



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

August 2003

www.HolyTrinityPgh.org

Volume 11 – Issue 8

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

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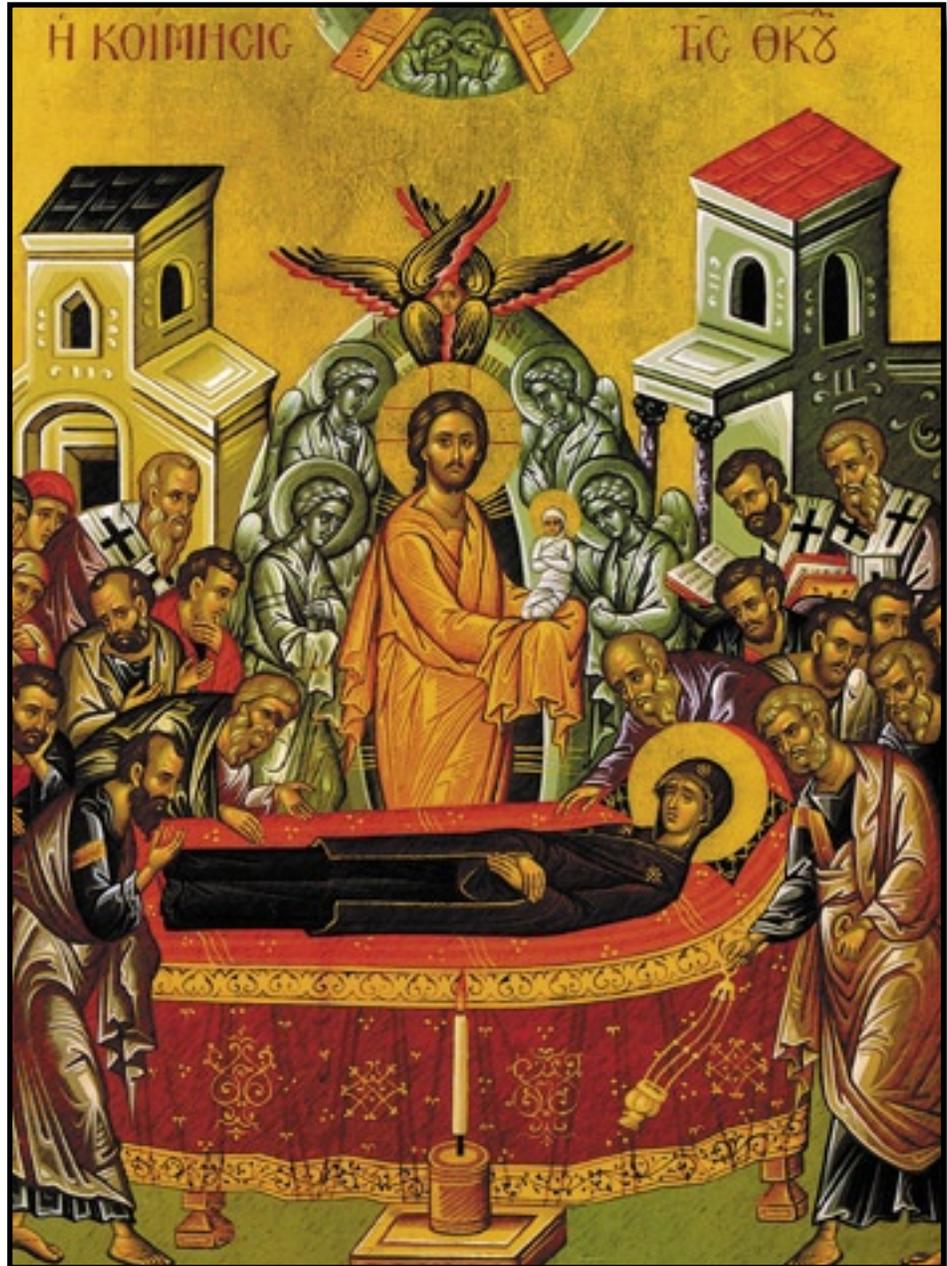
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HOLY TRINITY 2003
GREEK FESTIVAL IS
AUGUST 27TH-31ST

REMEMBER:



The Falling Asleep of the Theotokos - August 15



From all generations we call you blessed, O Virgin Theotokos. For Christ our God, Who cannot be contained, was pleased to be contained in you. Blessed also are we in having you as our help: for day and night you intercede for us, and the sceptres of kings are strengthened by your supplications. Therefore, singing your praises we cry aloud to you: "Rejoice, you who are full of grace. The Lord is with you!"
(From the Orthros of the Feast)

Father John's Message

THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

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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
Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople

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The Cultural Side

Michael Kritiotis Voula Hareras
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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 of a
loved one or
in honor of
a special event.

See the Sponsor Form
on page 15.



