



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

November 2005

www.HolyTrinityPgh.org

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

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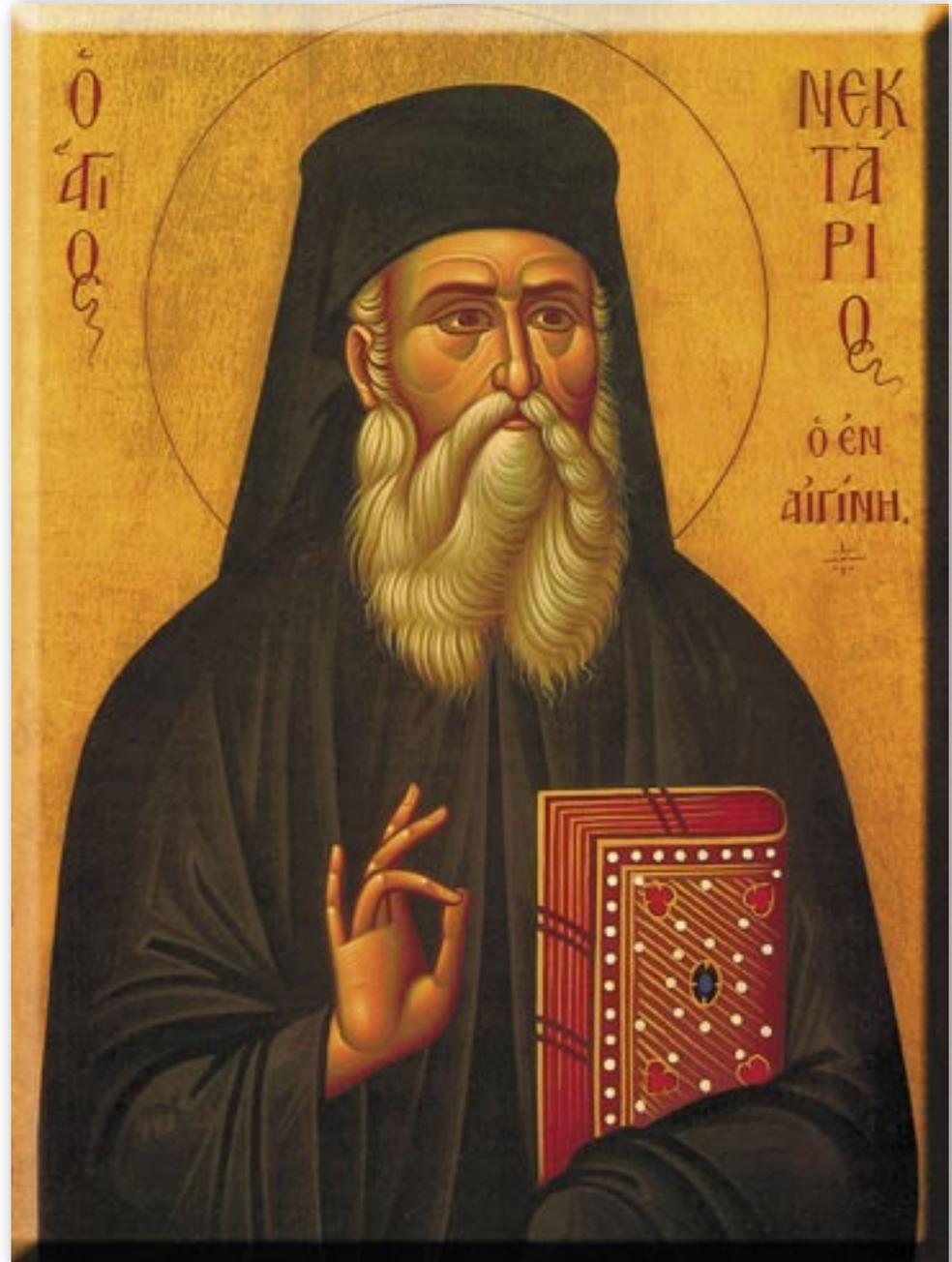
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**NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS:
NOVEMBER 13 REGULAR
FALL PARISH
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Saint Nektarios the Wonderworker - November 9



