



# THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

JULY/AUGUST 2010

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HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH • PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

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Also enclosed:

July/August Parish Calendar  
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## QUICK NEWS



Father Joseph, abbot of the Saint Gregory Palamas Monastery in Perrysville, Ohio, gives our GOYA teens a tour of the monastery's beehives. The GOYA visited the monastery in June for a work project after enjoying a day at Cedar Point. For more photos of their trip, see the Community Life Photo Journal on pages 6-7.



The Transfiguration · Feast Day: August 6 · Icon from The Monastery of Saint Paul, Mount Athos

You were transfigured on the mountain, O Christ our God, showing to Your disciples Your glory, as much as they could bear. Shine also upon us sinners with Your everlasting light, through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Giver of Light, Glory to You!

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

# THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

## About the Herald

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

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## About the Parish

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Holy Trinity Church is a parish of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh ([www.odpgh.org](http://www.odpgh.org)) and Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America ([www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)) under the Spiritual Jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

## Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church Parish Administration

### Clergy

Rev. Fr. John Touloumes, Proistamenos

Rev. Fr. Radu Bordeianu, Assistant Priest

### Parish Council

Chris T. Balouris, President

Anthony Loomis

Alex Trivilas

Jason Farmakis

Yvonne Balouris

George Danis

George Dickos

Troy Geanopoulos

Joanne Germanos

Louis Kort

Andrew Athanasios

Vasilios Scoumis

Gerri Valliant

### Ministries

Philoptochos ..... Kay Balouris, Pres.

GOYA ..... Pres. Becky Touloumes, Advisor

Choir ..... John Nychis, Director

Over 50 Club ..... Stella Athanasiou, Pres.

St. Lydia Study ..... Stacy Dickos, Coordinator

Cemetery ..... Bill Fiedler, Chairman

Greek School ..... Effie Kilantonis, Coordinator

Social Hall ..... Constance Zotis, Coordinator

Bookstore ..... Bill and Linda Areheart



“Be **doers** of the word,  
and not **hearers** only.”

James 1.22

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It was not that many years ago that a Parish Council President here at Holy Trinity Church stood up and made an appeal for repairs to our roof. It was a tough “sell.” In fact, in those days it was even hard to gather a quorum for a General Assembly to deliver the message. Response was poor. Despite the urgent appeal, it was like standing on the edge of the Grand Canyon and shouting, with no echo returning. They were frustrating and challenging times for much of the parish leadership. And it was confusing. This community had, after all, been built by many faithful families, using their own sweat and toil. Where was that spirit and dedication now? People were still coming to services. We were still managing to put on a festival. Yet “above and beyond” didn’t seem to be a part of the daily thinking of many parishioners, leaving only a faithful few to carry the load. (If you are saying to yourself, “Yes, I remember those times, you are probably one of the faithful laborers!”)

To the glory of God and with many thanks for the active involvement and sacrifices of so many members of this sacred body, those days may be behind us. Last Sunday, a Special General Assembly was convened to address urgent heating and air conditioning needs: emergency repairs for the hall and overdue payments for prior work in the church. Not only was the meeting well-attended, but as our Parish Council President Chris T. Balouris has announced in the follow-up letter to the community, over \$10,000 of the \$60,000 requested was immediately received that same day by dedicated leaders whose example has said, like the Prophet Isaiah, “Here I am!” (Isaiah 6.8).

We have also watched the list of names on the Capital Campaign boards in the hall grow in response to the exciting new church project, another great calling for this community that cannot be sustained by just a few. And our recent Spring Festival had one of the largest volunteer teams ever for such an event.

All in all, these signs of hope and life demonstrate that we as a community have embraced the importance of the command of St. James above: Be doers and not just hearers. This is important in matters of faith (learning and living a Christian life), but in matters of sustaining and growing the Church (including paying the bills!), which preserves and proclaims that faith.

As we head into the summer stretch, please continue both hearing (attending church and learning the faith) and doing (staying actively involved in the life of the community and meeting its volunteer and financial needs). My deep pastoral thanks to our Parish Council, Vision Committee and Capital Campaign Committee, as well as all the active ministries of the parish, for all they do and for the love with which they do it.