*Thank you for 10 wonderful and blessed years
from Father John, Presvytera Becky,
George, Maria and Nikolas Touloumes!*

a new opportunity. That's just the way the business world operates. Theological School certainly changed that, but even there, with so many young men and women still trying to figure out what to do with their lives, the deeper impact of that change was not fully realized. It's hard to shake the notion of "it's who you know" and replace it with Psalm 48.14: "This is God, our God forever and ever. He will be our guide for ever."

It was with my ordination to the Diaconate in October 1989, then to the Priesthood in January 1990, that the true depth of what it meant to follow God's call to serve really meant: the living experience of the Prophet Isaiah and his encounter with the Lord in a vision of the celestial altar. In his words, "I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' Then I said, 'Here am I! Send me.'" (Isaiah 6.8).

After serving for nearly three years as a priest at Holy Cross (where I had served since 1986 as a pastoral assistant), the divine calling of Isaiah became mine in a powerful way. Using the voice and words of our beloved hierarch, Bishop Maximos (now Metropolitan), I indeed felt the Lord calling me to take up the staff of shepherding the Holy Trinity flock. Arriving on August 1, 1993, with Presvytera Becky, George (2 years old), Maria (1 year old) and Nikolas on the way, the great new adventure began as we arrived. And what an adventure it has been!

In last year's "Panoramic Overview of Holy Scripture" Bible Study, it became obvious that God has many ways of accomplishing His will in our life and in His people, and few of them turn out to be easy. Even the most perfect of His plans is subject to our own weaknesses and shortcomings. So, the 10 years since then have been filled with joy, sorrow, happiness, pain, laughing, tears, mistakes (including many of mine) and opportunities to learn and grow together. God has blessed the ministry He has entrusted to me here by allowing me to bring 106 new souls into this flock through Holy Baptism or Chrismation, share in the joy of 42 couples coming to be crowned into marriage and walk through the grief of losing a loved one with 96 families.

But, most importantly, His work has been and continues to be done through the prayerful labors of love of the members that sustain it every day, not to the credit of myself or any individual member or family, but to the glory of God. There has been, by His grace and mercy, a wonderful movement forward in the life and direction of the community, and it is by any sense an exciting time to be here. We have a flock of dedicated, faithful and self-sacrificing Christians who love their Lord and their Church. I thank the Parish Councils and their officers, the organizations, the parents, youth, volunteers and staff, including Josie, our trusted secretary of eight years.

I also thank God for my family and, most of all, Presvytera Becky, for the sustaining love and mutual ministry which makes it all possible. How long will we stay, you may ask? As I offer prayers of thanksgiving for 10 years here, I commit, once again, to remaining here in faithful service as long as the Lord and the Metropolitan consider us worthy of this great blessing.

With much love in Christ,

News & Events

EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES

Church School/Greek School Registration... August

Registration for the 2003/2004 Church School and Greek School year at Holy Trinity is right around the corner! On Sundays, August 17 & 24, there will be registration tables in the Coffee Hour for parents to sign up their children for the upcoming year. The process is simple: just update your child's card with any changes and sign for the current year. Parents are reminded that Church School classes start with the two-year-old Toddlers Class. The first day of classes for Church is Sunday, September 7.

The Church School will also be collecting its annual Parents and Volunteers Survey forms at registration time. Please take the time to complete one of these forms and offer your stewardship of time and talents in helping the Church School ministry this year.

YOUTH MINISTRY

GOYA Elections..... August 3

The GOYA will be holding its elections for the 2003/2004 year on Sunday, August 3, following the Divine Liturgy. All members are asked to attend. Anyone wishing to run but not able to attend needs to contact Presvytera Becky at 412-831-3574.

SACRAMENTAL REGISTRY

Roman/McAllister Wedding

The servants of God, Daniel P. Roman and Brenda L. McAllister, were united and crowned in the Holy Sacrament of Marriage on June 28, 2003. The Koumbaro was Arte Roman. God grant them many years!

COMMUNITY NEWS

2003 Stewardship .. Have You Made Your Pledge?

Our list of Holy Trinity Stewardship Pledges received for 2003 is growing by the week. Below is a list of additional names of Stewards who have submitted their pledge since then or who were omitted from the last list. Thank you for your faithful commitment!

Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Bournias*
 Mr. & Mrs. Sam Castellano
 Mrs. Betty Clayton
 Mr & Mrs A.J. Diana
 Mr. & Mrs. Melissa Ferrari

Mrs. Eugenia Hoehn
 Drs. Constantine Kralios & Corina Savoupoulou*
 Mrs Despina Ladakos
 Mr Anthony Lakes
 Mr Jerry Pefanis
 Mr. James Phaturous

(* indicates new member)

These pledges bring our 2003 Holy Trinity Stewardship Pledge total to \$95,512 from 229 pledges, for an average of \$430 per pledge. We are getting closer to our 2003 goal of \$130,000, so if you have not yet submitted your card, please do so today.

