. The only way out is through. The way to glory passes through the Cross daily. We, too, will reign with Him if we take up our Cross and follow Him. Amen. ❖

Delivered March 23, 2025



(Above) February 22: Prayers for the departed are offered at the Saturday of Souls service at Holy Trinity's Saint George Chapel. (Below) March 19: Presanctified Liturgy at St. John Orthodox Church in Allison Park.



THE SERVICES OF HOLY WEEK:

PALM SUNDAY

Palm Sunday is the commemoration of the Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem following His glorious miracle of raising Lazarus from the dead. It is one of one of the most joyous feasts of the year. Having anticipated His arrival and having heard of the miracle, the people went out to meet the Lord and welcomed Him with displays of honor and shouts of praise. On this day, we receive and worship Christ in this same manner, acknowledging Him as our King and Lord in our hearts.



HOLY MON., TUE. & WED.

Beginning on the evening of Palm Sunday and continuing through the evening of Holy Wednesday, the Church offers the beautiful Bridegroom Services, with Gospels relating the biblical events of Holy Week. They are actually the Orthros services of the following day (e.g. the service held on Palm Sunday evening is the Orthros service for Holy Monday). The name of the service is from the figure of the Bridegroom in the Parable of the Ten Virgins found in Matthew 25:1-13.



HOLY WEDNESDAY UNCTION

On the afternoon of Great and Holy Wednesday, the Sacrament or Mystery of Holy Unction is offered. This sacred blessing is for the healing of soul and body and for the forgiveness of sins. At the end of the service, the Orthodox faithful come forward to be anointed with the sacramental oil, and the grace of God, which heals infirmities of soul and body, is called down upon each person. For those who are non-Orthodox, an anointing of another holy oil is offered as a blessing for all.



HOLY THURSDAY

On Thursday of Holy Week, many events are commemorated: the washing of the Disciples' feet; the Mystical Supper Liturgy; the agony and great prayer in the garden of Gethsemane; and the betrayal of Christ by Judas. These culminate in the Crucifixion of Lord on the Cross, which is observed by anticipation on Thursday evening as liturgical time is moved ahead during Holy Week to accommodate the midnight Pascha Liturgy.



A DAY-BY-DAY EXPLANATION

HOLY FRIDAY

With the Crucifixion of the Lord having been observed the night before, on Great and Holy Friday the Church commemorates taking down from the Cross and burial of the Lord Jesus during the afternoon Vespers service. Then on Friday evening the Church gathers around the Tomb of Christ and sings the "Hymns of Praise" ("Engomia"), which both mourn His sacrifice and call on Him to rise as victor. A special feature Friday evening is a procession with the tomb ("Epitaphion") around the Church with hymns.



HOLY SATURDAY

Great and Holy Saturday is the day between the Crucifixion of our Lord and His glorious Resurrection. With the Orthros of Holy Saturday having been offered already on Friday evening, Holy Saturday morning features a Vespertine Liturgy with a type of "preview" of the Resurrection that will be celebrated later that night. The priests emerge from the Altar chanting "Arise, O God, and judge the earth," while sprinkling leaves and flowers representing life bursting forth from the tomb.



PASCHA: THE RESURRECTION

On the Great and Holy Pascha, the Orthodox Faith celebrates the life-giving Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The priest takes a flame from the vigil light and gives it to the faithful, chanting "Come and receive light from the unwaning light, and glorify Christ, who has risen from the dead". All the people hold their Paschal candles as a symbol of their deep faith in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Church is filled with joy and the victory hymn, "Christ is risen from the dead by death trampling down upon death."

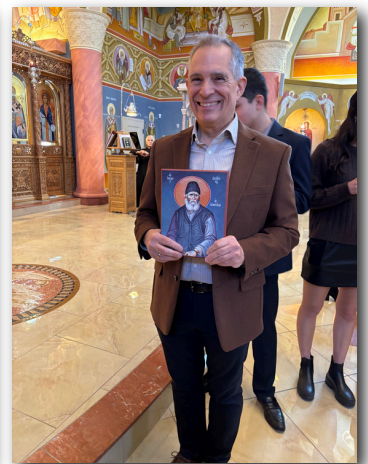


PASCHA: AGAPE VESPERS

On Pascha the faithful gather once more at mid-day for the "Agape Vespers" ("Vespers of Love") service with lighted candles and singing the hymn, "Christ is risen from the dead." This service has a special feature during which the Resurrection Gospel is read in many languages, symbolizing that the Good News of the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ is universal news and salvation for all who believe and proclaim it. After the Vespers, the children participate in a Paschal candy hunt on the church lawn.











