



THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

DECEMBER 2018

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HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH • PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA
OUR VISION: "FAITH. FAMILY. COMMUNITY."

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Holy Trinity veterans are honored on our parish's annual Military Appreciation Day. Want to see more photos of this event and others in the life and ministries of Holy Trinity Church? See the Community Life Photo Journal on page 7 or visit our online photo gallery site at photos.HolyTrinityPgh.org.

CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!



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
(pittsburgh.goarch.org) and Greek Ortho-
dox Archdiocese of America (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

2018 Parish Council

Gerri Valliant, President

Dean A. Balouris	Michael Passodelis
George Danis	Joyce Athanasiou
George Dickos	Stephen Stearns
Alvin Backeris	Karen Georgiadis
Tom Germanos	Alex Trilivas
Ted Stewart	Jean Willow

Ministries

Please visit the Holy Trinity website at www.HolyTrinityPgh.org for descriptions and contact information on Holy Trinity Church's ministries, including spiritual life, education, youth, senior, family and cultural opportunities. There is something for everyone, so please get involved today!

"FAITH. FAMILY. COMMUNITY."



When you turn to God, do not seek some favor from Him. Seek the Lord Himself and He will hear you.

Saint Augustine, On Psalm 33

My beloved spiritual family,

No matter how old we get, there is always a child-like joy about Christmas. Whether we return to our own joy and memories of early Christmases gone by, or whether we delight in the joy of our children, grandchildren or just special children in our life during the holidays, it is an oasis we give ourselves permission to visit each year, even if only for a while. And it is certainly a welcome respite from the troubles of daily life. We all need moments of joy.

What if we could remain in that joy throughout our life? Not the superficial or emotionally-rooted kind that comes and goes so quickly, but one in which we can walk all our days? That is a joy not of this passing world, but one that emanates from the Lord Himself. In the beautiful quote to the right from Saint Augustine, he imagines the Lord's response to our requests of worldly and small things. He ponders how the Lord Who revealed Himself and gave Himself for us would answer when He hears us asking for so many small things. To dramatize that contrast, the saint reminds us, "The Psalm [34] does not say, 'I asked the Lord for riches and He heard me. I asked the Lord for long life and He heard me. I begged for this or that and He heard me.'" What does that Psalm actually say? "I sought the Lord and He heard me." It is not what we seek, but Whom we seek that matters.

In my experience of people of faith—and I have been blessed to meet many during my life—I have experienced the greatest joy in those who do just that: seek the very gift of the Lord Himself in their life. Yes, there are talented people, smart people, gifted people and many other ways to describe out-of-the-ordinary people, but someone who lives in the joy of the Lord is unmistakable and unforgettable. As I write this, just the remembrance of them, still alive in this life or already alive in the heavenly kingdom, is still a powerful and motivating influence. Their joy is the Lord Himself. That is a joy that cannot be taken away. And it is infectious. We sense it, are blessed by it and desire it to live in our own heart. This was the promise of the angel to the shepherds at the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ: "I bring you good news of a great joy, which will come to all the people" (Luke 2.10). All people. That means it can be ours, too.

So as we prepare to celebrate the Holy Nativity of Jesus Christ, may we be blessed with every small joy the Lord brings us in this life. But may our true pursuit and ultimate goal be the True Joy: God Himself.

As Saint Paul offers to the Christians in Rome, so I offer to you in closing "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing" (Rom. 15.13).

Christ is born! Glorify Him!
Pastorally and paternally yours,

Herald Personal Sponsor for the December Issue:
Spero the Orthodox Church Mouse
For All of Our Heavenly Father's Precious Children



WORSHIP LIFE

Weekday Services.....December

Please take note of the following upcoming liturgical dates. Unless otherwise indicated, Orthros starts at 8:30 a.m., followed by Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m. Locations of services: "SG"=Saint George Chapel, 8941 Ringeisen Road, Allison Park; "HT"=Holy Trinity Church, 985 Providence Boulevard, Pittsburgh, PA 15237.

Dec. 4, 8:30am Orthros/9:30am Liturgy: St. Barbara the Great Martyr (SG)

Dec. 5*, 10:00am: St. Savas the Sanctified
*Services for St. Savas held at the Metropolis Chapel

Dec. 5*, 7:00pm: Great Vespers of St. Nicholas
*Vespers held at St. Nicholas Cathedral

Dec. 6*, 8:30am Orthros/9:30am Liturgy: St. Nicholas
*Orthros/Liturgy at Holy Trinity Church this year.

Dec. 12*, 10:00am: Liturgy - St. Spyridon
*Services for St. Spyridon held at St. Spyridon, Monessen

Dec. 17, 8:30am Orthros/9:30am Liturgy: St. Dionysios of Zakynthos (SG)

Dec. 24, 9:30am: Royal Hours of the Nativity (HT)

Dec. 24, 6:30pm: Vespertal Liturgy of the Nativity (HT)

Dec. 25, 9:30am: Orthros/Divine Liturgy Nativity (HT)

Dec. 31, 6:30pm EVENING Orthros/Liturgy: St. Basil the Great (SG)

Services for the Nativity of Christ..... Dec. 24/25

Please remember these festal celebrations for the Nativity of Christ and participate in them with your family. Please note that all Christmas services will be held at Holy Trinity Church.