Don't forget, we have all been asked and challenged to increase our Stewardship commitment to Holy Trinity Church this year by at least 10% or \$50, whichever is greater. Additional cards are available from the church office or at the *pangari*.

Festival Ads, Volunteers Needed

It's almost here! Please mark your calendars for the 2003 Holy Trinity Greek Festival, August 27-31. Ad Book Sponsor forms were included in previous issues and there is still time to submit yours. The 2003 Festival Volunteer Schedule is included in this issue: please complete yours, mark your calendar and drop it off on Sunday at church. Please also check the remaining cooking schedule. Don't wait for someone to call—get involved today! It's just around the corner!

Want to help and enjoy yourself, too? Call your friends, koumbaroi, relatives or co-workers and schedule a meal at the Festival from now. What a great way to wrap up the summer with a great meal and good *parea*, while supporting your Church at the same time!

LITURGICAL LIFE

Paraclesis Services..... August 1-15

Due to Father John's participation in Project Mexico this year (August 6-14), the following modified schedule of 6:00 p.m. Paraclesis services will be offered:

Friday, August 1 Monday, August 4

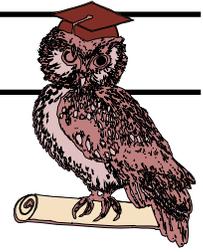
For the remainder of the season, our parishioners are asked to attend services at our sister parishes: Saint Nicholas, Holy Cross, Ypapanti, Holy Dormition and All Saints. Sunday Services *will* be held at Holy Trinity on August 10, with Father Polycarp Steve celebrating.

Other August Services

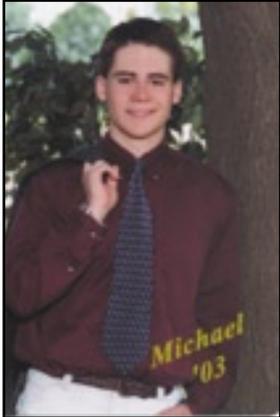
Please see the enclosed August calendar for a complete schedule of services during August.

2003 Holy Trinity Graduates

Congratulations and may God's blessings be upon our Holy Trinity 2003 High School Graduates! All of them have been involved extensively in the life of our parish, Church School and GOYA ministries. We look forward to seeing them continue their education and their growth in the knowledge and love of the Lord. May every step be illumined by the light of His knowledge!



MICHAEL ANDROMALOS-DALE HAMPTON HIGH SCHOOL



Michael played football as a linebacker and a full-back for Hampton. He has also participated on the weightlifting team and has extensive karate experience as a second degree Black Belt. Michael also has played trumpet in the band.

His areas of life at Holy Trinity Church include nine years as an acolyte, countless GOYA activities, Church School and Greek Dancing

with the Olympic Dancers for two years.

He plans to attend Ohio State University this fall on an academic scholarship with an undergraduate focus on Biological Sciences, then on to a career in medicine.

JONATHAN BONFIELD NORTH HILLS HIGH SCHOOL



Jonathan has graduated with honors and was an active member of the Latin Club, Hands for Service and the Ski Club. He was captain of the soccer team and a 3-year letterman.

His honors include the National Latin Exam Silver Medal, the National Honor Roll and Second Team Soccer All-Section. He has volunteered with

disabled students in the Outreach Program for Soccer, the Special Olympics and the Landmark Volunteers.

Jonathan has been GOYA treasurer for four years and has participated on the GOYA basketball team. He will attend St. Joseph's University and major in business.

MARIA PANTELAKIS ALIQUIPPA HIGH SCHOOL



Maria has been a member of the Aliquippa basketball and softball teams. She participated in D.E.C.A. (a business and marketing development association) and Spanish Club.

She was elected Jr./Sr. Class Vice-President and is a member of the National Honor Roll.

Maria served as GOYA President during her senior year and has played for the

GOYA basketball team.

She plans to attend West Virginia University in the fall to major in business, then continue on to law school.

CHRIS SARANDOU SEALER HIGH SCHOOL



Chris has been involved extensively in the Boy Scouts, achieving the coveted rank of Eagle Scout during his junior year. His service projects included the installation of benches at our own Holy Trinity Cemetery.

He has been a member of Holy Trinity Church for the past five years, during which he has served as an acolyte, a GOYA member and even a reader/chantor in training.

Chris will attend the Community College of Allegheny College in the fall, majoring in business management.

"The Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding; He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk in integrity, guarding the paths of justice and preserving the way of His saints." (Proverbs 2.6-8)

Community Life Photo Journal

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

Greek School Graduation and Awards Ceremonies



Holy Trinity Greek School graduation was held on Sunday, June 11. All students received Certificates of Achievement and two students received awards (left) and a savings bond from G.A.P.A. for Excellence Achievement: John Paras and Katie Sarandou (center). Adult participants also received Certificates of Achievement (right) as their studies concluded.

