



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

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APRIL 10 PARISH
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

1923 · EIGHTY-TWO YEARS OF MINISTRY · 2005

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

April 2005

www.HolyTrinityPgh.org

Volume 13 – Issue 3

CHRIST IS RISEN! TRULY HE IS RISEN!



*"Having beheld the Resurrection of Christ,
let us worship the Holy Lord, Jesus."*

Father John's Message

THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

Parish Newsletter of
Holy Trinity
Greek Orthodox Church
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The Cultural Side

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Publication Schedule

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

This issue of the Herald
is sponsored

to the

Glory of God

in memory of

Anthony Lakes

May his memory be
eternal!



"Christian spiritual life affects every aspect of a person's being and every area of a person's life and work. It influences body and behavior, as well as thoughts and feelings. It determines private and personal activity as well as public and political action."

(From "Speaking the Truth in Love" by Fr. Thomas Hopko)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

One of the most powerful words used to describe the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, which we are preparing to celebrate on May 1 as Orthodox Christians, is "transforming." Of all the single events in the history of the world, one would be hard-pressed to find one that has transformed more than Jesus rising from the tomb. It transformed the faith and lives of the Apostles and all His followers; it transformed Jewish temples into Christian churches; it transformed Israel of the Old Testament into the New Israel of the New Covenant; it transformed nations into Christian kingdoms; it transformed the slavery of sin to freedom in Christ; it transformed death to life; it transformed the world and led us to Heaven.

For each of us, however, the most important question is this: "HAS IT TRANSFORMED ME?" This is a question that must be asked not once at Pascha, but continuously through the year and throughout our life. According to the perspective offered by Fr. Thomas Hopko above, just as there is no part of the world that has not been touched and transformed by the Resurrection of Christ, so there should not be one aspect of our self and our life that is not affected. There are a few ways to check this:

- Does prayer play a part in the decisions I face and the choices I make in my personal life, my work and elsewhere? Do I bother asking God?
- Would my life be any different if I was not a Christian? Would anyone know?
- Does what I do privately reflect what my personal beliefs are? Am I equally committed to my faith when nobody is watching?
- Do my choices, actions and words in public and private bear witness to Christ as a light on a hill, or do I try to conceal it so nobody notices?
- Have I "reserved" areas of my life to myself and not given them to God?

There are many other aspects of our life that can be examined, but all of them point back to the same question we should be asking while holding the brightly burning Paschal candle: "HAS IT TRANSFORMED ME?"

The Apostles did not set the world on fire by their own power; it was the power of the uncreated light of the Resurrection that they carried in their hearts and proclaimed to "those in darkness." The God of life and resurrection has given us the same charge: take that light to all the world, and the world is certainly as much in need of it now as then. First, however, make sure the "pilot light" stays lit in our heart. Only then will Pascha be a celebration, not an observation; only then will we be able to say, "Christ is risen ... IN ME!" *Kali Anastasi!*

News & Events

EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES

Saturday of Lazarus April 23

The children of our Church School will once again attend the Saturday of Lazarus Divine Liturgy on April 23 and prepare the Palm Crosses and cup candles for Holy Week afterwards. Parents, please plan on bringing them and giving them an opportunity to participate.

No Church School Palm Sun., Pascha .. Apr 24, May 1

Please remember that there is no Church School class on the great feasts of Palm Sunday (April 24) and Pascha (May 1), but that is so all our children can attend the complete celebration of the feasts with their families. We look forward to seeing all our children throughout the Holy Week and Paschal services as much as possible. (Please note: Church School Mission Boxes should be returned on Palm Sunday.)

Agape Vespers & Paschal Candy Hunt May 1

The Church School ministry is again sponsoring the annual Paschal Candy Hunt on the lawn of the church (weather permitting) on Pascha following the Agape Vespers Service at 1:00 p.m. All the children are invited to come for this beautiful and bright service. It is an especially good way for those with small children who are not able to attend the midnight service to share in a special celebration of Pascha with their little ones.