Mon. Dec. 24, 9:30 am..... Royal Hours of the Nativity
This special service offers readings, prophecies and hymns which point to and interpret the Divine Incarnation.

Mon. Dec. 24, 6:30pm.....Vespertal Liturgy of the Nativity
This service "opens the liturgical day" and begins the celebration of the Nativity. Also, the Holy Trinity Choir will be offering a selection of beautiful Christmas carols following the service. (Note: This is not a Divine Liturgy. Those wishing to receive Holy Communion need to attend the Liturgy of the Forefeast of the Nativity on Sunday morning or Christmas morning on Monday.)

Tue. Dec. 25, 8:30am Orthros/9:30am Liturgy.....The Nativity
This is the main service of the Birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Open the best gift first by attending Liturgy with your family and receiving the Holy Mysteries together! Make it a family tradition to keep the most important thing about Christmas the most important thing in your home!*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Church School Thanksgiving Food Drive ...Through Dec. 2

Church School students and families will once again hold a Thanksgiving Food Drive to benefit those in need served by the FOCUS Pittsburgh ministry. Collection bags with instruc-

tions will be delivered to the students in early November and all collections should be returned by Sunday, December 2. A special treat will be offered to the class with the most collections. We are aiming for at least 100 items from each class.

Christmas Pageant Rehearsals..... Dec. 2, 9, 14, 15

This year's Christmas pageant will once again be an "all new" Holy Trinity production, so everyone will need to be there for rehearsals. Please don't miss out!

Sun. Dec. 2 & 9: Rehearsal will take place for grades 7-12 following Divine Liturgy and Church School. Please plan on staying until 12:30pm after Liturgy to make sure everything is completed. Teachers will have specific information for their classes.

Fri. Dec. 14: Rehearsal for grades 7-12 will take place during the GOYA Bread baking evening. All teens are asked to be there to help bake and rehearse.

Sat. Dec. 15: The complete cast rehearsal for the Holy Trinity Church School Christmas Pageant will be held on Saturday morning, December 15.

- From 9:00am to 10:00am, Pre-School through Sixth grades will rehearse their parts.
- From 9:00am to 10:00am, the Junior Choir will rehearse their songs.
- From 9:00am-10:00am the instrumental musicians will rehearse their performance.
- From 9:30-11:00am, all 7th-12th grades will rehearse the pageant.

Also note: "Bonus" attendance credit will be given for all students who participate that day.

Church School Christmas Pageant December 16

The Holy Trinity Church School ministry will be offering its annual Christmas Pageant this year on Sunday, December 16. ALL the students of the Church School will be involved in this event. On that day, following Holy Communion, all Church School students and staff will depart for their classes and final preparations for the pageant. All our parishioners are asked to stay for the pageant and coffee hour in the social hall. Also, please note: Coffee Hour that day is sponsored by the Holy Trinity Church School Alumni. Any alumni—parents, graduates of any age, former staff—that would like to help, please contact Presvytera Becky.

No Church School Class Dec. 23, 30

Attention, parents: there will be no Church School class on December 23 and 30 due to the holiday celebrations, so please join together to worship as a family on that day.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

GOYA Meeting December 2

The GOYA teen ministry will hold a general meeting for all members following Church School on Sunday, December 2.

GOYA Basketball Practice Dec.-Feb.

GOYA will hold basketball practice in preparation for

For the latest updates and schedule of parish events, visit www.HolyTrinityPgh.org/calendar



the 2019 basketball tournament season on November 27, December 3, 10 & 18 and January 2, 8, & 22 and February 5, 11 & 20 from 6:30-8:30pm at Hosack Elementary School, 9275 Peebles Road, Allison Park, PA 15101.

GOYA Fireside Chat December 9

The GOYA teen ministry will hold its annual Christmas Fireside Chat at the Bordeianu home on Sunday, December 9 from 3:00-6:00pm. Information is being sent directly to GOYA families.

GOYA Christmas Bread Baking December 14

All GOYA teens and any available parents are asked to be on duty for GOYA Christmas Bread baking on Friday, December 14. Parents are asked to come during the daytime starting at 9:00am. Teens are asked to be there after school and through to the end of the job in the evening. There will also be Christmas Pageant rehearsal for grades 7-12 that evening.

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS AND EVENTS.

Philoptochos Holiday Bake Sale December 9

As we approach the holiday season let the ladies of the Philoptochos help check something off your list! It is time for our annual Holiday Bake Sale of Spanakopita, Tiropita, Baklava, Kourambiedes, Koulourakia, Finikia, Paximadia and Sweet Breads. Order forms are available at the church office window and were also included in the November edition of the Herald. Order now as quantities are limited! All orders must be received and PREPAID by Sunday, December 9. Orders will be ready for pick up following Liturgy on Sunday, December 23. Questions? Call Nicole Steiner at 412-781-6109.