Holy Trinity Church Sends 26 JOY and GOYA Campers to Metropolitan Summer Camp



Campers and staff from Holy Trinity Church attended the Metropolis of Pittsburgh's Summer Camp in full force this year. Pictured above are the GOYA campers and staff; below are the JOY participants.

Saint Lydia Fellowship Hosts Family Summer Picnic & Fellowship



Families of the St. Lydia Orthodox Women's Fellowship gathered on July 14 for a summer picnic and family fellowship day. Pictured here are the adults (top), the youth (middle) and Father John leading the children in an activity teaching them a way to address the problem of boredom during the summer months.

Orthodox Prayers for the “Church of the Home”

This summer, Father John’s brief after-Liturgy messages have been on the topic of the “Church of the Home” (Greek: kat’oikon ekklesia). This has been to emphasize that our life as Orthodox Christians is not limited to our time in the Church for the holy services, but is essential to our identity as a Christian home, too. In one of those talks, the topic of prayers in the home was highlighted. Although everyone should have a prayer book (available from our parish bookstore or from other sources), below are a few prayers which may be helpful in maintaining the prayer life of the “Church of your Home.”

A Morning Prayer of Saint Philaret of Moscow

O Lord, grant me to greet the coming day in peace, help me in all things to rely upon Your holy will. In every hour of the day reveal Your will to me. Bless my dealings with all who surround me. Teach me to treat all that comes to me throughout the day with peace of soul and with firm conviction that Your will governs all. In all my deeds and words, guide my thoughts and feelings. In unforeseen events, let me not forget that all are sent by You. Teach me to act firmly and wisely, without embittering and embarrassing others. Give me strength to bear the fatigue of the coming day with all that it shall bring. Direct my will, teach me to pray. Pray Yourself within me. Amen

An Evening Prayer

Lord our God, if during this day I have sinned, whether in word or deed or thought, forgive me all; for you are good and love mankind. Grant me peaceful and undisturbed sleep and deliver me from all influence and temptation of the evil one. Raise me up again in proper time that I may glorify you; for you are blessed: with your Only-begotten Son and your All-holy Spirit: now and ever, and to ages of ages. Amen.



The “Jesus Prayer”

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner. Amen.

A Prayer to the Holy Trinity

My hope is the Father, my refuge is the Son, my protector is the Holy Spirit. Holy Trinity, glory to you.

A Prayer to the Theotokos

O never-failing Protectress of Christians and the ever-present intercessor before the Creator: despise not the voices of prayer of us sinners, but in your goodness, come now to our aid, as we call upon you with faith. Hasten, Theotokos, to intercede for us, for you have always protected those who honor you.

A Prayer to Your Guardian Angel

Angel of Christ, holy guardian and protector of my soul and body, forgive me for everything that I have done to offend you every day of my life; and protect me from all influence and temptation of the evil one. May I never again

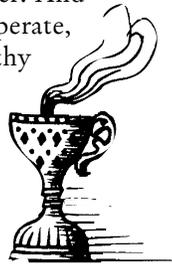
anger God by any sin. Pray for me to the Lord, that He may make me worthy of the grace of the All-Holy Trinity, and of the Most Blessed Theotokos, and of all the Saints. Amen.

A Prayer to Your Patron Saint

Holy Saint (Name), well-pleasing to God, pray to God for me: for I turn to you, the speedy helper and intercessor for my soul.

A Prayer for the Souls of the Departed

Into your hands, Lord, I commend the souls of your servants (Names), and pray that you will grant them rest in the place of your rest, where all your blessed saints repose, and where the light of your Face shines forever. And grant that our present lives may be godly, temperate, and blameless, that, we too may be made worthy to enter into your heavenly Kingdom with those we love but see no longer; for you are the Resurrection, and the Life, and the Repose of your departed servants, Christ our God, and to you we give glory, to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to ages of ages. Amen.



A Prayer for Any Occasion

Christ our God, who at all times and in every hour, in heaven and on earth, are worshipped and glorified; who are long-suffering, merciful and compassionate; who love the just and have mercy on sinners, and who call all to salvation through the promise of blessing to come; Lord/in this hour, receive our supplications, and direct our lives according to your commandments. Sanctify our souls, purify our bodies, correct our thoughts, cleanse our minds; deliver us from all tribulation, evil and distress. Encompass us with your holy Angels, that guided and guarded by them, we may attain to the unity of the faith and to the knowledge of your unapproachable glory, for you are blessed to ages of ages. Amen.

A Prayer Before Any Task

Almighty God, our Help and Refuge, the Fountain of wisdom and Tower of strength, you who know that I can do nothing without your guidance and help, assist me, I pray; and direct me to divine wisdom and power, that I may accomplish this task, and whatever I may undertake to do, faithfully and diligently, according to your will, so that it

Orthodox Prayers for the “Church of the Home”

may be profitable to me and to others, and to the glory of your Holy Name. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and to ages of ages. Amen.