In joy, let our hearts praise the latest shining star of the Orthodox, the newly erected rampart of the Church. For, glorified by the work of the Spirit, he abundantly pours forth the grace of healing to those who cry out, "Rejoice, O Father Nektarios".
(Kontakion of the Feast)

Father John's Message

THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

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The Cultural Side

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Publication Schedule

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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
Personal Sponsor
form on the inside
back cover.



“Give thanks to the Lord for He is good; for
his mercy love endures for ever.”

Psalm 136.1

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It's all about communion ... with one another ... within His Holy Church ... with God Himself. This is made so very clear in the place where we, as Orthodox Christians, find the heart of our unity: the worship life of the Church, which is itself the Body of Christ, of which we are members.

One of my most fond recurring memories of my seminary days is the moment of Holy Communion in the chapel at the school. On Sundays, people would come from various places to experience the beautiful Divine Liturgy offered there, so there would often be lengthy lines for Holy Communion. Once the standard Communion hymn of the day was sung, the choirs (there were two of them) would often move on to other traditional Orthodox inspirational offerings. One of the most moving was taken directly from the Holy Scriptures: Psalm 136 set to music. It begins with and repeats the phrase quoted above: “Give thanks to the Lord.”

Admittedly, there were times, even at the seminary, when giving thanks wasn't the first thing on everyone's minds. It was—like a parish or a family—filled with many personalities and conflicts among people who were all there for one purpose: to grow closer to Christ and to become apostles of His love. Yet the evil one, whom Saint John the Evangelist calls “the father of lies” would have none of that. After all, if he was able to thwart the growth of the faith in this place, which was expected to be the fountain of hope for the future of the Church, would it not make the defeat of the message of the Gospel all the more achievable in the world?

But the Church in Her wisdom provided an antidote to the arguments and divisions of the world. During Holy Communion, the very moment of the touchpoint of heaven and earth, of God and man and of every part of the Body of Christ, the reminder was proclaimed: Give thanks; God is good; He is merciful; His love is forever; He is there even when times are troubling; and, by the way, this is the same God whose very handiwork are the heavens and the earth, so the troubles you bring with you today may be big to you, but they are not too much for Him; He will rescue you from them like He saved the Israelites in their many crises.

As Americans we are approaching the natinal holiday of Thanksgiving; interestingly enough, President Lincoln's 1863 proclamation of the holiday declared it to be not only a day of thanks, but a day when all Americans would “fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquillity and Union.”

Long before that, however, God was calling His people to do the same: put away the disunity that comes from disagreements and strife; come together with one mind and one heart as members of the Body of Christ; “let us commit ourselves and one another to Christ our God” so that the adversary does not make of the Church his strategic point of victory which chokes off the apostolic mission to the world.

God has called us, a members of His Body, as Christian families and as holy Trinity Church, to be beacons of light and apostles of Christ. May we never lose site of that great and holy mission by being drawn from David's words for even a moment: “Give thanks to the Lord for He is good.”

News & Events

EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES

Church School Food Drive.....November

In keeping with the command of the Lord to help the poor and needy, our Church School students will be collecting food for a local food pantry and homeless shelter during the month of November. Look for the bags, which will be provided to the children during Church School class and start filling them as soon as possible. The food will be given to a local shelter which serves people of this area with a proven financial need. Thank you for your generosity and for helping your children understand the importance of meeting this challenge and call.



St. Lydia's Orthodox Women's Fellowship . Nov. 3, 17

The St. Lydia Women's Study Fellowship is a ministry for women to share in fellowship and to study scripture, the Orthodox Faith and family life in today's world. The meetings take place every other week on Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m at the home of Jan Petredis in Wexford. New participants are always welcome! The fellowship is enjoyable and the approach is casual, but the subjects are important for today's women and families.