Philoptochos Turkey Fundraiser Thank You

The Ladies Philoptochos would like to thank everyone who has donated to their Annual Turkey Fundraiser so far this year. Your donations will be used to assist needy families, local women's shelters and local food banks during the holiday season. If you have not sent in your donation, there is still time to support this worthy cause. Checks can be made out to "Holy Trinity Philoptochos" and mailed to the Church Office.

COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS

Parish Council Elections December 2

Elections for the 2019-2020 Parish Council term will be held on Sunday, December 2, immediately following Divine Liturgy. Candidates on the ballot are: George Danis, Tom Germanos, Karen Georgiadis, Mike Passodelis, Gerri Valliant and Jeanne Willow. Voting requires membership in good standing, including a signed 2018 Holy Trinity Stewardship Pledge.

Community Christmas Card Form Due Dec. 6

If you would like to include your name in this annual community tradition, please be sure to submit your form and donation to the Church Office by December 6. Thank you!

Holiday Poinsettias Form. Due Dec. 6

The November issue of the *Herald* contained a form for the sponsoring of holiday poinsettias for use in the church during the Christmas and Theophany season. If you would like to donate one or more flowers in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special person or event, please complete the form and return it to the Church Office with your donation by December 6.

"Drop and Shop" Evening for Parents. December 7

GOYA will be hosting a "Drop and Shop" evening for parents of Holy Trinity children of all ages on Friday, December 7 from 6:00-9:00pm. The GOYAns will organize activities so parents can drop of their kids and enjoy a night out for Christmas shopping. **NOTE: There is no charge for this event but advance reservations are required. Deadline: December 3.** Visit www.HolyTrinityPgh.org/events.

Annual Community Christmas Caroling. Dec. 19

Want to get into the Christmas spirit and do a good deed for our neighbors at the same time? How about joining in on a wonderful annual holiday tradition at Holy Trinity Church: Christmas caroling across the street at the Sisters of Divine Providence! These elderly nuns truly enjoy when we come with parishioners of ALL ages. Meet on Wednesday, December 19 at 6:30pm for a brief practice and then we will head across the way for this wonderful event. EVERYONE is invited to participate: the children of the HOPE and JOY ministries, the youth of GOYA and Young Adults, as well as parents, grandparents and ANYONE who wants to offer some Christmas joy and share in this wonderful community fellowship opportunity and outreach of love!

Paver Project – Updated Design! Deadline Dec. 16

"Leave a footprint on the sands of time" (Henry Wadsworth Longfellow). All great individuals have left a footprint on history. Be a part of Holy Trinity's historical footprint by purchasing a paver for yourself and/or your loved ones. Leave a lasting memory of your family name, or someone else's name. Engrave a lasting tribute in honor of or in memory of a special person in your life. Or capture a very special event, like a wedding or baptismal anniversary. Please email Karen Georgiadis or

FINAL opportunity to reserve your paver(s)!

Dramatic design improvement:

The center cross has been raised 14" to highlight it and protect it as a symbol of faith.



We're excited to announce two new donation possibilities! Two matching stone benches will be placed around the circle drive. Only two are available. Cost: \$2,000 each.

FINAL DEADLINE is now **Sunday, December 16.** The inscription process begins this winter, with the Path being installed in early spring 2019.

Questions? Please email pavers@holytrinitypgh.org or visit www.HolyTrinityPgh.org/pavers.

Kathy Balouris at pavers@HolyTrinityPgh.org. Information is also available at on our website at www.HolyTrinityPgh.org/pavers. We will be selling pavers until Sunday, December 16, unless we sell out before then. The inscription process begins this winter, with the installation in early spring 2019.

For the latest updates and schedule of parish events, visit www.HolyTrinityPgh.org/calendar



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



Father John Androutsopoulos

Our Christmas Gift to Jesus

CHRIST IS BORN... ...GLORIFY HIM!

"It is, more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35)

How blessed the wise men were in being able to bring gifts to the Holy Babe and to adore Him as they knelt before Him! Their hearts were filled with joy as they left that place.

Everyone who loves Jesus with all his heart wants to give Him love, coming out of a heart full of gratitude. We want to bring Him our best gift - the one He desires most. So we surrender our lives to Him that He may reign over us.

Jesus our Lord and Savior never refuses a gift given with a loving heart. When we open our hearts to Jesus, He enters and fills us with an immense and overflowing joy. His gifts are much bigger than ours. He gives in abundance. How wonderful to be His faithful servants!

"A contrite and humble heart God will not despise." At Christmas time our best gift to Jesus is an open and responsive heart. This culminates in faith which believes that Jesus is the One Whom the Scriptures say He is: the Son of God, the Savior of the world, the Bread of life, the Good Shepherd, the Living Water, the Prince of Peace, Emmanuel - God with Us.