(PS to all the “doers”: Please don’t forget to submit your Emergency Appeal contributions, and if you have not yet submitted your Capital Campaign Pledge, please do it today!)

Yours in Christ,

Herald Personal Sponsor for this Issue:

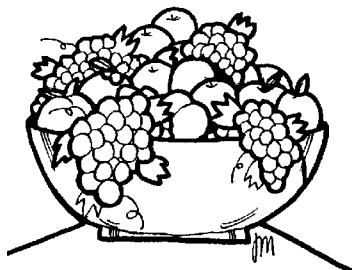
**In loving memory of Themistocles Balouris (1935-2002)**



## WORSHIP LIFE

### Transfiguration Blessing of the First Fruits . . . . . Aug. 5/6

In keeping with the wonderful tradition of the Blessing of the Fruits at the Transfiguration, it is customary to bring a tray of washed grapes or fruit on August 6, which will be blessed and distributed at the end of the service. In the days of a farming society, this was the first offering back to God from the harvest. Even though they are most often bought from a grocery store today, we should not lose touch with the idea of offering back to God the first fruits of all our blessings!



Please note: We will be holding Great Vespers at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 5, followed by the Blessing of the First Fruits at Holy Trinity Church. Then, we will join the sisters of the Holy Transfiguration Monastery in Ellwood City for the Liturgy of the Feast on Friday, August 6 at 10:00 a.m.

### Koimissis Vespers & Liturgy . . . . . Aug. 14/15

Our sister parishes of Koimissis churches in Aliquippa and Oakmont invite us to join them for their feast day Great Vespers on Saturday, August 14th at 7:00 p.m., followed by a lenten reception. Orthros and Divine Liturgy for the Falling Asleep of the Theotokos will be held at those parishes as well as at Holy Trinity Church on Sunday, August 15, with Orthros starting at 8:30 a.m., followed by Divine Liturgy at 9:30. This is one of the major holidays of the liturgical year and a call for each of us to honor and thank the Theotokos for her continuous prayers and love for us.



### Summer Sermons Reminder - Be Here On Time!

Please don't forget that during the summer months, when there is no Church School, the sermon is offered at its proper liturgical place following the Gospel. Much as we are all reminded how important it is to arrive for the start of Divine Liturgy, perhaps there are times of genuine, urgent need that prohibit our personal on-time arrival. If you arrive during the sermon, please remember to quietly enter through the Narthex to the BACK of the Nave (either along the glass wall or in the back row of pews) and wait there until the sermon is over. If there is room in the back row to sit, you may do so, but please do NOT distract others by walking forward to your pew during the sermon. Also, please do make your late arrival a double-penalty by missing the entire sermon waiting in the Narthex. The Narthex doors are to remain open during



### Paraclesis Services to the Most Holy Theotokos August 1-13

**H**oly Trinity Church will, as usual, offer a schedule of Paraclesis to the Theotokos Services during the first fifteen days of August in preparation for the feast of the Falling Asleep (Koimissis) of the Theotokos.

All parishioners are encouraged to attend all services; the two specially designated evenings (August 2 and August 13) are a way for us invoke the Lord's blessings and the Panagia's prayers for the school-bound youth of our Church and for those in need of healing. **All services will take place at 6:00 p.m.** Here is the schedule:

### August 2010 Paraclesis Schedule

*All services at 6:00pm at Holy Trinity Church*

**Monday, August 2**

**Wednesday, August 4**

**Monday, August 9**

**Wednesday, August 11**

**Friday, Aug. 13**

### Special Dedications/Blessings

**Monday, August 2:**

**Healing Prayers/Anointing of the Sick**

Come and seek the healing intercessions of the Theotokos and be anointed after the Paraclesis Service with holy oil from Mount Athos.

**Friday, August 13:**

**"Back to School/Off to College" Night**

Send your students back to school with a special blessing, covered by the intercessions of the Most Holy Theotokos. Following the Paraclesis Service there will be a blessing for students and a brief back-to-school chat with Fr. John and Fr. Radu. All students and families should attend.



the sermon so that all may benefit from the lessons about our Faith.