(Above) February 25: Father Radu offers his “Explore the Word” Bible Study to an enthusiastic full house of parishioners. (Below left) March 23: The parish offers its Happy Birthday wishes on the occasion of Father Radu’s 50th birthday. (Below right) St. Photios 2025 Recipients are announced - George Danis and Gerri Valliant.





March 23: Holy Trinity Church celebrated its annual Godparent/Godchild Sunday on the Third Sunday of Lent, the Veneration of the Holy Cross. Families from around the area joined together for Divine Liturgy, a renewal of their baptismal commitment and a Lenten Hospitality Hour hosted by Holy Trinity Philopchos.





March 8: Holy Trinity Philoptochos Officers Marianne Stearns, Athena Bober, Connee Bistolas and Sherry Clayton attend the Metropolis of Pittsburgh Philoptochos Retreat at the Doubletree in Washington, PA.



The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh Philoptochos Society

2025 Daffodil Luncheon

Saturday, April 5, 2025 ~ 11am

**Holy Trinity Pittsburgh
Grand Room
985 Providence Boulevard
Pittsburgh, PA 15237**

Our own Holy Trinity Philoptochos is honored to host this annual charity event for the Metropolis. Registration and Sponsorship Forms available at the Church Office or email philoptochos@HolyTrinityPgh.org



HOLY TRINITY ANNOUNCES GREEK SCHOOL

**2025 - 2026 ENROLLMENT
INFORMATION SESSION**

SUNDAY APRIL 6TH
FOLLOWING CHURCH SCHOOL
FIRESIDE ROOM

Interested?

- Initially offered for age 3 to second grade
- Beginner level lessons
- Every Monday, early evening - 1 hour, Time TBD
- \$200 per student
- Classes will run September 2025 to May 2026

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:

Yianni Gagianas and Dean Kraniou at
GreekSchool@holytrinitypgh.org



His Eminence Metropolitan Savas cordially invites you to celebrate the dedicated volunteers of our Holy and God-protected Metropolis of Pittsburgh

ST. PHOTIOS AWARDS BANQUET

DOUBLETREE BY HILTON PITTSBURGH-CRANBERRY, MARS PA



SAT MAY 3 2025



4:00 PM

**SCAN ME TO
MAKE YOUR
RESERVATIONS**

**SCAN ME FOR
SPONSORSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES**



Tickets:

Awardees: complimentary

Adults: \$95.00

Children (under 12): \$25.00

Reservation Deadline: April 15

No Refunds after April 15

For information on Reservations, Sponsorships and Awardee Nominations please visit:
pittsburgh.goarch.org/st-photios-awards-banquet

CELEBRATE THE 2025 HOLY TRINITY AWARDEES: GEORGE DANIS AND GERRI VALLIANT



Louise Henry at lhenry@pittsburgh.goarch.org



412 621 5529 x10



pittsburgh.goarch.org



v3

THE FESTIVAL IS COMING...AND THE COOKING IS HERE!
 MARK THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR — TELL YOUR FRIENDS — EVERYONE IS WELCOME!



| SPANAKOPITA | |
|-------------|---------|
| Wed, Feb 26 | 9am-9pm |
| Thu, Feb 27 | 9am-5pm |

DONE!

| PASTITSIO | |
|---------------|------------------------|
| Thu, April 10 | 9am-6pm |
| Fri, April 11 | 9am-3pm (If needed) |

| PORTOKALOPITA | |
|---------------|---------|
| Tue, June 10 | 9am-9pm |

| BAKLAVA & CHOC. BAKLAVA | |
|-------------------------|---------|
| Thu, March 27 | 9am-9pm |

DONE!

| FINIKIA & KOURAMBIETHES | |
|-------------------------|---------|
| Sat, April 26 | 9am-6pm |

| DIPLES | |
|--------------|---------|
| Tue, June 17 | 9am-9pm |

| KOULOURAKIA | |
|---------------|---------------|
| Sun, March 30 | After Liturgy |

DONE!

| APRICOT ROLLS | |
|---------------|---------|
| Tue, May 6 | 9am-9pm |

| TIROPITA | |
|--------------|---------|
| Tue, June 24 | 9am-9pm |

| GALAKTOBOUREKO | |
|----------------|---------|
| Tue, May 20 | 9am-9pm |

| SOUZOUKAKIA | |
|--------------|---------|
| Wed, July 16 | 9am-9pm |

OUR GOAL IS TO GET AT LEAST 30 PEOPLE EACH DAY SO THAT WE MAY FINISH ON TIME!

Can YOU give at least a few hours of time for YOUR community's festival? Look over the dates and times listed here.