St. Lydia's Orthodox Women's Fellowship April

The St. Lydia Women's Study Fellowship is a ministry for women to share in fellowship and to study scripture, the Orthodox Faith and family life in today's world. The meetings take place every other week on Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in Wexford. This year's theme is "Growing in Christ." For further information on this worthwhile and informative group or for directions to the meetings, call Stacy Dickos at 412-367-0925. A complete schedule is also located on our web site, www.HolyTrinityPgh.org. Topics for March are:

April 7..... The Slavery of Thoughts

April 21..... Climbing the Spiritual Ladder

St. Nikodemos Men's Study Fellowship April

The St. Nikodemos Men's Study Fellowship will meet on April 12 **from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.** at the office of TriadUSA, Suite 460, Two Gateway Center, downtown. For directions, call Gus Georgiadis at 412-880-4999. The facilitator for April is Fr. John Chakos. The topic is "Servant Leadership."

GOYA Fellowship Night April 10

The GOYA will hold its monthly fellowship night on

Sunday, April 10 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the home of the Jewells in Wexford. Call 724-935-2468 for directions. These casual meetings provide an opportunity for discussion, time with friends, questions for Fr. John and other GOYA matters as needed.

LENTEN NEWS AND EVENTS

Lenten Soup Sales Weekly During Lent

The GOYA continues its very popular Lenten soup sales this year during the Sundays of Lent. Among the many good reasons to buy some to take home are that they are strict Lenten recipes, they provide fund-raising support for our GOYA ministry ... and they taste great! Visit the table in Coffee Hour each week!

Holy Week Schedule of Services

This issue of *The Herald* contains a complete schedule of service for Holy Week. Please post it in a conspicuous place in your home. Circle the services you are able to attend and place them on your schedule. Talk about them and make plans with your family. As the hymn from the Book of Psalms tells us during the Great Compline service, "God is with us." Holy Week provides us a special time to be with Him. See you there!

Make Plans for the Anastasi Dinner..... April 30

Don't forget to make plans to attend the Resurrection Liturgy and Dinner at Holy Trinity Church, Saturday evening, April 30/Sunday May 1. Following the liturgical celebration of the Resurrection, join your family, friends and other members of Holy Trinity to break the fast and celebrate the feast in our church hall. We will be serving lamb, "avgolemono" soup, bread, cheese and olives and "paximadia." Free-will offerings will be accepted to help cover the costs of the meal.

Lenten Fasting and Confession

In addition to the special services being held, please remember that the main focus of Lent is a personal one, with increased attention to our spiritual life through prayer, fasting and Holy Confession. The Holy Canons of the Church prescribe the guidelines for the Great Lenten Fast, beginning on Pure Monday. Orthodox Christians are called to refrain from eating meat (including red meat, poultry, etc.), dairy (milk, eggs, cheese), fish and other animal products through Pascha. We are also to abstain from wine and olive oil during weekdays (Monday through Friday). Shellfish, vegetables, pastas and the like are permitted at all times. If you have any questions—especially if you are new to fasting or have special health conditions—please see Fr. John with spe-

News & Events

cific questions. Please also see Fr. John to set up a time for Holy Confession. *Kali Metanoia! (May your repentance be good!)*

Lenten Coffee Hour Reminder March 14-Apr 30

Please keep in mind that during the Lenten season our Coffee Hours following the Divine Liturgy is observing the Orthodox Lenten fasting schedule. Anyone sponsoring a memorial coffee hour or providing Church School snacks is asked to take care that non-meat and non-dairy items are provided. The Philoptochos and the Church School can provide a list of suggestions for good alternatives. Thank you for helping our community grow in this proper and helpful Orthodox spiritual practice and discipline.

FUNERALS AND MEMORIALS

Korinis

The servant of God, William Korinis, fell asleep in the Lord on February 23. The Funeral was held at Holy Trinity Church, followed by interment at Ridgelawn Cemetery. A 40 day Memorial is scheduled for March 27. May his memory be eternal!

Karas Vlahakis

The servant of God, Antonia Karas Vlahakis, fell asleep in the Lord on March 6. The Funeral was held at Holy Trinity Church on March 9, followed by interment at Holy Trinity Cemetery. A 40 day Memorial is scheduled for April 10. May her memory be eternal!