## Summer Attire Reminder

Please remember that even during the summer months when many people like to keep things "casual," entering the Holy Church is still a sacred experience which our preparation and attire should reflect. Everyone should refrain from wearing shorts and t-shirts and women are asked, as usual in accordance with Orthodox tradition, to wear dresses or skirts instead of pants. While we will not impress the Lord with clothing, we will honor Him with our modesty and piety. As the scriptures say, "Holiness befits Your house, O Lord, for evermore" (Psalm 93.5).

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Gold Outing Dinner Tickets Available ..... July 6

Don't golf? Don't worry! You can still sign up for dinner and be a program sponsor for the Holy Trinity Golf Classic 2010. This year's event again benefits the Holy Trinity Capital Campaign. It is being held at the Diamond Run Golf Club, 132 Laurel Oak Drive, Sewickley, PA. The donation for the dinner alone is \$50 per person. Please contact Anthony Loomis at [htgolf-classic@HolyTrinityPgh.org](mailto:htgolf-classic@HolyTrinityPgh.org) if you want to attend.



### "Summer Festival" Dates ..... September 2-5

Don't forget to also keep Thursday-Sunday, September 2-5, free to work at, eat at, bring your friends to and enjoy the Holy Trinity Greek Summer Festival. Please don't wait until the last minute to help: please show up for cooking now and sign up to help at the Festival! Also, a Festival flyer is enclosed and it posted on our web site. Please be sure to pass it around to friends, family, co-workers and anyone else you know who might enjoy our great Greek food and hospitality. Thanks for being the best advertising we have!

## REGIONAL NEWS

### Greek Day at Kennywood ..... July 27

Don't forget about the annual Greek Day at Kennywood sponsored by the Presentation of Christ Church, this year on July 27. All-day Funday passes are only \$23 if purchased in advance (\$35.99 if purchased at the gate). There are also other more affordable options, as low as \$14 after 5pm for ages 3 to 54. Also, spe-



cial pricing is available for seniors. Ages 55-69 are only \$13 (17.49 at the door) and age 70 & above is only \$8. For information or advance discount tickets, call Theodora Stupakis at 412-824-9188.

## Note for Summer Travel - Don't Forget Church!

Where we travel, whenever we go, we take our faith with us, for as it says in the Psalms, "God is with us!" Keeping that in mind, please remember to plan ahead and check for the location of the nearest Orthodox Christian Church if you will be staying over a Sunday. There are two great web sites to check: our own Archdiocese ([www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)) and Orthodoxy in America ([www.OrthodoxyInAmerica.org](http://www.OrthodoxyInAmerica.org)), pictured at right, a multi-jurisdictional listing of all U.S. Orthodox Christian



parishes. Also, for major trips such as overseas travels, please feel free to stay following antidoron and ask Father John to offer a special blessing to your family for your travels. Remember, "God is with us" always. Let's not forget to invite Him!

## SACRAMENTAL LIFE

### Baptism: Steiner

The servant of God, Sofia Steiner, daughter of Craig and Nicole (Fiedler) Steiner, was received into the Holy Orthodox Church through the Holy Mystery of Baptism on May 1, 2010. The Godfather was Anthony Loomis. May God grant her many years!

### Baptism: Fiedler

The servant of God, Katheryn Fiedler, daughter of Bill and Nikole (Bournias) Fiedler, was received into the Holy Orthodox Church through the Holy Mystery of Baptism on June 12, 2010. The Godparents were Genie and Emmanuel Panagiotakis. May God grant her many years!





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



**Father John Androutsopoulos**

## THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

In the last issue of the *Herald*, we studied the Ten Commandments of the Old Testament. (Exodus 20:1-17). The Old Testament is the old agreement between God and man (39 books).