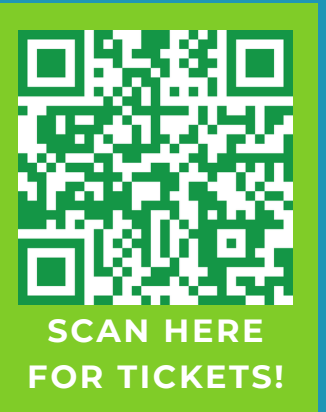
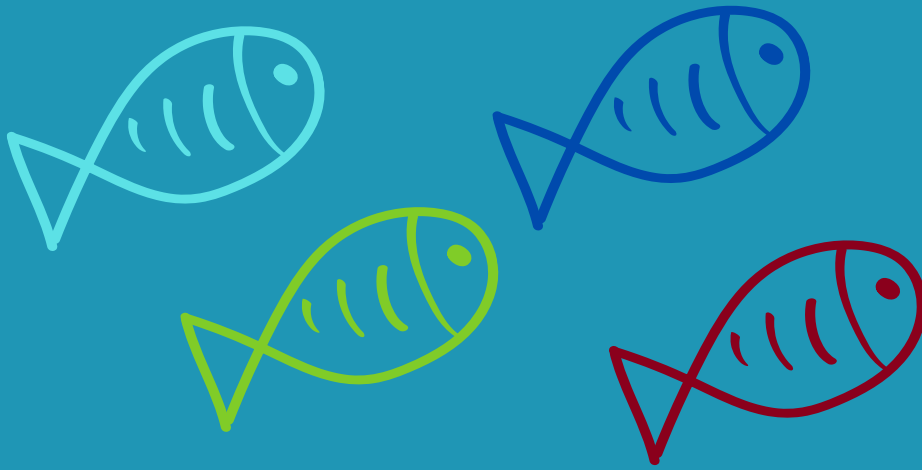
You'll see both evening and daytime hours, during the week and on the weekends. Everyone's help is needed!

No experience needed...we train on the job! Think of it as free cooking lessons. Questions? Contact Joyce Athanasiou (jcbathanasiou@aim.com or 412-292-4206) or Paula Valliant (paulavalliant@gmail.com or 412-445-4119).



SPREAD THE WORD! TELL YOUR FRIENDS! DON'T MISS IT!
THE 2025 "TASTE OF GREECE" - THU. AUG. 28-SUN. AUG. 31

SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 2025
FOLLOWING DIVINE LITURGY



SCAN HERE
FOR TICKETS!

CELEBRATE THE LORD'S ENTRY INTO
JERUSALEM WITH THE GOYA'S ANNUAL

Community Palm Sunday Luncheon

- ADVANCE RESERVATIONS ONLY
- HOMEMADE FISH MEAL
- ADULTS \$18 / CHILDREN 12 & UNDER \$10
- TO-GO PRE-ORDERS ALSO AVAILABLE

RESERVE ONLINE HOLYTRINITYPGH.ORG/EVENTS
OR IN THE GALLERY AFTER LITURGY MAR. 30 & APR. 6
RESERVATION DEADLINE: TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2025



**CELEBRATE THE
VICTORY OF
CHRIST!**



**THE HOLY
TRINITY
ANNUAL
ANASTASI
DINNER**

**Saturday Evening
April 19, 2025**

**Following the 11:00pm
Resurrection Divine Liturgy**

**Hosted by the Holy
Trinity Parish Council**

**Come and celebrate the
glorious and life-bestowing
Resurrection with your Holy
Trinity family! Greek-style
Roast lamb and more.**

Free-will offerings accepted

**CHRIST IS RISEN!
CHRISTOS ANESTI!**



Joy Has Come to All the World

The event of the Cross and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus is the center of our life in God. It is the mystery “which has been hidden” by which Christ, as the Great High Priest, accomplished the salvation and redemption of man “once and for all” for eternity. That is why Pascha is called “the feast of feasts and the festival of festivals”, and its celebration exceeds in splendor all the other feasts of the year.

Q: Geronda, the Cross was an instrument of dishonor and death in the Roman world. How can joy come forth from it?

In order to comprehend the mystery of the Cross and the Resurrection of the Author of life, Christ, we must begin from the foundational precepts of our faith. God, the Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, is without beginning, pre-eternal, and uncreated. He has always existed, arrayed in glory and unsearchable Light.