Kokoros

The servant of God, Mary Kokoros, fell asleep in the Lord on March 20. The Funeral was held at Holy Trinity Church on March 24. Visitation, Trisagion and interment were held in her long-time home town of Erie at the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church and Lakeside Cemetery. May her memory be eternal!

Upcoming Memorials

March 27: William Korinis (40 days)

April 10: Antonia Vlahakis Karas (40 days)

April 17: Themistocles Balouris (3 years).



DON'T FORGET TO BUY HOLY TRINITY SCRIP CARDS EVERY WEEK! SEE THE SCRIP DESK AT COFFEE HOUR. USE THEM FOR ALL YOUR SHOPPING. IT'S LIKE MAKING A DONATION EVERY WEEK ... THAT DOESN'T COST YOU ANYTHING!

SUMMER CAMP 2005 INFO!

ATTENTION SUMMER CAMP PARENTS: THIS IS REALLY IMPORTANT INFORMATION!

Summer Camp 2005 is not that far away! As always, our Metropolis has requested each parish to support this important ministry. At Holy Trinity, this takes the form of parish grants offered to the campers of our parish, thanks to the generous support of the Philoptochos, the Parish Council and other donors (see below). This program resulted in our best-ever Summer Camp attendance last year, with 32 children attending from Holy Trinity (one of the highest parishes in the Metropolis!).

Important: In order to qualify for the largest discount, parents of children who participate in our Church School ministry and JOY/GOYA ministries must submit a copy of their mailed child(ren)'s camp application(s) to Father John by April 15 to indicate that their child(ren) will be attending. (Only the application page, *not* the medical form). Late applications will not qualify for the Holy Trinity discount. (Please note: our "Holy Trinity" weeks this year are Week I for JOY and Week V for GOYA.)

The original application(s), payment & medical form(s) must be mailed directly to the Metropolis postmarked by April 15 for the best discount. Enclose a check for the "Net fee" amount listed below and check the "Parish Scholarship" box in the financial section of the form to indicate that balance of payment from Holy Trinity is to follow. Once again, here is the list of "discounts" and deadlines (it will really pay to meet the April 15 deadline!):

Postmarked by April 15:

Initial Fee	\$290.00
Less Metropolis early reg. discount.....	-\$15.00
Less Holy Trinity grant	-\$100.00
Net fee if postmarked by April 15	\$175.00

Postmarked after April 15:

Initial Fee	\$290.00
No Metropolis discount	\$-0.00
No Holy Trinity grant	-\$0.00
Net fee if postmarked after April 15	\$290.00

Attention donors: If you would like to make a contribution toward helping our parish's children attend this important experience, please contact Fr. John.

2005 Holy Trinity Stewards

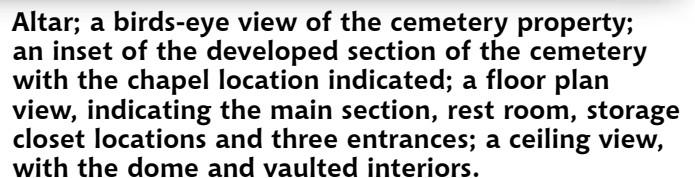
Thank you to the following faithful stewards who have submitted their pledge cards for the 2005 pledge year as of this publication. Please join them in their support for the ministries of Holy Trinity and submit your pledge card today! Remember, a current, signed pledge card is required each year as part of maintaining your membership in good standing at Holy Trinity Church.

Mr. & Mrs. Mark Adamczyk
Mrs Elizabeth Agapiou
Mr & Mrs Victor Amurgis
Mrs Harriet Amurgis
Mrs. Christy Andromalos
Mrs Carol Anestis
Mr & Mrs Harry Athanasiou
Mrs Stella Athanasiou
Mr & Mrs Alvin Backeris
Mr & Mrs Dean Backeris
Mr & Mrs Van Backeris
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Mrs Kelly Karavolos
Mr. & Mrs. George Karpakis
Mr & Mrs James Kermes
Mr & Mrs Gus Kilantonis
Mr & Mrs Steve Kish
Mrs Mary Kokoros
Mr & Mrs Stavros Komitopoulos
Mr Louis J. Kort
Miss Stella Kourakos
Mr Peter Kourakos
Mrs Mary Kourakos
Mr & Mrs Achille Kourouklis
Mrs. Constantine & Corina Kralios
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Gen. & Mrs. William Pagonis
Mr. Robert Pagonis
Mrs Veronica Panagiotou
Mr Michael Panos
Mr & Mrs Peter Panos
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Panos
Mr & Mrs George Pantelakis
Mr & Mrs George Pantelas
Mr. & Mrs. George P. Pantelas
Mr & Mrs George Papadopoulos
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Mr. Demo Zamagias
Mrs Effie Zamagias
Dr & Mrs Antonios Zikos
Mr & Mrs Peter Zikos
Miss Anna Zissis
Mr & Mrs Anthony Zissis
Mr & Mrs Louis Zozos
Mr. & Mrs. George L. Zozos