In this issue, we are going to study the Sermon on the Mount in the New Testament, (Matthew 5:1-12). The New Testament (27 books) is the new agreement between God and Man. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus declared the Ten Commandments as being binding for all men. Thus, He gave us a compass by which to determine our position and direct our life with truth, purity, unselfishness and love. Jesus saw the crowds and went up a hill where He sat down. His disciples gathered around Him, and He began to teach them.

1) Blessed and happy are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven!

By poor in spirit our Lord Jesus Christ means those who have a humble and contrite heart, those who intentionally humble themselves before God, and do not think too much about themselves, neither for any other earthly goods. The true and hearty humility is the Holy Gate through which we can enter in the Kingdom of Heaven.

2) Blessed and happy are those who mourn: God will comfort them!

Jesus does not mean those who have lost their loved ones. He means those who mourn for their sins and sorrows of life with patience. Patience is love in waiting or waiting in love. Such a sorrow is the beginning of future joy. As the morning dew on flowers predicts a good day, so he who sheds tears for his sins will be comforted from God in this life and the next one.

3) Blessed and happy are the meek: they will receive what God has promised!

The meek are those who endure the insults of others and are not possessed by anger. Such an example is our Lord Jesus Christ who was meek and humble in His heart. These people will inherit the earth. They will be loved by people and the good things of eternal life will be inherited.

4) Blessed and happy are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Blessed and happy are those who in this life have the greatest desire to fulfill justice, that is, every good deed because they will receive the reward in the next life.

5) Blessed and happy are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy!

Blessed and happy are those who sympathize and help those in need, not only with money, but with one Good Word. Advise and comfort them. Such merciful are thanked by the people on earth and God is blessing their works, and on the day of judgment, God will make them partakers of eternal life.

6) Blessed and happy are the pure in heart: for they shall see God!

Blessed and happy said Jesus to those who keep themselves pure, not only from sinful desires and evil acts, but from pride, envy, falsehood, gossip, slander and generally from every evil act. Then, he will be worthy to see God in the future life. For someone to enter into the heavenly church of God, that is the triumphal church in heaven, required innocence and purity of the heart is required (1 John 3:2-3).

7) Blessed and happy are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God!

Blessed and happy are the peacemakers who feel the rest of their conscience, live with every man in harmony and love, and advise those who argue among themselves. Such peacemakers are angels of God, the true children of God, who is called God of peace, and from him they will be loved.

8) Blessed and happy are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed and happy are those who suffer persecutions and insults for the performance of every good deed and virtue. Truly good people are often persecuted by evil ones.

9) Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake!

Here Jesus speaks to his disciples saying: blessed and happy are you when people persecute and slander you for my sake and my true teachings. Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad: for great is your reward in heaven!

**Conclusion:** With these high and moral teachings, Jesus Christ revealed Himself to His followers the way which leads to eternal life. Truly that man, who is humble in his heart, quiet with patience in his sorrows, meek, sympathetic and merciful, innocent, peaceful and willing to suffer persecutions for the name of the Lord, such a man in the present life receives the peace of this internal divine voice of his conscience, which is the greatest good. And, in the future life he will receive from the impartial judge the proper reward.

**Food for thought:** the Sermon on the Mount is called in Greek the *Anthos* (the flower of the Christian teachings). Have a good summer!

*With the love of Christ,  
Rev. Fr. John K. Androutsopoulos, Protopresbyter*







**June 16-17, 2010:** Holy Trinity GOYAns participated in the GOYA 2010 "Ride All Day/Help All Day" Summer Trip. On Wednesday, the group rode the coasters and enjoyed the fun at Cedar Point amusement park in Sandusky, Ohio. The next day, these hard-working and faithful teens offered their help to the Saint Gregory Palamas Monastery in Perrysville, Ohio by hauling drywall and logs, clearing gardens and various other physical labor jobs. They also had the opportunity to tour the monastery, attend Vespers and spend Q&A time with Father Joseph, the abbot. It was both a well-attended and well-rounded experience for all those who participated.





A regular report on the Stewardship ministry of Holy Trinity Church, which provides every member a vital opportunity to become involved in supporting the life and ministries of the Church through their God-given time, talents and treasures.



