



THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

1923 · EIGHTY YEARS OF MINISTRY · 2003

Our Mission: To proclaim and live the Orthodox Christian Faith in its fullness as faithful members of the Body of Christ

May 2003

www.HolyTrinityPgh.org

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Monthly Parish Newsletter
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Fr. John Touloumes, Economist

Inside This Issue

- 2 Father John's Message
- 3 News & Events
- 5 Cemetery Clean-Up & Events
- 6 Gifts to Holy Trinity Church
- 7 Preparing for the Resurrection
- 8 Feeding the Homeless
- 10 Community Life Photos
- 12 Mouse Tales: St. Spyridon
- Children's Library Update
- 13 "Gheronda's Corner"
- 14 The Cultural Side
Η Πολιτιστική Πλευρά
- 15 Herald Sponsors
- 16 Speaking to Children About
the Resurrection

Special Inserts

May Parish Calendar
Pentecost Saturday Names Form
2003 Greek Festival Guide

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"Bearing lights, let us go forth to meet Christ, Who comes forth from the grave like a Bridegroom. And with the ranks of them that love and keep this festival, let us celebrate the saving Pascha of God."

From the Orthodox of the Resurrection

Father John's Message

THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

Parish Newsletter of
Holy Trinity
Greek Orthodox Church
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Pittsburgh, PA 15212
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A Parish of the Greek Orthodox Diocese of
Pittsburgh and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese
of America under the Spiritual Jurisdiction of the
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The Cultural Side

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Publication Schedule

The Herald is published monthly.
The information deadline is the 15th of each
month. If you would like to assist with mailing
the Herald, please contact the church secretary
at 412-321-9282 to volunteer your help.

Sponsor an
issue of
The Herald
in memory or
honor of a
loved one or
special event.

See the form on
page 15.



Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see thee hungry and feed thee, or thirsty and give thee drink? And when did we see thee a stranger and welcome thee, or naked and clothe thee? And when did we see thee sick or in prison and visit thee?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.

[Matthew 25:37-40]

My dear fellow servants of Christ,

Christ is risen! Truly He is risen!

The above Gospel passage, usually used on the Sunday of the Last Judgement, seems to be heading in the wrong direction as it takes us back to the beginning of the Lenten season. It is used here, however, for a very good reason. Rather than taking us backward, it is emblematic of a historic and significant move *forward* this community recently experienced with the wonderful blessing we had when we hosted the 10th Anniversary event for the "Feed the Homeless" project of the Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood, pictured on pages 8 and 9 of this issue of *The Herald*.

Of the many wonderful ways this community has grown in faith and practice over the years, this event signified the very spirit and joy of the Risen Lord in ways we have not known before right here in our own home. That is because it is after the Resurrection that the Lord commands His Apostles to go forth and spread the Gospel. Well, on the day that this community opened its doors to feed those who—for whatever reason, misfortune, illness or weakness—could not provide for themselves, the Gospel was preached to our guests not in word, but in deed. By the grace of God and with the help of many communities around the area, we reached out in a way that demonstrated that the Risen Christ indeed lives here and cares for those in need through us. This is a part of Orthodoxy which cannot and must not be hidden. This is faith in action.

I am both personally and pastorally filled with thanks and faithful joy for all who helped coordinate that day, to the Parish Council and the community for so enthusiastically embracing this wonderful effort, and to the Clergy Brotherhood for providing us with the privilege of hosting the event. Already many parishioners and the Brotherhood have been moved to ask, "When can we do it again?" A tentative date of November 15 has been established; details will be forthcoming.

In that same spirit of service and witness, I pray the joy of the Resurrection will continue to fill the worship, the offices, the classrooms and the homes of this community and affirm in our hearts the need to be faithful Orthodox Christians in all we do, both in Church and elsewhere. During this holy season, greet one another with that world-changing and life-saving news: "Christ is risen!" And, as Saint Paul encourages the early Romans, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing" (Romans 15:13).

News & Events

EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES

Saturday of Lazarus April 19

The children of our Church School will once again attend the Saturday of Lazarus Divine Liturgy on April 19 and prepare the Palm Crosses and cup candles for Holy Week afterwards. Parents, please plan on bringing them and giving them an opportunity to participate.

No Church School Palm Sunday and Pascha

Please remember that there is no Church School class on the great feasts of Palm Sunday (April 20) and Pascha (April 27), but that is so all our children can attend the complete celebration of the feasts with their families. We look forward to seeing all our children throughout the Holy Week and Paschal services as much as possible. (Please note: Church School Mission Boxes should be returned on Palm Sunday.)

Paschal Candy Hunt April 27

The Church School ministry is again sponsoring the annual Paschal Candy Hunt on the lawn of the church (weather permitting) on Pascha following the Agape Vespers Service at 1:00 p.m. All the children are invited to come for this beautiful and bright service.

St. Lydia's Women's Fellowship May 15, 29

The St. Lydia Women's Study Fellowship is a ministry for women to share in fellowship and to study scripture, the Orthodox Faith and family life in today's world. The meetings take place every other week on

Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m. at a home in the North Hills. (No meeting April 24 due to Holy Week.) New participants are always welcome!

The fellowship is enjoyable and the approach is casual, but the subjects are important for today's families.