A Prayer for Forgiveness

Lord our God, you who are good and merciful, I acknowledge all my sins which I have committed every day of my life, in thought, word and deed, in body and soul alike. I am truly sorry that I have ever offended you, and I sincerely repent; with tears I humbly pray, Lord; mercifully forgive me all my past transgressions and absolve me from them. I firmly resolve, with the help of your Grace, to amend my way of life and to sin no more: that I may walk in the way of the righteous, and offer praise and glory to the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

A Prayer for Healing

Lord our God, you who healed long-lasting and terrible diseases by your word alone; you who healed Peter's mother-in-law of her fever, Master, heal also me your servant of the illness with which I am afflicted. You who chastise with pity, and heal according to your goodness, and can put aside every sickness and disease, raise me up from my bed of pain and suffering. Put the medicine of your mercy on me, and grant me complete healing and health. For you are the Physician of our souls and bodies, and to you we offer glory, together with the Father, and the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to ages of ages. Amen.

A Prayer for a Sick Person

Heavenly Father, physician of our souls and bodies, who have sent Your only-begotten Son and our Lord, Jesus Christ, to heal every sickness and infirmity, visit and heal also Your servant (name) from all physical and spiritual ailments through the grace of Your Christ. Grant him (her) patience in this sickness, strength of body and spirit, and recovery of health. Lord, You have taught us through Your word to pray for each other that we may be healed. I pray that You heal Your servant (name) and grant to him (her) the gift of complete health. For You are the source of healing and to You we give glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

A Prayer of Parents for Children & Family

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, you who love mankind, and are most merciful and compassionate, have mercy on your servants (Name those for whom you wish to pray) for whom I humbly pray, and commend to your gracious care and protection. Be their guide and guardian in all their endeavors, lead them in the path of your truth; and draw

them nearer to you, that they may lead a godly and righteous life in your love and fear, doing your will in all things. Give them grace that they may be temperate, industrious, diligent, devout and charitable. Defend them against the attacks of the evil one, and grant them wisdom and strength to resist all temptation and corruption of this life. Direct them in the way of salvation, through the merits of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, and the prayers of his Holy Mother and your blessed Saints. Amen.

A Prayer of Married People

Merciful God, remind us always that the married state is holy, and that we must keep it so. Grant us your grace, that we may continue in faithfulness and love. Increase in us the spirit of mutual understanding and trust, that no quarrel or strife may come between us. Grant us your blessings, that we may stand before our fellow men and in your sight as an ideal family; and finally, by your mercy, account us worthy of everlasting life, for you are our sanctification, and to you we offer glory, to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to ages of ages. Amen.



A Prayer of Single People

Blessed Lord, you who have given us an example of ideal purity, strengthen me, I pray, when temptation assails me, and when strong passions seek to overwhelm me, that I may remain constant in virtue and innocent in thought, word, and deed, doing only those things that are pleasing to you. Grant me growth in wisdom and understanding, that I may serve you in holiness all the days of my life, through the prayers of your all-pure Mother and of all your Saints. Amen.

A Prayer of a Child

Our Father in heaven, bless my father and mother, my guardians, and those who are in authority over me, for their love and tender care for me, and the benefits I receive at their hands. Help me, I pray, to be respectful and obedient to them in all things according to your will; and give me your grace to perform all my duties carefully and faithfully, to avoid undesirable company and influence, and to resist all temptation that may come my way; that I may live an honorable, righteous and godly life, ever praising you, and glorifying your Holy Name. Amen.



Translations taken from “An Orthodox Christian Prayer Book” published by the St. John Chrysostom Clergy Syndesmos of the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

The Cultural Side • Η Πολιτιστική Πλευρά



Voula Hareras

A Greek-language offering of sentimental remembrances upon a visit back to the family patriarchal home.

ΤΟ ΠΑΤΡΙΚΟ ΜΟΥ ΣΠΙΤΙ

Ηρθα κοντα σου, αγαπημενο μου σπιτακι,
απο τα ξενα, ταπεινος προσκυνητης.
Ηρθα στο πρασινο κι ωραιο χωριουδακι,
που πρωταντυκρισα τα φωτα της ζωης.

Η πορτα της αυλης ηταν κλειστη,
κι ειχε σκεπασει ο κισσος τα σκαλοπατια.
Εγερνε κατω η παλια κληματαρια,
και η φωλια απ τα χελιδονια ηταν
κομματια.

Ειχαν πεθανοι οι γειτονοι μου, οι παλιοι,
φυγαν τ αδελφια μου κι αυτα μαζι με μενα.
Και μονο ο πλατανος, γερικος τωρα στην
αυλη,
με επεριμενε να ερθω απο τα ξενα.