**James Statheas**

## ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP: A WAY OF LIFE

by  
Fr. James W. Kordaris

(Continued from  
June 2010 issue)

### Just Another Bill

The dues system also diminishes the joy of giving and turns it into just another bill to be paid. It's important to give with joy from our heart. As St. Paul writes to the Corinthians, "So let each one give as he intends in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Gregory the Theologian writes, "You will never overcome God's generosity, even if you give away all that you have.... And however much you bring to him, always more remains. Nor will you give anything that is your own; for all things flow from God."

### Implications Of A Dues System

The idea that as a parish we are able to set a fixed amount that is fair for all the faithful, the payment of which makes them members in good standing with rights and privileges, is flawed for a number of reasons.

Is it fair to think that the elderly widow living on Social Security, the successful real estate developer, the banker, the young tradesman with a growing family, the teacher and the lawyer each have received the same material blessings and have the same ability to give?

To set a specific required dues amount places an undue burden on some, but most often it underestimates the ability of our parishioners to support the church.

### Rights And Entitlements

When we set a dues amount, whatever it may be, it implies that if we pay this amount, then we have fulfilled our obligation to the Church. "I paid my dues, now I get to vote, receive sacraments, and express my opinion of how the parish should be run."

We often hear economists talk about the balance of payments. This concept applies to our offering to the Church.

We can never give enough to God for the blessings He has given us. We are always in a deficit position. The system of dues however, gives us the false idea that we are "all paid up" for this year if we just pay this specified amount.

### Stewardship With A Minimum

Many parishes attempt a sort of hybrid system of Stewardship with a minimum. This sends the contradictory message to parishioners that we

trust you to give as you have been blessed, but are not willing to take that leap of faith.

We need to be reminded that God never gives to us in minimums and our giving should never be guided by a minimum. Orthodox Christianity is not about minimums, it is about maximums. Jesus gave the maximum for us. We now carry on His ministry with maximum giving. And from a practical point of view, minimums have a funny way of becoming maximums.

When we deal with minimums, we also have to realize that there is always a number of faithful who will be excluded when we have minimums and dues. What message are we sending to these individuals who may have fallen on hard times and may be unable to pay the specified minimum? Don't they need the Church even more in their difficult times?

(...continued next issue)

## 2010 HOLY TRINITY STEWARDS

Thank you to the following Holy Trinity Stewards who submitted their cards since the last publication.

Still not on the list? Please sign & send yours today!

Mr. & Mrs. George Georges

Mrs. Helen Romanias

## 2009/2010 STEWARDSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

2009 Offerings Received from Stewards Submitting Pledge Card	\$163,070 (229 pledges)
2009 Offerings Received from Donors Without Pledge Card	\$35,204 (38 donors)
2009 Total Stewardship Income	\$198,274 (267 donors)
2009 Average Stewardship Pledge	\$680
2010 Offerings Received from Stewards Submitting Pledge Card	\$66,780 (185 pledges)
2010 Offerings Received from Donors Without Pledge Card	\$9,798 (52 donors)
2010 Total Stewardship Income	\$76,578 (237 donors)
2010 Average Stewardship Pledge	\$714
2010 Stewardship Pledges Total	\$132,018 (185 pledges)





An update on the news and activities of our local Holy Trinity chapter of the Philoptochos Ladies Society, a national philanthropic ministry of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. and the Parish Council." Want more information? Visit their web site at [www.philoptochos.org](http://www.philoptochos.org) or contact a local member.

## Philoptochos Report: July/August 2010

### Altar Table For The Chapel

When the Chapel was built a few years ago, the Philoptochos pledged to donate the Altar Table. Since then we have been waiting for the Altar Table to be made. The time has come that it will soon be ready and the cost will be approximately \$6,300. It will be a beautiful carved wooden Orthodox Holy Altar



table *similar* to the one pictured here, done by a very experienced ecclesiastical woodworker from the south. We will be having a fundraiser in the future to help us pay for the table. As in the past everyone is very generous to the Philoptochos and we are sure that you will be again.