The topic for this year is "Studies of Scripture and Faith in Everyday Life." A complete schedule for the year is now posted on our Holy Trinity web site (www.HolyTrinityPgh.org) under the "Ministries" section. For further information on this worthwhile and informative group or for directions to the meetings, call Paula Valliant at 412-487-3977.

St. Nikodemos Men's Fellowship May 8, 22

The St. Nikodemos Men's Study Fellowship meets on the second and fourth Thursday each month at the office of TriadUSA, Suite 460, Two Gateway Center, downtown from 7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. The group fea-

tures prayer, Bible study, topics of interest to Orthodox Christian men and how to live our Faith in the working world. It is open to all interested men and has been centrally located downtown to accommodate those who need to be at work early. The theme for this year's studies is "God's Promises for Men." A complete schedule for the year is now posted on our Holy Trinity web site (www.HolyTrinityPgh.org) under the "Ministries" section. (No meeting April 24 due to Holy Week.) For directions, call Gus Georgiadis at 412-880-4999.

LITURGICAL LIFE

Upcoming Liturgical Dates May

In addition to the Lenten services, please take note of the following upcoming liturgical dates. Orthros is at 9:00 a.m., followed by Divine Liturgy at 10:00.

St. George the Great Martyr.....April 28

This feast is usually on April 23, but is moved to the day after Pascha if it falls during Lent.

Zoodohos Peghe (Lifegiving Fountain) ... May 2

St. John the Evangelist..... May 8

Ss. Constantine & Helen May 21

COMMUNITY NEWS

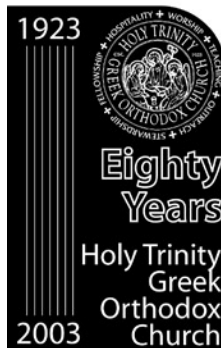
9:30 Divine Liturgy Hours Starting May 4

Starting the Sunday after Pascha, May 4, Holy Trinity Church will hold Orthros at 8:30 a.m and Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m. This schedule is in effect for all Sundays and weekday Liturgies. Please be sure to adjust your personal and family schedules to be there on time!

2003 Stewardship Growing Strong!

2002 year was our best Stewardship year ever, but the needs of the Church have matched and exceeded that growth. In order to sustain and grow the ministries and challenges of our parish today and in the future, the Stewardship Committee is asking everyone to pitch in by increasing your pledge from last year at least 10% or \$50, whichever is greater. Thankfully, Holy Trinity Stewards have responded with overwhelming

support! On a year-to-year comparison of individual pledges, the 2003 Pledge Year is showing an



News & Events

average 12% increase this year for an average pledge of \$450. Join the trend: more cards are needed. If are not one of the 193 cards submitted so far (a total of \$86,887), please complete and return your card today! Thank you, good and faithful Stewards!

Make Plans for the Anastasi Dinner..... April 26

Don't forget to make plans to attend the Resurrection Liturgy on Saturday evening, April 26, and the annual Holy Trinity "Anastasi Dinner" following the service. Information is forthcoming.

Cemetery Clean-Up Day..... May 10

Attention: the annual Cemetery Clean-Up Day will be held on May 10. See the flyer on page 5 for details. Also, please keep in mind that the Cemetery Rules and Regulations allow annual flowers to be planted at graves as long as they are placed no more than one foot in front of the headstone and they are no wider than the headstone. No trees, bushes or other artificial decorations other than vigil lights are permitted. For any questions, please call Cemetery Committee Chairman Bill Fiedler at 412-364-1545. The Committee looks forward to seeing everyone there! (Note: A rain date of May 17 has been scheduled if needed.)

Over 50 Theatre Trip May 17

The Over 50 Club is planning a Theatre Trip just across the street to the Hazlett Theatre to see the production, "Send Me No Flowers," starring with Charlie Prose. For information, Tickets are \$30. For information and reservations, contact Stella Athanasiou at 412-322-4080.

80th Anniversary Weekend June 14, 15 & 16

Make plans from now to take part in the 80th Anniversary Celebration at Holy Trinity Church, June 14, 15 & 16, 2003. There will be special events including the annual Saturday of Souls Liturgy at Holy Trinity Cemetery, an old-fashioned Basketball Tournament (for young and old alike), the Feast Day Vespers and the Feast Day Dance. Pentecost Sunday will features the Divine Liturgy, Kneeling Service and a Father's Day Coffee Hour. Monday will, of course, celebrate the Feast Day Liturgy of our Church. The enclosed flyer contains additional information.



Here is the complete schedule:

Saturday, June 14

8:00 am Orthros/9:00 am Liturgy: Saturday of the Souls Liturgy at Holy Trinity Cemetery
Experience the timelessness of Orthodoxy with your family, while honoring and remembering all of those who have preceded us. May their memory be eternal! Refreshments will be served.

11:00 am - 4:00 pm: Re-live your GOYA Glory Days Basketball teams will be organized from all who would like to participate....all ages welcome! Tournament rules apply! Location: TBA

6:30 pm: Feast Day Vespers at Holy Trinity Church

8:00 pm: 80th Anniversary Feast Day Dance at Holy Trinity Community Center, featuring "The Greek Company Orchestra." Tickets: \$25 adults/teens; \$15 children under 12. Cash bar; "Meze" platters will be sold for \$10. For more information, call: Kathy Balouris at 412.635.0482 or Jim Balouris at 724.934.4850.