Accordingly, we commit ourselves to His transforming power. As surely as Jesus is the Son of God given for our redemption, it follows that when we receive Him we shall henceforth follow Him devoutly and love Him with all our hearts.

For all the gifts which we have received so abundantly from the Father, especially for the Gift of His Beloved Son, we thank our Heavenly Father. We, too, offer ourselves as a gift to Him.

Beloved, we know that many unbelieving merchants take advantage of the spirit of the Holy Season for purely commercial purposes. But in spite of all that

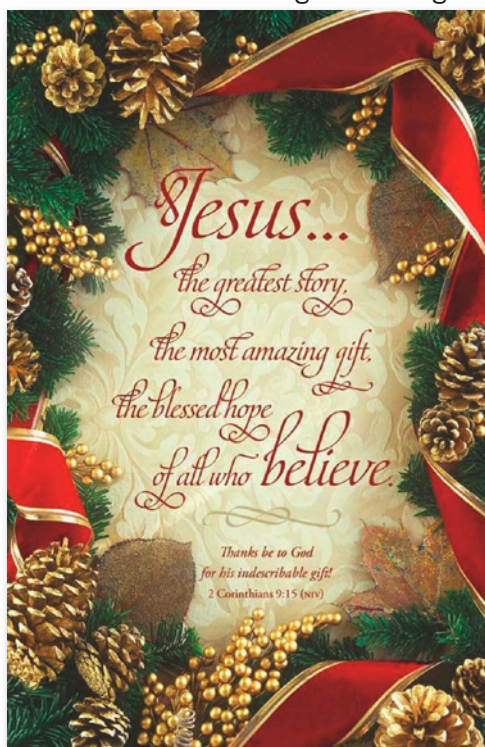
may be wrong, there is something wonderful about a season when we celebrate the birth of the Son of God. Let us rejoice and be happy together!

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Did you ever try to define the little adverb "so" in John 3:16?

How about this: "For God loved the world SO MUCH that He gave His only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16).

The Wise Men did not exchange gifts. They made the long journey to present their gifts to Christ. The Wise Men were wise because they did the wise thing. Wise people still bring their gifts to Jesus. Exchanging gifts is not giving.



THOUGHTS ABOUT ADVENT

The Fast of Christmas (Advent) which means "The Coming" of the Great and Holy Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

ADVENT teaches us to do some spiritual shopping for Christmas.

ADVENT should be a season of spiritual awaking for the soul. Fasting, Prayer, and the Sacraments of repentance, confession: and Holy Communion make the soul alive and exceedingly happy.

OUR SPECIAL GREETINGS

On Christmas Day when we celebrate the glorious Feast of the Nativity of our Lord, let us thank Christ that His coming means the dawning of the day of peace and good will among all persons.

May our Heavenly Father help us to remember that Jesus did not remain the little babe of the manger, but grew into manhood, and proved by His wonderful works that He was the Son of God. May we never forget that He loved us and gave Himself for us. May we give ourselves wholly to Him.

With heartfelt gratitude and love, my family and I extend our special greetings to Rev. Fr. John Touloumes, Rev. Fr. Radu Bordeianu and their families and all the members of Holy Trinity Church that they may have a blessed Christmas season.

CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

*With the love of the Lord,
Rev. Fr. John K. Androutsopoulos
Protosphyter and Internal Missionary*



☑ **WORSHIP** ☑ **LEARN** ☑ **GROW** ☑ **PRAY** ☑ **SERVE**

ENGAGE YOUR SPIRIT BETWEEN SUNDAYS! SEE YOU THIS WEEK!

FAITH ^{AND} Family WEEKDAYS

AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Sometimes once a week is just not enough to satisfy your spiritual yearning for a deeper experience of God. “Faith and Family Weekdays” is your opportunity to live your life in the Church between Sundays! With presentations, hands-on-learning sessions and worship services, there are opportunities for Christians to “grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3.18). These faith and growth experiences can even make your Sunday Liturgies more powerful. Check it out this week and every week!

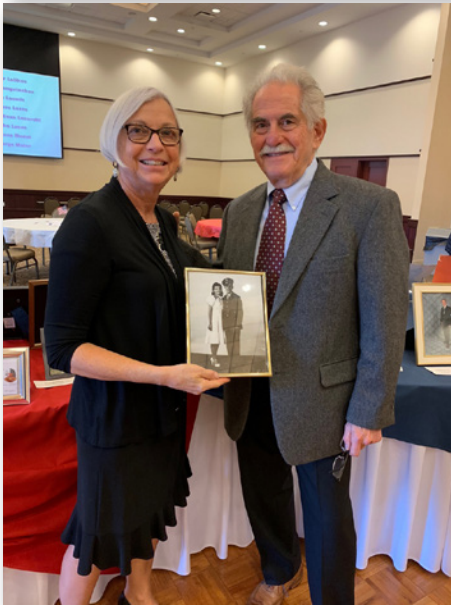
“Every day in the temple and at home they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.” (Acts 5.42)