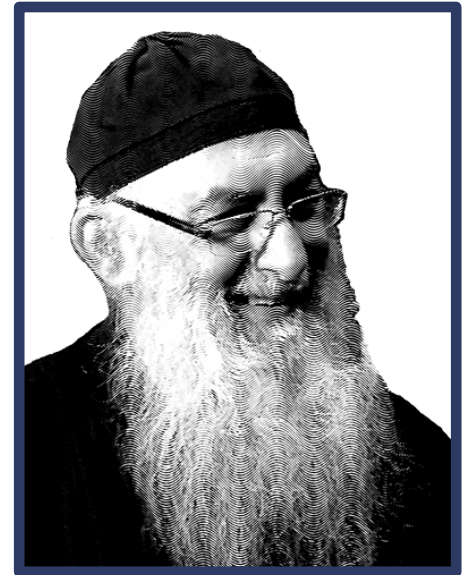
Our God freely, without compulsion, without any necessity, but solely out of love, created man “in His image and likeness.” God intended the creature of His hands to reign in the created world as He reigns in the eternal world. But since man had no glory of his own to become master of creation, it was essential for him to remain in union with God and share in His eternal life and glory.

Yet man was deceived in his choice and fell. By the ancestral transgression, he separated himself from the source of life, God, and became enslaved to the devil. Before physical death, he suffered spiritual death. God, who is Light and Life.

The tragedy of corruption and death was contrary to God’s good pleasure. Herein begins the mystery of the divine economy, the miracle of divine goodness, the drama of God’s love, “who left nothing undone” so that man might return to Him and be reunited with Him.

Through the disobedience of Adam and the absurdity of his self-deification, the whole root of humanity was infected and the fruit it produced was thenceforth rotten. Conversely, through the obedience of Christ, the New Adam, unto His death on the Cross, and through His extreme humility, life and salvation came into the world.

Many of the Apostles saw the Risen Lord with their physical eyes. However, the Apostle Peter, even as the greatest witness of the Lord’s Resurrection, speaks more highly of the spiritual eyes of the heart and the charismatic vision of the Resurrection. He strengthens the faithful by writing about this vision of Christ: “Whom having not seen, you love; in Whom, though now you see Him not, yet believing, you rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.”



Father Zacharias of Essex

Q: The Resurrection happened a long time ago. How do we experience it today?

The Resurrection of Christ, although it took place once and for all, is repeated secretly in the souls of believers by the power of the Holy Spirit. It remains an eternal event and is the mystery of the Kingdom of God. We appropriate the life, the Cross and the Resurrection of Christ according to the struggle that each one undertakes to conform himself to the model that He has given us. When we take up our Cross and suffer “as good soldiers of Jesus Christ;” when we bear the pain of repentance with living faith in God’s mercy and with good intent; when we endure the temptations of the devil; when we become partakers of the sufferings of the Lord; when the soul reaches extreme humiliation and despair and is stuck to the ground, deprived of all human consolation; then the great miracle takes place. The life-giving grace of the Holy Spirit comes down, which raises the dead, heals our wounds, and secretly works within us the mystery of Christ’s Resurrection “in gladness and unutterable rejoicing.” ❖

Excerpted from
Alive from the Dead

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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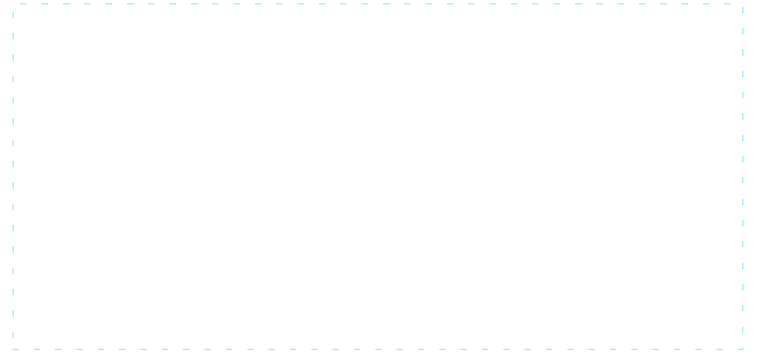
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ABOUT THE RED EGGS OF PASCHA



Why do Orthodox Christians dye their Paschal eggs red? First, the red symbolizes the blood of Christ, which the Lord shed for our salvation. Also, according to tradition, some time after the Resurrection of Christ, Saint Mary Magdalene went to Emperor Tiberius Caesar and courageously announced to him that Christ had risen from the dead and explained how this all took place. After she finished, Tiberius noticed a man next to him holding a basket of eggs. Tiberius then challenged Mary that if what she said was indeed true, then the white eggs in the basket should be turned into red eggs. Suddenly the eggs turned red leaving Caesar perplexed. This incident is depicted in the iconography of the Monastery of Saint Mary Magdalene in Gethsemane.