Sunday, June 15

8:30 am Orthros/9:30 am Liturgy: Pentecost Sunday Liturgy, followed by the Kneeling Vespers of the Holy Spirit and a Father's Day Coffee Hour

Monday, June 16

8:30 am Orthros/9:30 am Liturgy: Monday of the Holy Spirit/Official Feast Day of our Church.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!

New Cemetery Grave Pricing Starts May 1

The Parish Council has approved Holy Trinity Cemetery's grave price structure, effective May 1, to eliminate discounts for multiple grave purchases. All graves will now be \$500 each. Please note that this still represents a considerable value in comparison to other cemeteries in the region. Individuals wanting to purchase multiple graves can still get the discount until April 30th. Contact Bill Fiedler at 412-364-1545 for details.

Summer Services and Stewardship at Holy Trinity Cemetery

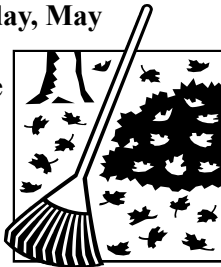
Holy Trinity Church is one of the few Greek Orthodox parishes in the region to have the blessing of owning our own cemetery as a sanctified place of repose for our beloved fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters who have fallen asleep in the Lord. As such, we are the Stewards of their place of rest and have the responsibility to respect, care for and sanctify these grounds. The events below are a calling for each of our parishioners to take part in this sacred calling. Please place these events on your personal calendar and plan on attending them!



COMMUNITY CEMETERY CLEAN-UP DAY SATURDAY, MAY 10 - 10:00 AM

It is said that the tomb of Alexander the Great read the following: "A tomb now suffices for him whom the world was not enough." No matter how great or humble our life, it makes its final journey on earth through the cemetery, so caring for that place of rest until the Second Coming of the Lord is a holy commission.

Please join us at our annual **Community Cemetery Clean-Up Day** scheduled for **Saturday, May 10th**. (Rain date: May 17th) Families and volunteers are asked to come between 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m to help with flower-planting, debris pick-up and brush-clearing, as well as individual grave work. Topsoil will be available for use on your loved ones' graves. Lunch will be provided for all volunteers. Thank you for helping make our Holy Trinity Cemetery look great and for honoring the many beloved members of the Holy Trinity parish family who have been laid to pious rest in this holy place!



VETERAN'S MEMORIAL SERVICE MEMORIAL DAY MONDAY, MAY 26, 9:30 AM

The tradition of Memorial Day started in 1866 as local observance of honoring those who died in the Civil War. After World War I, observances also began to honor those who had died in all of America's wars. In

1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be observed on the last Monday of May to honor our heroes who gave their lives in battle.



Please join together in front of the **Holy Trinity Cemetery**

War Memorial at 9:30 am on Memorial Day as we hold a special ceremony to honor those who have given their lives serving their country. This is especially timely with the lives lost in the war with Iraq. Please be there to honor them. (Also note: this service is to commemorate our veterans; it is not a general memorial service for all the departed — that service is described below.)



PENTECOST SATURDAY OF THE SOULS & HOLY TRINITY FEAST DAY WEEKEND DIVINE LITURGY & COMMUNITY MEMORIAL SERVICE AT THE CEMETERY SATURDAY, JUNE 14 - 9:30 AM



On Pentecost weekend, a "Saturday of the Souls" liturgy is called for in the liturgical calendar of the Orthodox Church. This is also the Feast Day weekend of our parish, when we celebrate not only the many good things and blessings of today, but also give thanks for the blessings and the people of the past and the history of our community.

In observance of those events, we will once again hold our memorial prayers at the cemetery this spring during a special **Saturday of the Souls Liturgy at Holy Trinity Cemetery on Saturday, June 14**. Orthros will begin at 8:30 a.m., followed by Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m. This liturgy and memorial combination has become a blessed and well-attended celebration, with dozens of Holy Trinity parishioners coming to honor and pray for all the beloved departed souls of our parish. Please use the names form in *The Herald* to commemorate your loved ones.

As the community continues its plans to build a chapel on the cemetery grounds, may we let our dedication to our liturgical observations at the cemetery demonstrate how important it is to properly remember our loved ones. Anyone interested in helping make this service possible by donating items such as the rental of chairs, rest rooms or a tent, please contact Bill Fiedler at 412-364-1545. All other donations received that day will be dedicated to the chapel.

Generous Gifts Received by Holy Trinity Church

THEMISTOCLES BALOURIS MEMORIAL FUND

The Holy Trinity Greek School would like to thank Mrs. Kay Balouris and the Balouris Family for their generous endowment in the form of the Themistocles Balouris Memorial Fund. We are pleased to be allowed to honor Mr. Balouris' memory in this way. The money has enabled the Greek School to provide alphabet strips and maps of Greece for every classroom. We have also added videos and storybooks to the Greek School Library, as well as purchasing text and workbooks for the students. Finally, we are planning to have a cultural field trip in the spring. In the future the Greek School will be purchasing additional items to enhance the classroom environment and aid in student learning. We thank the Balouris Family for the endowment that will make these things possible and for their continued support of the Greek School Program.