Πηγα και καθησα στην ακρη στο πηγαδι,
κι αναμνησεις με τυλιζανε σωρο,
τρεχουν τα δακρυα απο τα ματια μου
ποταμι,
και στην καρδια εκω ενα πονο δυνατο.

Μα τι κι αν εφυγα ενα βραδυ σκοτεινο,
στην ξενιτια να παω να πλουτισω,
να σε ξεχασω δεν εμπορεσα ποτε,
κι ηρθα το τελος μου κοντα σου να το ζωσω.



Voula Hareras

“Since many of my friends have asked for my recipe for “Yiaourtopita” (Yogurt Pita), I have written it down. Best wishes!”

Επειδη μερικες φιλες μου ζητησαν την συνταγη για την γιαουρτοπιτα, την γραφω ... και καλη επιτυχια!

ΓΙΑΟΥΡΤΟΠΙΤΑ

1 1/2 φλιτζανι ζαχαρη
1 φλιτζανι βιταμ η βουτυρο
3 φλιτζανια αλευρι
5 αυγα
2 φλιτζανια γιαουρτι
3 κουταλακια μπεκιν παουντερ
2 κουταλιες ξυσμα λεμονιου

- Κοσκινιζετε το αλευρι και το ανακατευετε με την παουντερ και το ξυσμα λεμονιου.
- Δουλευετε σε λεκανη το βουτυρο με τη ζαχαρη επι 5 λεπτα.
- Προσθετετε το γιαουρτι και ανακατευετε καλα.
- Χτυπατε τους κροκους και τους ριχνετε.
- Εχετε, στο μεταξυ, δουλεψει τα ασπραδια να γινουν μαρεγκα και προσθετετε λιγο αλευρι, λιγη μαπεγκα, μεχρι να τελειωσουν.
- Ανακατευετε ελαφρα με ξυλινο κουταλι, ριχνετε σε βουτυρωμενη φορμα και ψηνετε σε μετριο φουρνο επι μια ωρα.
- Οταν το βγαλετε απο το φουρνο, το αλειφετε με λιγο φρεσκο βουτυρο και το πασπαλιζετε με αφθονη αχνη ζαχαρη.



The Cultural Side • Η Πολιτιστική Πλευρά



Mike Kritiotis

July 20th marks the 29th anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus. It's hard to believe that for so long the international community has been tolerating this injustice to the world order well into the 21st century.

Last time, we reported some encouraging signs that had appeared on the horizon as the European Union was preparing to accept the official Greek part of Cyprus as a member. Much pressure was directed towards Turkey at the time to show its goodwill and potentially solidify its own membership chances in the future. Well, it didn't happen! The saddest thing for Cypriots, of course, is that they have seen it all before: A peace plan to reunite Greek and Turkish Cypriots; High hopes of returning to homes abandoned decades ago; Dramatic last-minute negotiations; Then a resounding return to earth as the Cyprus peace jinx struck again as it has done four times now since the Mediterranean island was partitioned. This time, Turkey refused to give in to land and population movements that they were asked to make.

Then, a few weeks later, the Turkish Cypriot leader, Denktash, under much pressure for a positive gesture, stunned everyone when he abruptly decided to open certain checkpoints along the dividing line in the capital of Nicosia! Greeks and Turks from the divided city and from throughout the island were for the first time in 29 years able to cross over and mingle. Many visited the homes they fled during the war, some being occupied by others now. There were stories of couples visiting their home and finding that the new Turkish residents had saved their wedding pictures or jewelry and handed them back!

Some observers pointed out that Denktash did this to prove that Greeks and Turks could not live mixed again, obviously expecting trouble between the two sides. But it didn't happen! Even though this does not bring us any closer to a solution, it is proof that the people want and can live in peace together.

But until the politicians can hear the cries and respond, there will be that flag made of painted rocks on the side of the mountain, staring at the Nicosiates every day, like a bleeding scar of a deep wound. ☩



The "Turkish Cypriot Republic" flag on the side of occupied Pentadaktulos Mountain was made into a stamp by the invaders

80 χρόνια από τη Μικρασιατική Καταστροφή

Ογδόντα χρόνια συμπληρώνονται φέτος από τον Αύγουστο του 1922, τη μεγάλη συμφορά του γένους, τη Μικρασιατική Καταστροφή, που πολλοί τη χαρακτηρίζουν ως τη μεγαλύτερη συμφορά, ακόμη και από την Άλωση της Κωνσταντινούπολης.

Το τραγικό τέλος του αγώνα 1919-1922 είναι συγκλονιστικό, αφού για πρώτη φορά μετά από χιλιετίες η Μικρά Ασία παύει να κατοικείται από συγκροτημένους ελληνικούς πληθυσμούς.