This year's theme is a Bible Study of Saint Paul's Epistles to the Corinthians. The study guide being used is a new publication, "First and Second Corinthians: Straight From the Heart." It approaches the study with an easy-to-understand method intended for all people. For further information on this worthwhile and informative group or for directions to the meetings, call Stacy Dickos at 412-367-0925.



YOUTH MINISTRY

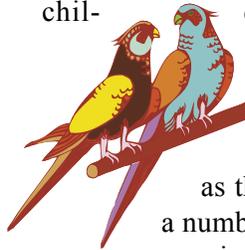
GOYA Events.....November

- Thu. Nov. 3, 6:30 pm: Basketball practice
- Sat. Nov. 5: Dinner and Movie Night (location tba)
- Sun. Nov. 6: Meeting after Liturgy
- Thu. Nov. 10, 6:30 pm: Basketball practice
- Sun. Nov. 13: Fall Bake Sale after Liturgy
- Sun. Nov. 13, 6:30 pm: Monthly Fellowship at Hodge family home
- Thu. Nov. 17, 6:30 pm: Basketball practice
- Fri. Nov. 18-Sun Nov. 20: Fall GOYA Retreat
- Sun. Nov. 27: GOYA Turkey Bowl after Liturgy

For information on GOYA events, contact Presvytera Becky at 412-831-3574 or GOYA President Victoria Kritiotis at 412-766-5001..

JOY Trip to Aviary

Attention JOY children (8-12 year-olds): You are invited to a free trip to the National Aviary on Sunday, November 13! Holy Trinity Church has received a donation of tickets and is extending them to the JOY children and their families on a first-come, first-served basis (there are 40 tickets in all). The trip will take place on Sunday, November 13, following Divine Liturgy. This is the same time as the regular Fall General Assembly, and a number of JOY parents have volunteered to supervise the children during the visit so their parents can participate in the assembly. Please contact Joanne Germanos at 412-822-7412 to reserve tickets.



WORSHIP LIFE

Weekday Services.....November

Please take note of the following weekday Liturgies for the feast days in the month of November. Orthros is at 9:00 a.m., followed by Divine Liturgy at 10:00.

Ss. Cosmas & Damian..... November 1

The Holy Archangels..... November 8

Note: This service will be held at the Archangel Michael Chapel at Angel's Acres in Canonsburg.

St. Nektarios the Wonderworker November 9

The Entrance of the Theotokos..... November 21

St. Katherine November 24

Note: This is a 6:00 pm Vesperal Liturgy

Snt. Andrew the Apostle November 30

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

Baptism: Jackson Farmakis

The servant of God, Jackson (John) Farmakis, son of Christian and Rebecca Farmakis, was received into the Holy Orthodox Christian Faith through Baptism on October 2, 2005. The Godparent was Jason Farmakis. Congratulations, and may God grant him many years!

Baptism: Vasilios Balouris

The servant of God, Vasilios Andrea Balouris, son of James T. and Yvonne Balouris, was received into the Holy Orthodox Christian Faith through Baptism on October 15, 2005. The Godparent was Sophia Panagis. Congratulations, and may God grant him many years!

News & Events

Upcoming Memorial/Trisagion Services . . . November

- November 13: Betty Beckas (1 year); Jimmy Regakis (5 years)
 November 20: George Georgiadis (2 years); John Regas (3 years)
 November 27: Evangelos Komninos (5 years)
 December 4: Antonia Karas (9 months)

COMMUNITY LIFE

Fall Community Homeless Outreach Nov. 19

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 sixth time, on Saturday, November 19, 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 various 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 donating, please contact Julie or Mike Kritiotis at 412-766-5001. During the Christmas 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.

THANKSGIVING 2005



Sharing the Harvest. Showing you Care.