Holy Trinity Greek School



NEW EPITAPHION CLOTH DONATED

Holy Friday is always one of the most beautiful liturgical days of the Church calendar. This year, it will be all the more beautiful with the donation of a new, hand-painted and embroidered Epitaphion Cloth, which arrived this week from Greece. It has been donated by Pauline and Rania

Pontikos in memory of their beloved family members:

Alexander Pontikos
Apostolos Tsaktanis
Marianthi Papoutsis

Many thanks to the Pontikos family, and may the memory of their loved ones be eternal through the hope found in the empty tomb of our Risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



Preparing for the Resurrection

Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead and Christ shall give you light. (Ephesians 5.14)

When the soul arrives...on the other side of life, then the partial judgement of God will not count how many times that the soul fell into sin, but how many opportunities for repentance and return to grace it scorned for even one sin that it committed. We should not say, "Now that I am young, I will transgress every law, and when I grow old, I will have the time to repent." If...a person dies unrepentant in sin and his soul is dragged by its own grime into the stifling gloom and anguish in the place of torment, is one justified in blaming death because it came too early?

Our Two Worlds

The material world in which we live is a place in the universe in which there exists another world, the world of spirit. The one, the material world, is temporary, perishable, and at some time will be destroyed. The other world is unchangeable, eternal.

The material world, even though perishable and temporary, has inexhaustible and priceless beauties most suitable to make man happy, who was created by God to be its master. And man is master of the material world because he is a being superior to everything else that lives in it.

Our Two Natures

Man was created by God of two elements. The one was material, an earthly body, an element compatible to the surrounding material, earthly world, so that he would be able to adapt himself completely to it. The other is the spiritual element, or breath of divine breathing, a soul, suitable for the other higher world, the world of the spirit, the world of souls. And, for this reason, the life of man is a material-spiritual one, but separated into two sections in accordance to the life of the two worlds. Human nature...is endowed with the needs of the body, the animalistic lower ones such that when a person satisfies them with the proper means, they provide many pleasures.

The purpose, however, of these abilities is to make human beings able to feel and appreciate the beauties of the other life in the world beyond, in the sphere of the world of spirits, the world of higher beings, the spiritual world.... In other words, the material life should serve as a preparation for the later spiritual life.

Developing a Suitable Life

Before the coming of the Redeemer, if man had followed the teachings of the inspired men sent by God, the wise men and the Prophets, he would have put into practice in his earthly life the suitable means, that is, the law written by God in the human heart and the laws that were given through Moses and the divinely inspired Prophets. Those laws, together with the illumination that the souls would receive in the world beyond from the preaching of the God-man in Hades, would have been sufficient to develop man's being into a higher spirituality suitable for the spiritual life in the world beyond.

If man, after the coming of the Redeemer, will follow his teachings, faith, works, and sanctification, he will be able with these alone to develop his being to a more spiritual degree suitable for the world of higher beings, the world of the noble spirits. Mistakes are easy for man, but also easy is the correction, for as many times as they occur and for as great as they may be, the correction is simply sincere repentance.

Preparing the Soul

The time limit for the preparation of the soul is the termination of earthly life....If the effort for preparation was made, and made successfully, then death is the gate to the entrance into eternal blessedness. If the preparation was not made, then death is the brink of the abyss. But even though a person should always be prepared for this reason, even in the eleventh hour, if he will repent and prepare, he will not fall short of the others.

The pleasures of earthly life that are the result of the beauties of this world and of the satisfactions of the needs of the body, even the carnal needs, bring absolutely no hindrance to the efforts for preparation. The terrible hindrance is the *unlawful* use of these, and the *abuse*, that on one hand condemns a person to an animalistic condition and makes him its slave and, on the other hand, makes him an idolater and one who scorns God.

Enjoy life, O Christian, with its noble beauties and pleasures, but enjoy them conscientiously in a Christian manner. Your soul will continue such a life in the life of the world beyond, and with greater beauties and pleasures...Then death will become your best friend which, even though you never need to seek it, when it comes to meet you, you will embrace it with joy in your eyes.

*From "The World Beyond the Grave"
by Archim. Athenagoras Cavadas*

“Feed the Homeless” Project Thank You

“As you did it to the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.” These words of our Lord Jesus Christ from the Gospel according to St. Matthew (25.40) were put into action in a most meaningful way by the Orthodox parishes of the Pittsburgh area on March 30, 2003. In an effort coordinated by the Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood of Greater Pittsburgh, dozens of laypeople and clergy from various Orthodox jurisdictions gathered to serve a homemade, sit-down dinner to the homeless and needy of the area at the Holy Trinity Community Center. In addition to those served on site, many others from the region were supported through donations of over 1,100 pounds of food and over \$2,600 in donations to the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.

This event was held in celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the weekly “Feed the Homeless” ministry

coordinated by the Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood. Each Saturday, nearly 200 needy men and women are provided bag lunches at a distribution point located just down the street from Holy Trinity Church. The lunches are prepared by parishes from the Greek, Antiochian, Carpatho-Russian, OCA, Serbian and Ukrainian Orthodox jurisdictions of Greater Pittsburgh. In celebration of the 10th year, the Brotherhood wanted to provide offer a more complete sense of hospitality to those in need. Discussions since this most successful and blessed event are leading the Brotherhood in the direction of offering this type of an event on a more regular basis. Anyone wishing to donate food or financial support may contact the Clergy Brotherhood President, Fr. William Evansky at 724-266-5009.