Με τη Συνθήκη των Σεβρών, που υπεγράφη από τον Βενιζέλο στις 10 Αυγούστου 1920, η Κοινωνία των Εθνών αναθέτει στην Ελλάδα τη διοίκηση της Σμύρνης για μια πενταετία και δίνει το δικαίωμα στους Έλληνες της Σμύρνης να αποφασίσουν, μετά την πενταετία αυτή, αν επιθυμούν να ενωθούν με την Ελλάδα. Οι εθνικιστές Τούρκοι, με επικεφαλής τον μετέπειτα ιδρυτή της Τουρκικής Δημοκρατίας και πρώτο πρόεδρό της Μουσταφά Κεμάλ Ατατούρκ, απορρίπτουν τις πρόνοιες της Συνθήκης των Σεβρών και αρχίζουν πόλεμο.

Ο ελληνικός στρατός είχε κουραστεί από τις προελάσεις στα βόρεια της Μ. Ασίας - που είχαν και πολιτικό χαρακτήρα από διαμάχες μεταξύ του βασιλιά Κωνσταντίνου και του πρωθυπουργού Βενιζέλου. Η μια ήττα διαδέχεται την άλλη και στις 26/8/1922 αναχώρησε από τη Σμύρνη το ελληνικό στρατηγείο και οι Έλληνες δημόσιοι υπάλληλοι. Την ίδια μέρα, προς το απόγευμα, απέπλευσε και ο ελληνικός στόλος - «Λήμνος», «Ελλη», «Νάξος».

Οι Τούρκοι εξαφάνισαν από τη Σμύρνη όχι μόνο τους Έλληνες αλλά και τους Αρμένιους. Για 3 μερόνυχτα δεν έμεινε τίποτε όρθιο, αρκεί να ήταν ελληνικό ή αρμένικο. Ξένοι ανταποκριτές περιέγραφαν με τα πιο μελανά χρώματα τις κτηνωδίες, τους βιασμούς, τις σφαγές. Στις 31 Αυγούστου η Σμύρνη παραδίδεται στις φλόγες. Τα ανθρώπινα θύματα ξεπερνούν τις 50.000. Από τους 459 ιερείς των ενοριών της Σμύρνης βρήκαν οικτρό θάνατο 347. Ο Τσόρτσιλ στ' απομνημονεύματά του γράφει: «Ο Κεμάλ εόρτασε το θρίαμβό του με τη μεταβολή της Σμύρνης σε τέφρα και με την τεράστια σφαγή του εκεί χριστιανικού πληθυσμού».

Ενάμισυ εκατομ. Έλληνες βρέθηκαν ρακένδυτοι στην Ελλάδα των 5 τότε εκατομμυρίων πληθυσμού. Οι πρόσφυγες συνέβαλαν τα μέγιστα στην οικονομική ανάπτυξη του τόπου (Ωνάσης - Μποδοσάκης"). Πρόοδος σημειώθηκε στον πνευματικό και πολιτιστικό τομέα (Σεφέρης, Βενέζης").

Η Σμύρνη και η Μικρασία έθαψαν το όνειρο της μεγάλης υπερπόντιας Ελλάδας.

Οι μύγες και οι δαίμονες

Όταν το καζάνι είναι πάνω στη φωτιά και κοχλάζει, οι μύγες δεν πλησιάζουν. Όταν, όμως, απομακρυνθεί, τότε πέφτουν και μέσα. Το ίδιο συμβαίνει και με τις ψυχές - όσο είναι κοντά στην Εκκλησία και στα μυστήρια, οι δαίμονες τους κοιτούν από μακριά, όταν όμως απομακρυνθούν...

- Γέρον Παΐσιος

Gheronda's Corner

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



Father John
Androutsopoulos

AUGUST 6

The Transfiguration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9
(Please read it.)

Troparion: "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!"

About the Feast of the Transfiguration

The Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord is one of the 12 Great Feasts of the Holy Orthodox Catholic Church. When Jesus, our Lord and Master, took three of His Disciples, Peter, James, and John to the top of Mount Tabor, He truly prefigured His Resurrection on that memorable day. These three disciples were to be with Jesus at His betrayal, so He wanted them to see the wonderful event so that they might not be dismayed and distressed at His suffering at the crucifixion.

Mount Tabor was covered with light during the Transfiguration; the light was so bright that the three Disciples threw themselves on the ground, unable to look upon the transfigured Lord. He did shine forth in glory. At that glorious revelation, Moses and Elijah appeared and conversed with Christ that they might manifest that He was the Lord of the living and the dead, and that He was the God who spoke of old in the law and the Prophets, and He was the One to whom the voice of the Father did bear witness from a radiant cloud saying, "This is My Beloved Son, hear Him."

The Transfiguration was the mystery hidden before the ages, and now it was revealed before Peter, James and John. They were not able to stand the radiance of Christ's countenance and the splendor of his garments, so they fell down on their faces, kneeling, and being overcome with astonishment at the sight of Moses and Elijah talking with Jesus.