chairman. Finances of the project were also reviewed, including the announcement of a recent donation of \$100,000 by Nicholas Vlahakis. After a discussion period, the project was approved by a near-unanimous vote. Additionally, the committee brought forth a motion to give the name of “Saint George Chapel” to the church. The name was unanimously approved by the assembly. Look for updates as the project progresses.



Gheronda's Corner

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



**Father John
Androutsopoulos**

Prayer and Confession On Our Lips

Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

How many times we keep on praying and yet feel that we do not get any response to our prayers! We wonder why it is so.

The Psalmist gave us the answer long ago. He wrote, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." If there are hidden sins in our lives, if our lives are not in right relationship out of order with God and men, surely the Lord will not hear us.

We all need to search our hearts during this Great Lent to find our unconfessed and unforgiven iniquity and confess it to God, so that the Lord may bless us through His forgiveness when we pray.

"God be merciful to me a sinner." (Luke 18:13)

The story of the two men praying in the temple tells us that they both expressed their attitudes by their words. One was self righteous and arrogant. The other confessed that he was a sinner and begged for God's mercy.

First of all, confession means that we recognize that we are sinners, and we make our confession openly and honestly. Confession of this kind deepens our spiritual lives.

But confession also tells us what we believe in. When we pray for forgiveness of sin, we confess our belief in Christ and what He can do for us.

"Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips." (Isaiah 6:5)

Prayer is opening the door of our lives to God. When we turn toward Him we are able to see ourselves as we really are, in our true state and condition. When we expose ourselves to God, we see our need for cleansing. We see our need for healing, we see our need for forgiveness, and we cry out as did Isaiah, "Woe is me, for I am undone!; because I am a man of unclean lips." Like the publican in the parable of Jesus, we cry, "God be merciful to me a sinner."

When our attitude is right toward God and we have

confessing hearts, we come from prayer - justified, forgiven, healed by the divine touch of Jesus Christ.

"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:8 9)

Modern man tries to escape his sense of guilt. But guilt is persistent. God's voice (our conscience) within us will not be stilled. Our attempt to still it leads to further problems.

St. John the Evangelist reminds us that there is only one way to get rid of guilt. That way is through confession and forgiveness. Our part is to confess. We have the divine promise of forgiveness. God's call to confess our sins never ceases.

Beloved, Lent prepares us for a renewal of our spiritual life. We learn that self denial is not a purpose in itself, but only a means for positive and determined action. In preparation for and during the period of Great Lent, we learn many things that enable us to fight all evil and return to the contrite Christian life.

REMEMBER GREAT LENT AND KEEP IT HOLY.

With His love,

Rev. Fr. John K. Androutsopoulos

Rules for Great Lent

FAST FROM...	FEAST ON...
Criticism	Praise
Self-Pity	Joy
Ill-Temper	Peace
Resentment	Contentment
Jealousy	Love
Pride	Humility
Selfishness	Service
Fear	Faith
Laziness	Dedication

Mouse Tales: The St. Spyridon Church School Library Update



Hello there, all of my little ones, it is me your favorite little church mouse, Spero. I am going to chat with you about my little munchkin sister. She really comes up with some great ideas sometimes. I am really very proud of her but don't tell her because then she'll bug me all of the time.

One day, Zoe, very excitedly came running in to tell me something very important. She says, "Do you know that I have found a way to put Jesus and others first in my life? Do you want to know how Spero?"

"Sure," I said (being the loving brother that I am!), "tell me Zoe."