GREATER PITTSBURGH
community
food bank
Member of America's Second Harvest



April 9, 2003

Rev. John Touloumes
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
302 West North Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Dear Father John,

Thank you for hosting a food & fund drive to benefit Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. The luncheon for the homeless you hosted raised \$2,670 and 1,110 pounds of food and grocery items! The support of the Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood has helped so many people. We are in receipt of a \$115 check dated 03/24/03. This donation, along with all the money you raised, will be used to provide food & services to people in need.

Your luncheon was a great way to celebrate your 10-year anniversary of helping those in need. I enjoyed visiting your church and having the opportunity to meet you & the people you serve.

Please extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who made this food drive & the luncheon possible, and gave so generously to the Food Bank. The volunteers did such a wonderful job, you should be very proud of all your efforts. I hope to work with you again in the future.

Gratefully,

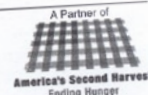
Maureen Joyce
Food Resource Coordinator

c.c. Michael Kritiotis

Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank acknowledges that the donor received no goods or services, in whole or in part, in exchange for this donation.

1 North Linden Street • Duquesne, PA 15110 • (412) 460-3663 • Fax: (412) 460-0418
Reach us on the Internet at www.pittsburghfoodbank.org

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



Holy Trinity Hosts “Feed the Homeless” Project

A photo montage of the many volunteers and donors from Orthodox Christian parishes around the Greater Pittsburgh who so generously gave of themselves to welcome and feed the hungry and needy of the Pittsburgh area on March 30th.



Community Life Photo Journal

An on-going photo journal of scenes from the active parish life of Holy Trinity Church.

GOYA Participates in Annual Regional Volleyball Tournament

On Saturday, March 30, Holy Trinity GOYA took two teams to the regional GOYA Volleyball Tournament at St. Nicholas Cathedral. Pictured here are the Junior Team (left); Coaches George Dickos, Presvytera Becky Touloumes and Harry Athanasiou; a successful serve; and the Senior team (right). Good work, GOYA!



Holy Trinity GOYAns Attend Diocese Retreat at Camp Nazareth, April 11-13



14 of the 125 teens attending the recent Diocese GOYA Spring Retreat at Camp Nazareth in Mercer, PA, were from Holy Trinity, making it one of the best-represented parishes in the Diocese! Pictured here (l-r) are: Vasie-Leigh Chames (Diocese Youth Director), Peter Dickos, Andrew Athanasiou, Veronica Panagiotou, Nicholas Balouris, Victoria Kritiotis, Helena Erdeljac, John Fitzpatrick, Rebecca Dickos, Fr. John Touloumes, Marios Kritiotis, Eleni Balouris, Peter Dickos, Maria Valliant, George Athanasiou, Stavroula Pantelakis and Mary-Magdalene Welsh. The theme for the retreat was, "The Image of God: Is it Revealed in the Real World?" Topics such as attractiveness, marriage, dating, skills, athleticism and knowledge were discussed in light of the messages the "real world" sends each day. Thank you to all our GOYAns for their enthusiasm in participating in these important opportunities for growth and fellowship!

Father John Attends Archdiocese Council



Father John, one of the three representatives from the Diocese of Pittsburgh, recently attended the Spring meeting of the Archdiocese Council in Washington, DC. He is pictured here with His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios, under whose leadership the Council is convened. His Eminence was also one of Father John's professors at Holy Cross Seminary in Brookline, MA. The Council dealt with many issues of both administrative and ministry natures, including the financial health of the Archdiocese. Father John is a member of the Stewardship and Development Committee, which was given the charge from the Council to re-establish the Archdiocese Stewardship Commission, a very successful resource in operation until the early 1990's. The commission will be heading up an effort to assist parishes in developing and sharing materials.

April General Assembly Highlights

Part of an on-going commitment to keep the community informed of important matters in the life of Holy Trinity Church.

The regular Spring General Assembly was held on Sunday, April 6, following the Divine Liturgy. Following the determination of a quorum, the meeting was opened in prayer by Father John Touloumes called to order by Parish Council President Christ Balouris. George Papadopoulos was elected Chairman of the Day.

PRIEST'S REPORT: Father John began his comments by thanking the Vision Committee for their continued efforts on the building project and the future of Holy Trinity Church. The community's response to the 2003 Stewardship drive has been very good and is on pace to hopefully beat last year's record-breaking efforts. Father thanked the entire Holy Trinity Church Community for their active participation in the various fellowship ministries. There is an Archdiocesan and Diocesan effort in place to revitalize the Y.A.L. and we will be participating in this. Holy Trinity recently hosted the 10th Anniversary "Feed the Homeless" project on March 30, 2003. The event was sponsored by the Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood of Greater Pittsburgh. Father commended the community's efforts in hosting this event. In addition to hosting the event, \$400.00 was donated towards the project by parishioners during the previous Sunday's coffee hour. Father John thanked Julie Kritiotis for coordinating the event as well as all of the participants who created an atmosphere filled with hospitality and fellowship in welcoming the less fortunate to our community.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Christ Balouris thanked the Parish Council for their continued efforts. He advised the assembly that the Parish Council is making the utmost effort to take a responsible approach toward the finances of the community. A cost containment committee was established to examine expenses and to work with the various committees to stay within budget. The response to the 2003 goal to increase stewardship pledges by 10% is going well. He thanked the Philoptochos for the excellent luncheon on Godparent's Sunday. He further asked that relevant parishioner concerns be addressed to the Parish Council members.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Treasurer, Mike Kritiotis gave an overview of the 2002 financial report. General Fund revenues (not including Festival income) totaled \$235,031.00, highlighted by record-breaking year in Stewardship income totaling \$117,302.00. On the minus side, due to administrative change and increased competition, hall rental income was only \$32,028.00 before expenses. Mr. Evan Kaparakos is coordinating efforts to help increase that potential source of income. Major expenses were for payroll costs of \$107,460.00, \$40,718.00 for utilities and \$23,680.00 in maintenance expenses mostly from major repairs to the heating and cooling systems. Expenses totaled \$307,460.00 for an operating fund deficit of \$72,429.00. The 2002 Food Festival had a record breaking net income of \$69,631.00. With the help of our Food Festival, the deficit was reduced to \$3,068.00 before asset purchases. After consideration for fixed asset purchases the net cash deficit for 2002 was \$6,260.00.