### Undies and Socks Collection

As in the past we are collecting undies and socks for young people. We donate them to homes for young people who are in need. There are so many young people that go to homes with just one pair of undies and no socks. Please help us by donating a few new socks or undies. They are very inexpensive at some stores in the area. There is a box in the Narthex for your donation. Thank you for your generosity.

### New Community Directory

Philoptochos will be assisting the church office in compiling a new Holy Trinity Community Directory. We will list names and contact information for all Holy Trinity members. Cell phone numbers, e-mails and fax numbers will be optional and permission forms will be part of the process. We will also have pictures taken in the Community Center after Liturgy on a published schedule. There will not be a charge for this service. If you have a recent picture that you would like to put into the book, we will be happy if you would give it to us to scan. We will return it to you. More information will follow. Have a blessed, happy summer. See you in September.

Respectfully submitted,  
Esther Ladakos, Secretary

## Understanding Our Faith: The Icon of the Transfiguration

The Orthodox tradition of iconography is often referred to as "theology in color." The colors, figures and scenes are not subject to the personal creativity of the iconographer, but rather must be consistent with the history and theology of the Church. Icons are responsible for visually conveying the timeless truths of the Faith. It is important, therefore, to understand what each icon teaches us. This month, we will look at the icon of the Holy Transfiguration of Christ found on the front cover of this issue.

The icon features five figures: Jesus, Moses, Elijah and the Disciples Peter, James and John. The portrayal of each of the Disciples in the icon vary. St. Peter (on the lower left) is always represented kneeling, supported on his left hand and raising his right hand to protect himself from the light (In other versions of this icon, his hand is raised to make a gesture accompanying the words that he addressed to Christ). St. John (always in the center) falls, turning his back to the light. St. James flees before the light or falls backwards still looking at Christ. These different attitudes of the Apostles show their own characteristic differences and their own individuality. They saw God's glory according to their personal potential (as expressed in the hymns, they each received this revelation "as much as they could bear").

Our Lord Jesus Christ, in His transfigured state, is represented standing on the top of the mountain, speaking with

Moses and Elijah. His clothes are shining white. The geometrical figures within the circle represent the "bright cloud," which revealed the supernatural source of the divine energies. Moses (on the right) is holding a book, it is the tables of the Ten Commandments. Elijah (on the left) is an old man with long hair.



St. John Chrysostom gives several reasons to explain the presence of Moses and Elijah at the moment of the Transfiguration. First, they represent the law (Moses) and the prophets (Elijah). Second, both men had a secret vision of God—Moses on Mount Sinai and Elijah on Cannel. Finally, Moses represents the dead, while Elijah, taken up to heaven alive on a chariot of fire, represents the living.

These details in the icon underline the eschatological (end times) character of the Transfiguration. Christ appears as the Lord of the living and dead, coming in the glory of the future age.

Edited and adapted from "The Church Liturgical Year," Apostoliki Diakonia



Reflections in Greek on the months of July and August, "The Time of Fruits," extracted from the journal, "Pros Tin Niki."



Voula Hareras

## ΊΟΥΛΙΟΣ:

### Η ΩΡΑ ΤΩΝ ΚΑΡΠΩΝ

**Μ**εστώνουν ώριμάζουν, γλυκαίνουν οί καρποί στη φύση. Χαρά Θεού αυτή ή καρποφορία.

Μέσα από στά σπλάχνα τής γής άθόρυβα καί άσταμάτητα, μήνες τώρα, έτοιμαζόταν τούτο τό Θαύμα, πού όρισε ό Θεός γιά τίς ανάγκες τού ανθρώπου.

Καί ό καλλιεργητής πού έβαλε καί αυτός τήν δική του προσπάθεια καί τούς κόπους καί τά έξοδα,τά ξεχνάει όλα, τώρα δοξάζει από τήν καρδιά του τόν Θεό καί απολαμβάνει τούς καρπούς. Δέν ξεθαρρεύει όμως ξέρει πώς ό μήνας τούτος φέρνει βροχές καί χαλάζι καί φωτιές. Πρέπει νά ασφαλίζει τή σοδιά του, νά μήν χαθεί όλου τού χρόνου ό κόπος, τό ψωμί τού σπιτιού του.