So Zoe continued, "Well it's simple, just remember how to spell JOY. The first letter 'J' stands for 'Jesus'; the second letter, 'O', stands for 'others'; and the third letter, 'Y', stands for 'yourself'. "So, Spero, when you put Jesus first, others second, and yourself last you will find only 'JOY'!"

You know, Zoe was right. Remember, JOY is the way you feel when you are very, very happy. And when we find JOY, it only gets bigger. Yiayia says that it is a lot like love: the more that you give the more that you will receive. So my little ones, I know that it is hard to do sometimes but try for the rewards will be great.



Now, on to this month's video review. In the "McGee and Me" video series, the second episode is, "The Star in the Breaking." This will teach my little ones about humility. In the first part of the video, Nicholas, whose cartoon character, McGee, shows that all of those who come to dinner will try to sit at the head of the table. He advises, as the Bible says, "if you are invited to a wedding feast do not always head for the best seat, because some one more respectful than you will show up". The host will bring him over to where you are sitting and say, "Let this man sit here." You then will be totally embarrassed and then have to take whatever seat is left at the foot of the table. Do this instead: start at the foot of the table and when the host sees you he will come and say, "friend we have a better place than this for you". Plus, you will be honored in front of all of the guests. Anyone who tries to honor himself will be humiliated and he who humbles himself shall be honored.

In the second part of the video, Nicholas learns that there was a time when the only thing that you would get when being an ace with ketchup, mustard bottles and cream pies was a trip to the principal's office and a two week detention. However, today, perfecting these skills can get you a visit to a T.V. show and a two week vacation at an amusement park! Unless, that is, your thirty minutes of game show fame goes to your head and you turn it into a prime time egotistical bully. Then the only thing that you win is the contempt of your friends and a lesson in humility. Yiayia says, "Our Heavenly Father strengthens those who are humble and flattens the hotshot"

Also, please do not forget to visit me in church during Lent. I would love to see those little feet under the pews. If you see a pawprint, you know that it was me passing by you!

Love in Christ,

Spero

The Cultural Side • Η Πολιτιστική Πλευρά



Voula Hareras

ΠΑΡΕΛΑΣΗ

Παρελάστε! Παρελάστε, παιδιά της Ελλάδος, τη μεγάλη ημέρα της εθνικής Παλιγγενεσίας, της νεκρανάστασης της ελληνικής γλυκυτάτης Πατρίδος.

Τετρακοσία χρόνια πικρής σκλάβιας χειροπιαστό σκοταδι. Τεσσερις αιώνες φως πουθενά, βοήθεια από πουθενά! Κι όμως το Έθνος κρατήσε μέσα στα βασανιστήρια, στους εξευτελισμούς, στο παιδομαζωμά,

στην ερημωση, στο αίμα! Γιατί η εθνική ψυχή δεν πέθανε μαζί με τον τελευταίο μαρτυρά Αυτοκράτορα στην πυλή του Αγίου Ρωμανού το 1453 μ.Χ.

Κλεισμένη αυτή μέσα στο κέλλι της αποτροπαικής φυλακής, ομοία δикеφαλος αητός πληγωμένος από το απίστο μαχαίρι, τυραννίστηκε, αναμετρήθηκε κάθε μέρα με το θάνατο, αλλά εξήσε χωρίς να αλλάξοπιστήσει, χωρίς ν αρνηθή τα πατροπαράδοτα εθνικά χαρακτηριστικά της. Εξήσε χαρή στην πίστη στο Θεό και στην απόφαση της θυσίας για τη λευτεριά της. Το τραγουδούσαν τα παιδιά της: Για του Χριστού την πίστη την αγία και της Πατρίδος την ελευθερία...

Παρελάστε, Ελληνοπούλα όπου γης, με τα εθνικά μας σύμβολα ψηλά. Με αξιοπρέπεια, με σεμνοτητα, με χαρά, με λεβεντία, Ελληνοπούλα Χριστιανοπούλα! Παρελάστε, με επιγνώση της ευθύνης που σηκώνετε στους παιδικούς και νεανικούς σας ωμούς.