UPDATED “FAITH AND FAMILY WEEKDAYS” MINISTRIES GUIDE: 2018-2019

DAYS	MINISTRY	SCHEDULE	ABOUT
DAILY	“Prayer Partners” Prayer Support Ministry	Every Day: In your personal prayers	EVERYONE can participate in this vital ministry. On the first Sunday of Jan., Apr., July and Oct., prayer cards are distributed after Liturgy to ask parishioners to exchange names and become Prayer Partners. Pray and be prayed for daily!
MONDAYS 7:00pm	“Journey to Fullness” Faith Growth Ministry	Mondays: Fall and Spring Series Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; Nov. 5, 12, 19 / Apr 1, 8, 15; May 6, 13, 20; Jun 3, 10	This excellent video teaching series is for everyone who wants to learn more about the “fullness of the faith” found in Orthodox Christianity, whether as inquirers, catechumens or life-long members. Each segment offers an interactive question and answer period. Same series repeated in fall and spring.
SECOND TUESDAY 7:00pm	“Journey of Marriage” Marriage Prep Ministry	2nd Tuesday Sep.-May Sep. 11, Oct. 9, Dec. 11, Jan. 8, Feb. 12, Mar. 12, Apr. 9, May 14	Marriage preparation for couples using the excellent and interactive “Journey of Marriage” materials developed by Dr. Philip Mamalakis. From “Hello!” to honeymoon, this series educates and equips couples for fruitful Orthodox Christian married life. It’s fun, interactive and a great way to prepare.
WEDNESDAYS 6:30pm Worship 7:00pm Study	“Explore the Word” Worship and Bible Study Ministry	Wednesdays Oct.-May Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24; Nov. 7, 28; Dec. 12, 19; Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30; Feb. 6, 13; May 8, 15, 22	Prayerfully read the Bible! In Deuteronomy 11, it says, “Lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul.” Each Wednesday, come and open your heart in prayer in the Church and then meet in the Conference Room for the study of the Gospel of St. Matthew led by Father Radu Bordeianu.
THIRD THURSDAY 7:00am	“Prayer and Panera” Men’s Ministry	3rd Thursday Sep.-June Sep. 20, Oct. 18, Nov. 29, Dec. 20, Jan. 17, Feb. 21, Mar. 21, Apr. 18, May 16 Jun. 20	The Saint Nikodemos Men’s Fellowship hosts this morning session of prayers and Christian fellowship (with coffee and bagels, too!). The group meets at church promptly at 7:00 a.m. for a 15-20 minute morning prayer and scripture, then moves up the hill to Panera for 30-45 minutes of coffee, breakfast and Christian men’s conversation.
THIRD THURSDAY 6:30pm St. George Chapel	“Monthly Paraclesis Service” Worship	3rd Thursday Sep.-June Sep. 20, Oct. 18, Nov. 15, Dec. 20, Jan. 17, Feb. 21, Mar. 21, Apr. 18, May 16 Jun. 20	The Paraclesis, also know as the Service of Supplication, is offered monthly at St. George Chapel. It contains hymns and prayers asking the Lord for guidance, personal strength, and healing. The most popular form invokes the prayers of the Holy Theotokos. We will alternate that service with two others, one for St. Nektarios and the other for St. Paisios.
SECOND THURSDAY 7:00pm	“Orthodox Movie Night” Entertainment/Fellowship	2nd Thursday Sep.-June Oct. 11, Nov. 8, Dec. 13, Jan. 10, Feb. 14, Mar. 14, Apr. 11, May 9, Jun. 13	A monthly offering of inspirational movies with snacks and good company in the Fireside Room. Free to all, it’s a relaxing and uplifting alternative to the “same old stuff” on cable TV. Why sit around alone and watch that when you can enjoy a night of Holy Trinity fellowship and entertainment? Watch for the monthly flyer with a description of each offering.