Καί τόν έαυτό του πρέπει νά ασφαλίζει, από τού ήλιου τά πυρά, πού άπειλούν καθένα πού δέν τόν λογαριάζει καί άφύλακτα έκτίθεται.

Ή χαρά τής καρποφορίας μαζί καί ή φροντίδα γιά τήν διαφύλαξη της, κι'άκόμα τού καλλιεργητή ή προστασία. Αύτά στήν φύση, στήν γεωργική ζωή.

Αλλά τί σπουδαίες άναλογίες καί μέ τήν ζωή τού πνεύματος, τής μαθήσεως, τών γνώσεων. Μήνας ό Ίούλιος, πού οί κόποι όλης τής χρονιάς καρποφορούν. Ερχονται τά άποτελέσματα τής μελέτης, οί βαθμοί, τ'άπολυτήρια, οί ποικίλοι τίτλοι σπουδών. Τί χαρά νά έχεις άποδεικτικά τών γνώσεών σου, τίτλους πού θά σου χρειαστούν στό μέλλον.

Είναι ύστερα καί κάποιοι άλλοι καρποί, πού μέ τήν χάρη τού Θεού έδεσαν μέσα σου'ή αγάπη στόν Θεό, ή πίστη, ή σεμνότητα, ή ύπακοή στου Θεού τό θέλημα, ή καθαρότητα τής ψυχής.

Μήν ξεθαρεύεις όμως, καί γιαούτους τούς καρπούς, τούς πνευματικούς, ύπάρχουν κίνδυνοι. Δέν είναι τώρα οί βροχές καί τό χαλάζι. Είναι ή αϋτάρκεια, ή ραθυμία, ή τεμπελιά, τό άφημα καί ξεχυμα τού Νου σέ άπαγορευμένες από τού Θεού τόν νόμο περιοχές, ή άλαζονεία, ή έλλειψη στόχου.

Καί ύστερα είναι ό ήλιος πού γίνεται έπικίνδυνος. Είναι τά κυνικά καύματα, οί πειρασμοί, ή άμαρτία, πού άπειλεί τόν πνευματικό έργάτη καί τού κάνει έπικίνδυνα Εγκαύματα.

Λοιπόν, φύλαγε καί σύ τή σοδειάσου, τά πνευματικά σου πλούτη, τίς γνώσεις σου, τίς άρετές σου, μέ τήν προσοχή, ασφάλισε τόν έαυτό σου θυμίζοντάς του τήν παρουσία τού Θεού παντού καί πάντοτε.

## ΑΥΓΟΥΣΤΟΣ

Ο Αύγουστος είναι ό μήνας τών Έλλήνων. Αύτός ό καλοκαιριάτικος μήνας μέ τήν ήμεράδα του καί τό γλυκό φώς του, γεμίζει τίς ψυχές μας από μιά άλλοιώτικη χαρά καί άγαλλίαση. Τό γιατί τό άπαντάει καθένas μας, από τό τρυφερό παιδί ως τόν πολύχρονο παππού σέ κάθε γωνιά τής Πατρίδας μας.

Είναι ό μήνας πού εύωδιάζει ζυμωμένος λές μέ τήν χάρη τής Πανάχραντης Μητέρας τού Χριστού μας, καί δικής μας Μητέρας.

Αρχίζει μέ τήν άγνή χαρά τής νηστείας τού Δεκαπενταύγουστου, πού μάς τήν παρέδωσαν οί αιώνες από γενιά σέ γενιά. Νομίζεις μάλιστα πώς καί ή γή μας ή πατρική μάς συμπαραστέκεται μέ κατανόηση στό άγιο δέος πρός τήν Παναγία μας.

Γεμίζει τά μάτια καί τά χέρια μας μέ τούς πιό ωραίους καί εύγευστους καρπούς της σάν νά μά λέει ξεύλογημένοι νά είστε, έξαγνισθήτε αλλά πάρτε καί γευθήτε από τόν μόχθο μου}. Δεκαπενταύγουστος φίλοι μου, γιορτάζει εκείνη πού στάθηκε ή προστασία καί ή έλπίδα τού Γένους μας.