Ο ελεύθερος αέρας, που αναπνεετε κάτω απ τον γαλαζίο

ουρανό μας, δεν σας χάριστηκε, γιατί είναι πληρωμένος με πολλούς αγώνες και ολοκαυτώματα. Τον έχετε χρεωθεί από κεινή τη μεγάλη γενία του 1821.

Παρελάστε! Και στην παρελάση σας δεν εισθε εσείς μόνο παρόντες. Πάνω από σας αθωρητές αγιασμένες οι σκιές των Προγόνων σας σκεπουν με στοργή και ελπίδες αλλά και δικαίη απαίτηση. Έχουν γι αυτό κάθε δικαίωμα, γιατί εκείνοι έδωσαν τα πάντα για να έχετε εσείς τα πάντα.

Δεστε! Ανεμίζουν τα αγιασμένα ρασα του πατρο-Κοσμά, του Γρηγορίου του Ε, του Παπαφλέσσα και του Διακού. Αρματωλοί και Κλεφτές, Φίλικοι, σοφοί Διδασκαλοί του Γένους, πληθος Νεομαρτυρές σας συνοδεουν. Λαμπουν τ αρματα των Κολοκοτρωναιών και των Μακρυγιαννηδών, των παλληκαριών σαν τον Καραϊσκάκη και τον Μπότσαρη, των στρομητών ναυμάχων μας. Καπετανισσες, σαν την Μπουμπουλίνα, την Μαντώ, τη Δομνα Βισβίξη. Σουλιωτισσες — μαναδες, θυγατέρες, μωρά της αγκαλιάς — που δε χάρηκαν ελευθερή την Πατρίδα, Ελευθεροί Πολιορκημένοι, που υψωναν με χαμογελο την οψη τη φθαρμένη, σας δείχνουν το δρομοτής τιμής και του εθνικού χρέους.

Παρελάστε, παιδιά των Ελλήνων όπου γης. Η πίστη και η πατρίδα είναι μια και κοινή για όλους μας και γι αυτές αξίζει κάθε θυσία. Ο Θεός, ο δίκαιος Κριτής των ανθρωπίνων πράξεων, ορίζει αυτή την αγαπή κι αυτό το χρέος. Αυτός ευλογεί και

στεφανώνει τον κάθε μικρό και μεγάλο Έλληνα πατριώτη.

Εκατον ογδοντα τεσσερα χρόνια απ το Μάρτη του 1821! Κι οι μυρσίνες και οι δάφνες του μεγάλου Αγώνα είναι ακόμα θαλλερες. Παρελάστε, παιδιάς Ελλήνων!

Βούλα Χαρέρα

Holy Trinity to Host Sit-Down Lunch for the Homeless & Needy

Holy Trinity Church has been blessed once again with the opportunity to host the "Feed the Homeless" Outreach event. You may remember that in March of 2003, our parish—which so often asks for the support of the community around us for the Festival, Wednesday Lunch, etc.—accepted the invitation of the Greater Pittsburgh Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood and opened our doors to the poor and needy the Lord commands us to serve in His name for a sit-down hot lunch.

Now, returning to that blessing for the fifth time, on Saturday, April 16, the Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood will again sponsor a sit-down lunch for the homeless here at Holy Trinity Social Hall from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. This philanthropic outreach will be sponsored by vari-

ous Orthodox parishes in the area, who will bring food and provide volunteers to set up, clean up and serve. In addition to offering the use of our hall, it is important that the Holy Trinity community steps forward to serve. If you would like to help by cooking, serving or through monetary or in-kind donations, please contact Julie or Mike Kritiotis at 412-766-5001. During the Lenten fast, when we are called to prayer, fasting and almsgiving, this is truly a wonderful way to fulfill the commandment of Jesus Christ: "As you did it to these, the least of my brethren, you did it to Me" (Mt. 25.40). Thank you for your generosity!



"Agape" in action: a scene from the first Homeless Sit-Down Lunch at Holy Trinity in November, 2003. As the Lord said in John 12.8, "The poor you always have with you," so the philanthropic works of the Church always need your support, help and prayers. See you April 16th.