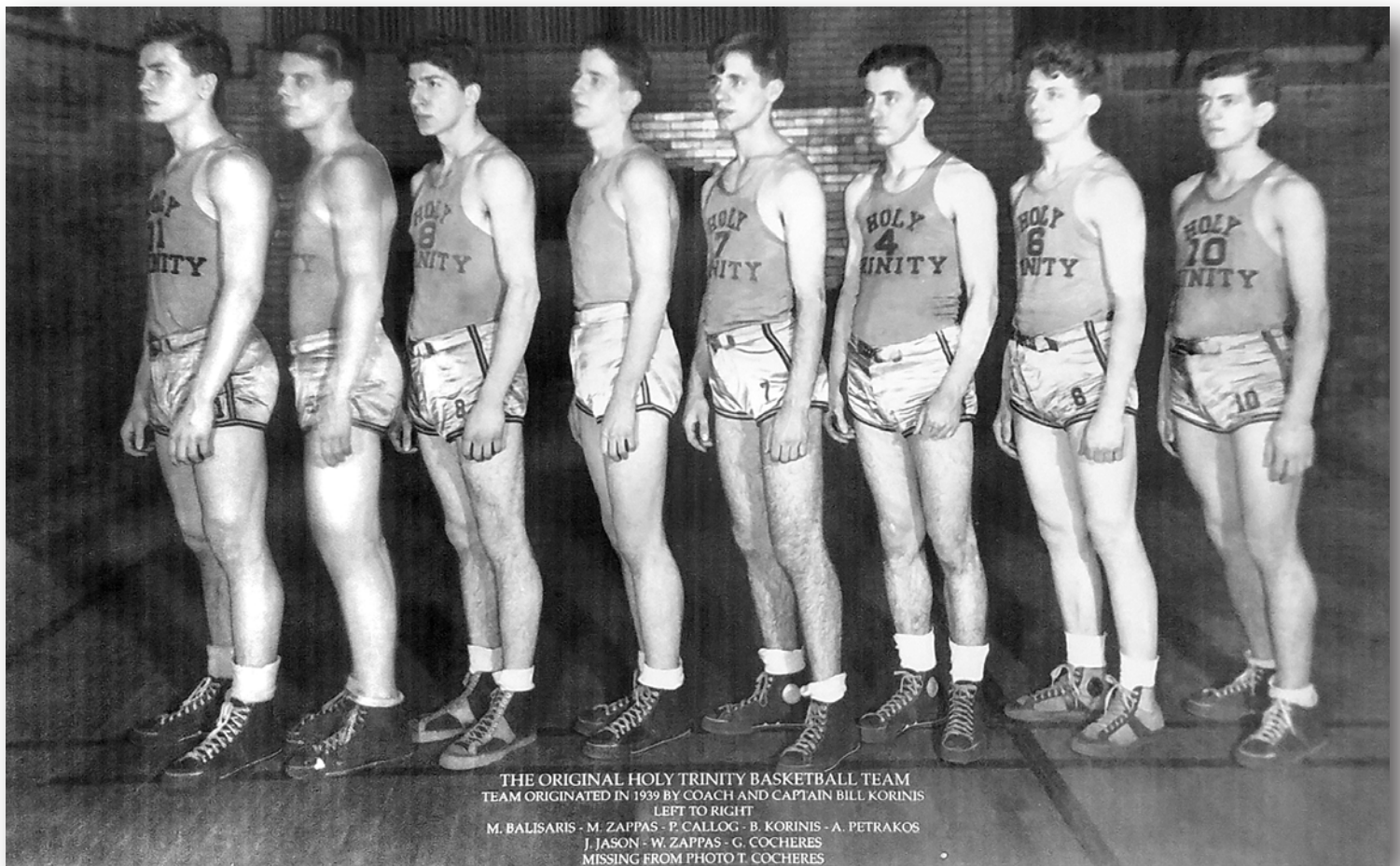
Watch for weekly updates, special events, guest speakers and youth activities in the Bulletin. Find more info at www.HolyTrinityPgh.org/ffw





November 11: Holy Trinity Church offered its annual Military Appreciation Day ceremony and celebration, honoring all the veterans of our community, living and departed, for their service to their great country. In addition to displays of photos and memorabilia, the names of 192 veterans were honored by listing on the big screens.





"Holy Trinity Basketball: The Early Years"

A Holy Trinity Herald Feature Article by Anita Sinicrope-Maier

Religion and sports. What may at first seem to be strange bedfellows has become an popular avenue to get our children more involved in Holy Trinity Church. We can all recognize the impact that team spirit - which is generated by our various Pittsburgh sports - has on our city. That spirit helps build community and pride. When playing basketball for Holy Trinity, our youth are creating that same team spirit which in turn brings them closer to the Church and all our community activities and people.

Not many know, however, how and when basketball blossomed and grew in our parish. There were several individuals that helped make it happen and their story must be told. It is said that a picture tells a thousand words and as you gaze at that very first team that originated in 1939, you can get a feel for those who first put Holy Trinity and basketball on the map. Sadly, none of the members of that team are still alive to tell their story, but their legacy lives on. The early days come to life, however, through the stories told to me by Gus Kalaris a former parishioner of Holy Trinity on the North Side. He not only lived through this era but then went on to help create the first youth team.

Gus relates that the men's team was created to regularly play other Greek Orthodox teams in our Pittsburgh Diocese and to participate in tournaments with several other diocese. The teams at that time were sponsored by AHEPA (the American Hellenic Progressive Association). Our team, in its very first year, went to Chicago where a major tournament was being hosted for teams throughout the country to crown the winner who would be named "Champs of America." And we won! What an honor to bring that title home to Holy Trinity. The younger boys of the parish looked up to this team and often traveled with them when they played in various locations. But, they were never allowed to actually "play" with them, and this discouraged the younger boys who were chomping at the bit to get in the game. Kalaris noted that by





1948, when he was in 10th grade, all the Irish Catholic kids in Pittsburgh had basketball teams that played each other, but there was nothing for the Greeks. Gus remembers that he and others (players with names like Jarvis, Levendis, Pappas and Cocheres, to name a few) got together and created a group that they called "Aries." They raised enough funds to buy uniforms. "They were really nice uniforms", he reminisced, "and we also got jackets to match—really sharp". The jackets bore their names and Holy Trinity on the back and had a picture of a Trojan horse. "I don't really remember how we came up with the name of the group and the symbol of the Trojan Horse," he laughs, "but we were just kids." George Lamprinakos, who was a wrestling coach at Mt. Lebanon, became their coach. He was married to a girl from the North Side, so he was asked to help those boys out by coaching them.