VISION COMMITTEE: Dr. Christ Balouris advised the assembly that a "Kit of Parts" meeting was held with various community members and Architect Christ Kamages on February 15th to develop specifications and general plans for the new church. Efforts are being concentrated on the Bellevue Road property but the committee is also exploring some additional sites as possible alternatives. The Cemetery Chapel Project is being reviewed trying to meet our needs within our budget. The committee hopes to make a report to the community on the building project within the next 120 days.

CEMETERY COMMITTEE: Bill Fiedler presented the financial report for the cemetery. Bill thanked the community for the donations to the cemetery fund, which helped foster a net income of \$4,890.65 in the year 2002. He thanked Chris Sarandou, who completed his Eagle Scout project by installing four concrete benches along the left side of the cemetery road. The Cemetery Clean-Up day will be held on Saturday, May 10 (May 17th as a rain day). Bill asked for everyone's help to make our cemetery look great for Memorial Day and Saturday of the Souls. The Saturday of the Souls Liturgy will be held at the cemetery on June 14th. Bettina and Jim Kermes will be coordinating efforts of a newly established landscape committee to oversee work around the cemetery. Thank you Bettina and Jim for this important responsibility. The General Assembly unanimously approved a motion authorizing the committee to spend up to \$3,000.00 for fence work and tree removal at the cemetery.

OLD BUSINESS: Food Festival Co-Chairman Harry Athanasiou announced to the assembly that the Festival had a record breaking gross income of \$121,836.00 in 2002. After expenses a record net profit of \$61,361.00 was realized. Harry thanked the community for making the Festival a great success.

NEW BUSINESS: The General Assembly unanimously approved a motion to allocate up to \$15,000.00 for the purchase and installation of a portable walk-in freezer to be used primarily for storage of food for the Festival. The freezer will be portable and can be moved to any future location of our church. Plans are to have the freezer in place by this summer.

Following a motion to adjourn, the meeting was closed in prayer by Fr. John

Respectfully Submitted,
Jim Statheas (for Maria Kraniou)

Mouse Tales: The St. Spyridon Church School Library Update

Hello, all my precious children!

Christ is Risen! It's me Spero. This is the month of May, a very important month. This is the month that we honor all mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and Godmothers. I want to tell my Mommy, Yiayia's, Nouna, Thea's and all



other Mommy's, "Happy Mothers Day. I love you and promise to be good on your special day!"

I want all of my children to wish all of their special Mom's a very happy day and be good. To make it really special, please don't fight with your siblings and make her upset. Forgiveness is a virtue. Please read on.

This month I would like to chat to my precious children about God's promise, "I will forgive you." Have you ever felt so...o...o...o angry with some one that may have hurt you so deeply, that it

takes a while to trust them again? It may take time to be friends with that person again. You may still remember how some one has hurt you but once you have forgiven them do not bring it up again.



Remember the more you receive forgiveness from Our Heavenly Father, the more you will be able to forgive others. Once Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord how many times should I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you not seven times, you must forgive seventy times seven." (That's 70×7 in math terms!)

Peter probably was shocked. This seems like far too many times to forgive someone that has hurt you. But all though your life, you will need to forgive other people. Please do not hold things against others. Stop and remember how Jesus forgave those that crucified Him. Whenever you do something wrong, first confess it in your evening prayers, and then in the sacrament of Holy Confession and ask forgiveness. Our Heavenly Father will forgive those who forgive others from the bottom of their hearts. It is a gift that Jesus gave us. He died so we could be forgiven. Now it is up to us to share that same forgiveness with others.

Yiayia says to look up in the Bible about God's treasures of promises of forgiveness: Colossians 3:13, Ephesians 4:32, I John 1:19, Peter 2:23, and Matthew 5:44-45. Christ is risen! Truly He is Risen! In Christ. Love Spero

Gheronda's Corner

Part of a regular series of contributions by our resident "Gheronda" (respected elder clergy), Father John Androutsopoulos



**Father John
Androutsopoulos**

CHRIST LIVES!

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
Christ is risen! Truly He is risen! The angel spoke to the women. "You must not be afraid," he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was nailed to the Cross. He is not here; He has risen, just as He said. Come here and see the place where He lay." (Matthew 28: 5, 6)

Christ lives! He is not dead. He is alive—still with us. We are told that the early Christians greeted each other with, "He lives." In our Orthodox Christian Churches we shout with joy, "Christ is risen!" "Truly He is risen!" We believe Christ lives, that He is Master of life, Conqueror of death, Victor for all times.