Μέ τό γέρμα τού ήλιου μέσα στό μασχοβολημένο δειλινό, άς πάμε στίς έκκλησίες μας, νά μάς γλυκάνουν τήν καρδιά οί παρακλητικοί ύμνοι στή χάρη Της.

Νά μάς φτερώσει, Έκείνη τήν ψυχή μέ αυτό πού δίνει μέ τίς πρεσβείες Της σήμερα, μέ εκείνο πού κρύβει γιά νά μάς φανερώσει αύριο.

Άς απολαύσουμε άς χαρούμε τήν γαλήνη καί τήν όμορφιά τής γιορτής Της, άς τήν ύμνήσουμε. Είναι ή Κυρία Θεοτόκος τό μόνο

δώρο πού πρόσφερε ή Γή στόν Ουρανό, γιά νά κατέβει ό Θεός άναμεσά μας. Τώρα μέ τήν μετάστασή Της, άνεβαίνει στόν ύψηλότερο θρόνο, πού τής έτοίμασε ή άγιότητά της καί ή προσφορά της στό θείο θέλημα. Πηγαίνει στά ούράνια δώματα στολισμένη, {πεποικιλμένη}μέ θεία δόξα.

Καί μή μάς φοβίσει ποτέ έχθρός πανούργος. Ή Παντάνασσα μάς έχει στή σκέπη Της καί μάς περιφρουρεί μέ έγνοια γλυκειάς μητέρας.

Από τό περιοδικό Προς Τήν Νίκη

**Κ**αλό Δεκαπενταύγουστο! Σάς εύχομαι νά περάσεται ένα υπέροχο καλοκαίρι, ξεκούραστο καί μέ ύγεία νά τά ξαναπούμε τόν Σεπτέβριο, καλή άντάμωση στω Food Festival!

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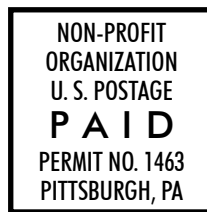
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## What is the Church?

“The Church is the earthly paradise in which the God of heaven dwells and moves.”

St. Herman of Constantinople (8th c.)

“Where the Church is, there also is the Spirit of God, and where the Spirit of God is, there is the Church and all His grace.”

St. Irenaeus of Lyons (2nd c.)

“The Church is the great window by which the Sun of Justice penetrates the world of darkness.”

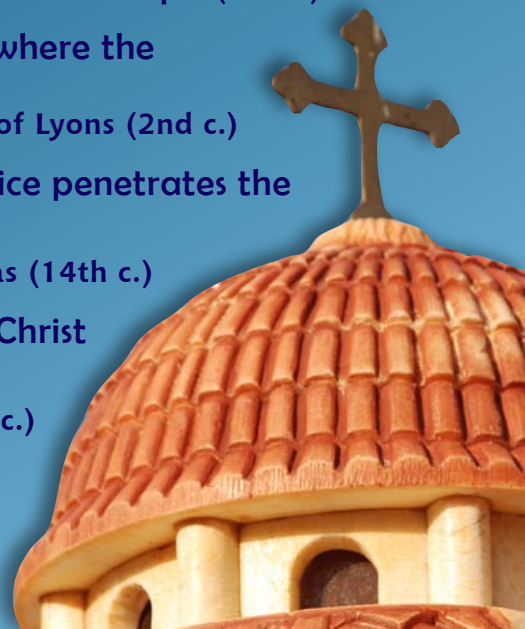
St. Nicholas Cabasilas (14th c.)

“The Church of Christ is not an institution; it is new life in Christ and with Christ.”

Father Sergius Bulgakov (20th c.)

“The Church is the breach opened by the triumphant Cross, and through this breach flows unceasingly the love of the Trinity in the light of the Resurrection.”

Olivier Clement (20th c.)



Scripture of the Month: “Care for the church of God which He obtained with the blood of His own Son.” (Acts 20.28)