They went on to play 10 teams on the North Side—all Catholic. The other teams did not call them Holy Trinity, however, but instead, they were officially known as "The Greek Boys." They were constantly taunted with "us Irish guys are much better than you Greeks," but our boys played on despite their losses. Soon, the Diocese of Pittsburgh created a league and our boys traveled to Ohio, West Virginia and other towns in Pennsylvania. Kalaris played until after he graduated from high school in 1952. He got married in 1954 and he eventually went on to open a business which almost everyone in Pittsburgh knows as "'Gus and Yiayia's" on the North Side. He still pumps out thousands of the best ice balls in the world

(my estimation) each summer, even at age 87! He believes that the men's team stopped playing in the late 50's and the younger kids played until the 60's.

Fast forward to 1971. A new family moved to Pittsburgh from Baltimore, headed by Jim and Effie Zuck. They had four children, Leslie, Joanie, Penny and Jimmy. They quickly got involved in Holy Trinity Church's worship and activities. He remembers making lunches for people who worked at Allegheny General hospital that they sold to make money for the church. This continued until the time the festival began. "I was the only non-Greek on board," Jim and Effie thought playing sports like basketball and volleyball would be a good way to involve young people in the life of the church. So in 1973/74, a basketball team was begun for the boys and a volleyball team for the girls. They got money from a few of the families like Geanopulos, Chapas, Balouris and others but they still needed a place to practice. Mr. Zissis was a principal of a Junior High in Moon township, and he gave permission to use the gym in his school to practice.



They had about 10 families participating and they traveled to Ohio and West Virginia, as well as locally, to play other GOYA teams. Zuck's family lived in Zelienople, and they hosted many GOYA parties and activities at his home. Since he had a motorhome, he was able to pile about 10 kids into that vehicle while picking team members up from their homes in various locations to take them to the games. The caveat was, however, that in order to play, they had to attend Sunday School and only then would they be allowed to practice after Church on Sundays. It was stressed that both activities were important and they kept that balance a priority.

"That's what it takes," says Zuck. "You have to be involved and do things that kids like." A former State Patrol Officer, Jim turned 84 this year and he is still has a job working at Sam's Club and exercises an hour every day. "It keeps you in the routine," he says. Effie, whom he wants us to remember was so instrumental in getting the teams started, passed away 7 years ago. Although he now lives in State College, he still "attends" Holy Trinity's service on Sundays via live broadcast on his computer. He says that he gets so excited to see the number of kids who are involved now in basketball and other church activities. "I remember when we only had a handful." But, "those kids," he remarks, "are now the adults who run the church." Point taken.

*Comments, thanks or suggestions for a future feature?
Contact Anita at pened1@aol.com.*



Stewardship: Offering to the Lord Himself

“Then, opening their treasures...they offered Him gifts” (Matthew 2:11)

By the time that December rolls around, people are fully into the Christmas spirit. This means that stores are bursting with Christmas decorations, and every television and radio station is blasting commercials about gifts that everyone “needs.” What is not necessarily the main priority for everyone – but should be at the very least for Orthodox Christians – is the Feast of the Holy Nativity of Jesus. God gave His Son to us through the Theotokos, which is the most important of all.

Giving to the Poor as to the Lord

When Jesus was born into this world, He was born in a cave to a poor family. His humble beginning on the earth shows that there is no shame in being poor. When we practice stewardship and give more and more of ourselves and of our time, talents, and treasures, it can be easy to begin to think of ourselves as better than someone in need. We may become proud of our skills and accomplishments and look down upon the people who need our generosity – even though we are using our skills and accomplishments to give back to God. If we begin to look down on the poor, feel sorry for them, and thank God that we are “not like those poor people,” it is as though we are looking down upon the infant Jesus Himself.