We are glad that the women found that tomb empty. You go to Mecca and they say, "Mohammed is our prophet and here is his grave." And, they show you a tomb decorated with millions of dollars worth of rubies and sapphires and diamonds. But, the Christian can shout, "Jesus is my Savior, and His tomb is *empty*! He is not a dead Savior—He is alive!"

Would that all of us this might lift this affirmation to one another this Pascha/Easter: "Christ is alive!" *Pascha* means no less than this—and it can mean more as we die to self and live for Him.

PASCHA - THE DAY OF HOPE, FULFILLMENT, JOY

*"The gift of God is eternal life through
Jesus Christ our Lord."* (Romans 6:23)

PASCHA—EASTER! Immediately we associate this Holy Season with the Resurrection of our Lord. Then with the Resurrection we immediately think of immortality. We do not have to wonder about nor speculate about eternal life, for Jesus assured us of its certainty when He said, "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."

When Jesus was comforting Martha after the death of her brother Lazarus, we hear Him saying, "He who believes in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." Now Christ's Resurrection guarantees ours. Most conclusive of all His promises is this one. He said,

"Because I live, you shall live also." He is called "the first fruits of them that sleep." You go to a tree filled with fruit. You pick the first ripe fruit, then later you go back and pick the remaining fruit as it ripens. So, Jesus was raised first. He is the "first fruits." Then one day we shall follow Him out of our graves and into the mansions above.

THE GOOD NEWS OF EASTER

"Because I live, you shall live also." (John 14: 19)

The Scriptures tell us that Jesus Christ lived and went about doing good, healing the lame, giving sight to the blind, comforting the broken-hearted, freeing men from their sins. They tell us that He was crucified and arose again on the third day. They tell us that He is alive now, moving in our midst, sharing life with us, offering us new life, trying to get us to give our sinful hearts to Him, to free us from all that would keep us from being our best.

He is here in the world trying to let us know that His victory over death means that we too can be victors in His name, that at the heart of life is a loving and caring God, and that we need not be afraid of life and the future. He is here and wants us to know that our real hope lies not in the relics we all leave, not in the honors which come our way, not in the status we may reach, not in the degrees we may hold, not in the bank balances we may leave nor the stocks and bonds we may pass on to those left behind; but that our real hope lies in God as we know Him in Christ, and to know Him is to have eternal life.

PASCHA! Day of hope, Day of Promise, Day of Joy! No wonder we sing on PASCHA, "Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life."

We should thank God for knowing our lives have been resurrected through His saving power. May we trust Him more completely, serve Him more faithfully and love Him more dearly. On Pascha, let us dedicate our lives to the Risen Lord.

May the Risen Lord, the King of Kings on this most radiant Feast of Pascha fill our hearts with Joy and grant Fr. John, the parish priest, and his family and everyone in our family at Holy Trinity Church, good health and many, many years without pain and suffering and sickness.

With the Love of the Risen Lord, .

Rev. Fr. John Androutsopoulos and Family

The Cultural Side • Η Πολιτιστική Πλευρά



Voula Hareras

A Greek-language celebration of the Feast of Feasts, the Great and Holy Pascha.

Πάσχα

*Η μεγαλύτερη εορτή
της Χριστιανοσύνης,
ή εορτή των εορτών.*

Ας βαδίσουμε μαζί με τό Χριστό μας με σεβασμό και ιερή συγκίνηση στά Άγια πάθη Του, άς νοιώσουμε τό μέγεθος της θυσίας Του, πού έχυσε τό Πανάγιο αίμα Του στόν Σταυρό, γιά νά μάς άπαλλάξει από τήν αιώνια άμαρτία μας, και τέλος μ' άπέραντη χαρά άς γιορτάσουμε τήν ένδοξη Ανάσταση Του, με τήν όποία ό Κύριος μάς άνοιξε τήν πόρτα τού Παραδείσου και της αιώνιας ζωής.

Γιά νά τ' άπολαύσουμε όμως αυτά θά πρέπει ν' άκολουθήσουμε τά διδάγματα Του και τίς έντολές Του. Πόσο άπλά είναι όλα μά και πόσο δύσκολα νά τά κρατήσουμε.

Άγαπάτε άλλήλους, άγάπα τόν πλησίον σου, βοήθα τόν πονεμένο, τόν έρημο, τόν δυστυχή, δώσε άγάπη σκόρπα άγάπη, αυτό είναι τό μεγάλο Του δίδαγμα.

Άνοιξε τήν καρδιά σου μ' άγάπη γιά όλους, άνεξαρτήτου χρώματος και φυλής.

Στήν συνέχεια τού προλόγου μου σάς παραθέτω ένα χαριτωμένο κείμενο είναι από « Αθηναϊκή παράδοση» τού Δημήτρη Καμπούρογλου.



Διπλή Γιορτή

Μία χρονιά όταν ακόμη οί Έλληνες ήταν ύπόδουλοι στούς Τούρκους, έτσι έτυχε, τήν ίδια μέρα νά γιορτάσουν οί Χριστιανοί τήν Λαμπρή τους και οί Τούρκοι τό Μπαίραμι τους.