Holy Trinity Receives Thank You for Christmas Gifts

One of the favorite annual outreach projects at Holy Trinity is the "Christmas Gift Tree" program coordinated by Philoptochos, through the efforts of Georgia Brennan. It is so popular, in fact, that we often run out of gift request tags on the very first Sunday and have to ask for "refills" for the tree! Though the joy making a child happy on Christmas and the ability to help others as the Lord commanded are enough thanks, the following letter and list were received from the Parental Stress Center.



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February 7, 2005

Ms. Georgia Brennan
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
302 North Avenue West
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Dear Georgia;

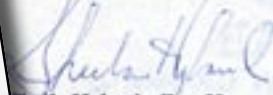
We are writing to thank you, and Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, for the generous gift of time, presents, and financial resources, given to support the Parental Stress Center's (PSC) Holiday Giving Tree Program!

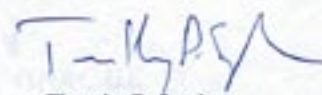
With your support, more than 400 children received individualized presents and many participated in family centered activities, cultural workshops, and received a holiday dinner at "Let's Celebrate" on December 18, 2004 at the PSC Family Center. Those families who could not attend the celebration had presents delivered directly to their homes in time for Christmas!

This year we were fortunate to have twenty organizations participate in the Holiday Giving Tree Program. With their special efforts 686 presents were collected and distributed to low income families. Overall, we distributed more than 1000 individual gifts. We hope you will consider participating next year. Also, we ask that you consider inviting other organizations that you may be associated with to participate in this important effort.

Thank you again for your generous spirit and concern for families in need served by the Parental Stress Center.

With Great Appreciation;


Sheila Hyland - Fox 53,
Holiday Giving Program
Honorary Chairwoman


Timothy P. Snyder,
Executive Director



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Willie Williams of the Pittsburgh Steelers

Thanks to all the groups, companies and families that made this holiday season so special for the families and children served at the Parental Stress Center.

Want to get involved with other outreach work? Join the Philoptochos today. Call Tina Fiedler (412-364-1545) about general Philoptochos activities and events or Sondra Brubaker (724-940-3445) about participating in the Philoptochos visitation and hospitality ministries.

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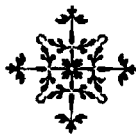
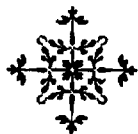
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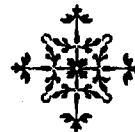


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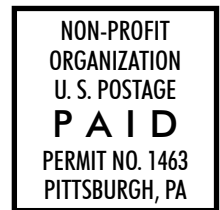
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ON THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD

"I look for the resurrection of the dead". In the Creed we confess that we expect the resurrection of the dead. Of course, when we say the resurrection of the dead, we mean the resurrection of bodies. Bodies, which are separated from the soul at death, will be resurrected, i.e. the souls will return to their bodies and will give them life. The entire man should live eternally.

All bodies will be resurrected, those of the righteous and the unrighteous, saints and sinners alike. Thus, we can talk of the "restoration of nature", not, however, of the restoration of will. The gift of resurrection will be given to all men, the righteous and unrighteous alike. Hence, everyone will be resurrected, but it is only the righteous who will be caught up "in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air" (I Thessalonians 4:17).

Christ's resurrection is a prelude to our own resurrection. The saints already enjoy the resurrection of the body, the abolition of death and the fact that the departure of the soul from the body is really a sleep. We can also enjoy this great truth. The relics of saints are proof that the saints are sleeping and that death has been abolished. Their incorruptible bodies, which give off sweet smelling fragrances and work miracles, are a foretaste of the coming resurrection. Thus, Church's task is to make man's body a "relic".

The resurrection of the dead will certainly happen. We have Christ's absolute confirmation of this. However, we do not know when it will happen. The time of Christ's Second Coming is unknown; even the angels do not know when it will happen, Only God the Father knows.

The resurrected bodies will be spiritual. St. Paul writes concerning the subject "So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body" (I Corinthians 15:42-44).

This will take place for those who have fallen asleep. However, regarding those people who will still be alive at the moment of the Second Coming of Christ, St. Paul says that they will immediately change, "We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye" (I Corinthians 15: 51-52).

From "Entering the Orthodox Church" by Metropolitan Hierotheos of Nafplaktos