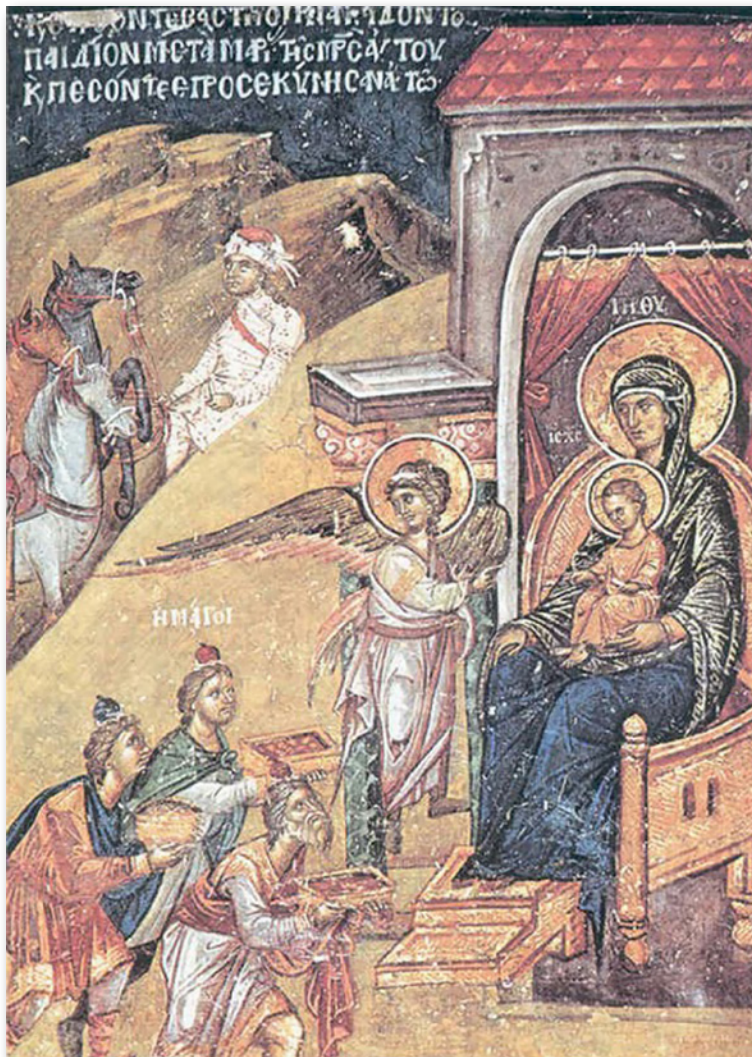
The Nativity Icon as Personal Inspiration

Picturing the Nativity scene, there were more people than just Christ, the Virgin Mary, and Joseph. There were also the shepherds and the Magi, who came to see Christ.

The shepherds who were watching their flocks of sheep traveled from the fields late that night, bearing no gifts but with sheep in tow. What was their stewardship? If you

think about it in relatable terms to your life, when did you last visit someone in the hospital who is not within your immediate family or even a close friend? Or when did you last show care to others, whether it was your neighbor, your coworker, or just someone who looked like they could use a smile? Even if you are just giving your interest, your caring, and your time to go and visit, these are all important gifts to give. You can give them in the church, too, whether that is joining the Hospitality Committee or even just striking up conversation in coffee hour with someone new to the church.

The Magi who also came to see Christ had many blessings. In the Nativity story, they traveled far and brought gifts to give to Jesus. While our church may be just down the road from some parishioners, others have to travel far to get to services – just as the Magi had to travel a long way to get to Christ, although our parishioners most likely came via car rather than camel. Regardless of distance from the church, we should all be like the Magi and bring our gifts for Christ to the church.



Time to Pledge for 2019

As we approach the new year, think about your stewardship in the church and the time, talent, and treasures that you can offer. Fill out and send in your 2019 stewardship card. If you do not have one, talk to a member of the Stewardship Committee to get one! 2018 is coming to a close, but it is never too late to donate your time, talents, and treasures to the church.

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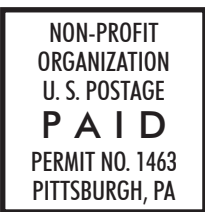
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THE NATIVITY OF JESUS CHRIST: THE HIDDEN MYSTERY REVEALED

Christ is born in Bethlehem. A mystery both visible and hidden. You may content yourself With the outward vision: a story, a maxim, a riddle. So it is if you go no further than the Christ of history in any of the Gospel stories.

But if eyes and ears are opened, Christ and His birth assume another intangible significance that no book or human mind can contain, for He becomes like the mystery contained in His parables of the Kingdom, a source of vision that is endlessly satisfying, and a source of understanding and wisdom beyond all reason. He is the grain of wheat, as He said of Himself and as He said too in His parable of the Kingdom of God, the grain that contains the mystery of death and resurrection and the mystery of hunger and satiety.

It is true that the Kingdom of God is power, but the Christ born in Bethlehem reveals how light-giving, calm, and humble that power is. It is true that the Kingdom of God is a system, an organization, a law, but the Christ born in Bethlehem reveals the love, sympathy, humility, and self-sacrifice of the heart that was given to explode the forces of that system, organization, and law. It is true that the Kingdom of God is the logically supreme power and absolute divine authority, heavenly government, and divine decree, but what happened in Bethlehem reveals to us that the Kingdom of God, for all its awesomeness and heavenly supremacy, is no longer alien to our race or beyond our vision or hard to hear.

The everlasting miracle has taken place, the wonder beyond all human logic has been fulfilled and the heavens have announced the message: "To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you; you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger" (Lk. 2:11,12).

The newborn Christ in the manger reveals to us the other face of the Kingdom and how it is that in great simplicity and humility and in supreme divine kindness, salvation was to be worked out in that Kingdom.

Scripture of the Month: "See what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things." (Eph. 3.9)