Σέ μία γειτονιά της Άθήνας τά μεσάνυχτα τού μεγάλου Σαββάτου άφού οί Χριστιανοί έκαμαν Ανάσταση κ' άπόλυσε ή έκκλησία, ή γριά Κελάρισα της Άγία Σωτήρας, κλείστηκε μέσα στό κελί της διπλοαμπάρωσε τήν πορτίτσα γιατί φοβόταν τό τούρκικο ξεφάντομα μήν ξεσπάσει επάνω της.

Έξαφνα χτυπά ή πόρτα τρεις φορές τάκ, τάκ, τάκ, άλλες τρεις κτυπά και ή καρδιά της γερόντισσας. Άν

είσαι Χριστιανός νά σέ πολυχρονά ό Μεγαλοδύναμος, μά και Τούρκος άν είσαι καλώς όρισες είπε μέσα της. Άνοιξε γρήγορα γειτόνησσα και μήν φοβάσαι έγώ είμαι.

Μπά, έσύ είσαι γειτόνησσα? Και τί γυρένεις τέταian ώρα? Η πορτίτσα άνοιξε, ή κατάλευκη γρηά Κλησάρησσα καλωσόρισε τό κατάμαυρο σκέλεθρο, μία γρηά άραπίνα φιλενάδα της πού καθόταν σ' ένα χαμόσπιτο της γειτονιάς. Η πορτίτσα ξανάκλεισε και πάλι, ή άραπίνα μιλά πρώτη. Τώρα πού ήσυχασε ό κόσμος όλος και οί χαροκόποι



τραβήχτηκαν σπίτια τους ήλθε και μένα ή σειρά μου νά γιορτάσω τό Μπαίράμι μου στό χαμόσπιτο μου.

Έκαμα ν' άπλώσω ότι φαγώσιμα μού έδωσαν οί Άγάδες της γειτονιάς και τότε σέ συλλογίστηκα καημένη γειτόνησσα κλεισμένη, κατάμονη, στό κελί σου τέτοια χρονιάρα μέρα πού ξημερώνει και γιά σάς τούς Χριστιανούς, σέ ψυχοπόνεσα, τύλιξα πάλι τά φαγιά, και είπα μέσα μου νά τά μοιραστούμε. Κακόμοιροι Χριστιανοί σκλάβοι και σεις σκλάβοι κ' έμεις, φτωχοί έμεις, πιό δυστυχησμένοι έσείς, γίνατε δούλοι στόν ίδιο τόπο πού μιά φορά είσασταν άφεντικά. Άς πάω είπα νά γιορτάσουμε μαζί, αυτή τήν Λαμπρή της κ' έγώ τό Μπαίράμι μου. Ξεκίνησα κ' ήλθα, και άκούμπησε τό δέμα στό τραπέζι τού κελιού.

Σηκώνεται τότε ή Κλησάρησσα γελαστή και ψάχνει μέσα στήν κασέλα της, βγάξει ένα κόκκινο αυγό και τό δίνει στήν Άραπίνα, εκείνη τό πέρνει με χαρά μικρού παιδιού, σήκωσε τό χέρι ψηλά και τό παρατηρεί στό φώς τού λυχναριού σάν περίφημο πράγμα.

Η γρηά Κλησάρησσα πλησιάζει σιγά σιγά κάθετα κοντά της κ' άξαφνα τσάκ μία και τό σπάζει μ' ένα άλλο αυγό πού είχε στό χέρι της κρυμμένο, ξεκαρδισμένη στά γέλια με τό κατόρθωμα της, τό ίδιο και ή Άραπίνα. Τό κελί είναι μισοσκοτεινό τό λυχνάρι μόλις και φέγγει, τά δύο γερόντικα κεφάλια ζυγώνουν κοντά κοντά, τό ένα κατάσπρο τ' άλλο κατάμαυρο, και δίνουν τό φιλί της άγάπης πού δίδαξε ό Χριστός.

Δημήτρη Καμπούρογλου

Εύχομαι σ' όλους σας Καλή Ανάσταση με ύγεία, χαρά και Ειρήνην στόναραχμένο κόσμο μας!



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SPEAKING TO CHILDREN ABOUT THE RESURRECTION



Do not think, children, that because Christ ascended into the heavens He is no longer with us on earth. Rather, understand that He is at the same time in heaven and on earth. He is "omnipresent." That means He is present everywhere at once. He is upon the highest mountains, in the densest forest, even in the deep darkness of an underground spring. Wherever people love the Lord, He is there with them. At this very minute, He looks upon you with love, blessing you. He rejoices that you love Him and read about His life. As the Lord Jesus Christ is always with us, so is the Holy Spirit everywhere, filling all things.

Although we are not worthy to ascend with Christ to the heavens, He has made us worthy. You, children, would like to live in heaven. Would you like to know what kind of a place it is, who lives there, and what life is like in heaven? In heaven, no one is ever sick. No one feels sad or cries. No one lies or is jealous. No one is poor. No one fears anything, for no wicked people live in heaven -- only good people and the saints and angels. Those who abide in the heavens live there forever and are always young. All who live in the heav-

enly kingdom love one another as brothers. The Lord God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—lives and speaks with them as once God spoke with Adam and Eve in paradise.

Come, dear children, to the loving Savior. Come to Him and learn to love Him with your whole soul and your whole heart. Then He will welcome you to enjoy His heavenly kingdom, your home.

From "A Sacred History for Children" by P. Vozdvizhensky