My beloved: Each feastday of our Church has its special message for us Orthodox Christians, if we would just take the time to study or meditate the occasion and the meaning of the Feast. The Feast of the Transfiguration uplifts us. We are shown the glory of our Lord and Savior, and we are inspired by the events

of the Transfiguration. It is customary for grapes to be blessed on this radiant and glorious Feastday. In the Old Testament the blessing of the first fruits of the season was ordered by God. We continue to obey this order of God. We are grateful for the blessing that God has bestowed on us. "How great are Thy works, O Lord, Thou has made all things in wisdom."

Questions and Answers on the Gospel of the Feast

Why was Christ transfigured before His Disciples on Mount Tabor? To confirm their faith in His divinity; to guard them against doubts when they should afterwards see Him die on the Cross; to encourage all of the faithful to be patient in all crosses and afflictions, for the bodies of the just will be made like the glorified body of Christ at their resurrection. (Phil. 3: 21)

Why did Moses and Elias appear? To testify that Jesus was really the Saviour announced by the prophets of the Old Law, and to be witnesses of the founding of the New Law.

When we get to heaven, will we recognize those who are already there? Will we know Moses and David and Peter and Paul? Yes, I think God will give us the same spiritual inspiration that He gave to Peter, James, and John. Moses had been dead 1,480 years and Elijah had been gone 900 years. Yet, here they are alive and the disciples saw them and heard them talking.

And, will we recognize our loved ones to whom we have said good-bye down here? Surely, I think that God will give us that privilege and that blessing if we are in the same place, the place of the Just, because there is another place of the unjust. Jesus said I go to prepare a place for you, that where I am you are going to be also. The other place is prepared for the devil and his followers. Let us remember that heaven is a prepared place for prepared people.

Some Reminders about Fasting in August

Though it falls during the August 1-15 fast, fish is permitted on the Transfiguration, August 6th. Also this year, Friday, August 15th, the Feast Day of the Falling Asleep of the Theotokos, fish is permitted, but not meat. And do not forget that the 29th day of August, the day of the Beheading of the Glorious Forerunner John the Baptist, is a **strict fast on whichever day it falls**. As always, those with serious illness have a special fasting exception. Consult your spiritual father.

*With His love and blessings,
Rev. Fr. John K. Androutsopoulos*

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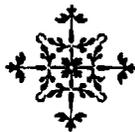
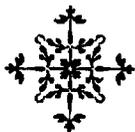
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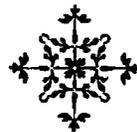
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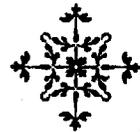


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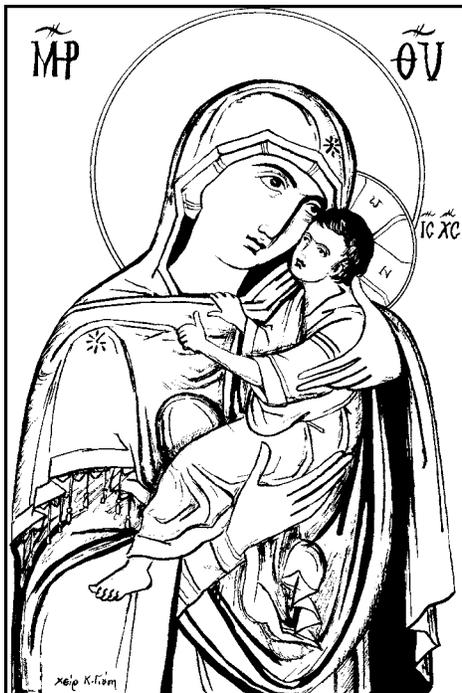


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THE PROPER VENERATION OF THE THEOTOKOS



We do honor the All-holy Virgin Mary and Birth-giver of God (*Theotokos*) more than the other holy saints and angels, yet, nevertheless, we do not ascribe to her the same veneration as we do to God.

The veneration that we render to her is called honorific and reverential, as she is the Mother of the Lord, having not only a spiritual relationship with Him, as happens with other saints, but also a physical union with Him. For this reason we chant in the Church's hymn to her: "It is truly meet to called you blessed, the ever-blessed and all-pure Mother of our God. More honorable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim, you without corruption gave birth to God, the Logos, truly the Theotokos, you do we magnify."

She is higher than the saints and the angels, and therefore from angels and saints she received veneration. Thus it was that the Archangel Gabriel venerated her in the Annunciation. And in the same manner did Elizabeth, the Mother of St. John the Baptist, also venerate her. The Holy Virgin herself prophesied in the Holy Spirit that all generations would honor her: "for behold, from henceforth, all generations shall call me blessed. For He that is mighty has done to me great things..."

Hence, the honor rendered her is according to the will of God.

From "The Truth of our Faith" by the Elder Cleopa of Romania