As Orthodox Christians, we pray "for favorable weather, an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and temperate seasons." But for many people around the world — especially those affected by natural disasters, drought and famine — a simple meal is an answer to their prayers. Live your faith this Thanksgiving by supporting IOCC's relief and self-help programs throughout the world.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Donation Amount:
 \$35 \$50 \$100 \$250 other: _____

Enclosed please find my check made payable to IOCC.
 Please charge credit card for the amount indicated above:
 MasterCard Visa AmEx Discover

Card Number: _____ Exp. _____

Signature: _____



International Orthodox Christian Charities
 P.O. Box 630225 • Baltimore, MD 21263-0225
 Toll-Free: (877) 803-4622 • Fax: (410) 243-9824
 Internet: www.iocc.org

Stewardship Information Update

Thank you to the following faithful stewards who have submitted their pledge cards for the 2005 pledge year since the last update. 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. Kirk Stephan
 Ms. Marjorie Andromalos
 Mrs. Patricia Jones
 Ms. Cora Verlato
 Mrs. Gregory Pefferman
 Mr. Mrs. John Gianoutsos
 Mr. John Nychis
 Mrs. Pauline Pontikos
 Ms. Rania Pontikis
 Mrs. George Brennen
 Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Pappas
 Mr. & Mrs. James Kostopoulos
 Mr. and Mrs. Steve Condos

- Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Geanopoulos
 Mrs. Georgia Touloumes
 Mr. George Kilantonis
 Mr. Thomas Levendos
 Mr. William Brennan
 Ms. Christy Cherpes
 Ms. Christy Cherpes
 Mr. George Athanasiou

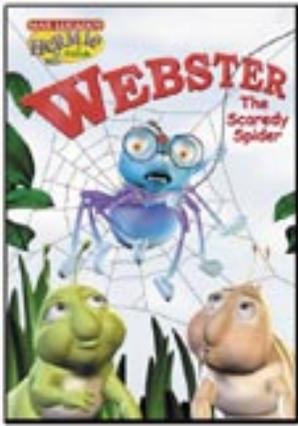
TOTAL NUMBER OF PLEDGES..... 248
TOTAL DOLLARS PLEDGED.....\$ 144,392
AVERAGE PLEDGE..... \$582

Mouse Tales: The St. Spyridon Church School Library Update

Hello, my precious children!

It's me, Spero! I am here in church under the pew watching as Father is giving his sermon on "Thanksgiving". I really would someday like to sit in the pew (without scaring every one away) but I should just be thankful that none of my precious little ones (or big ones) as of yet, have stepped on me. I have a lot to be thankful for like my family, my church, and God.

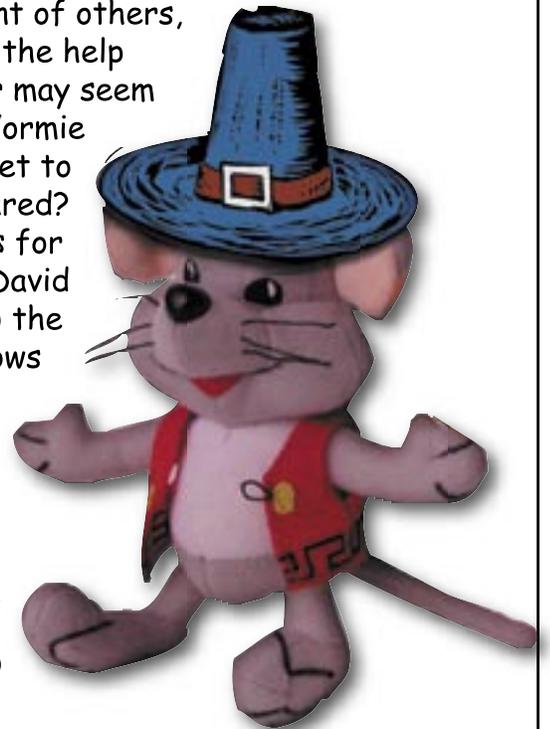
What do you have to be thankful for?



We have a new DVD in the Hermie and Friends series called "Webster, The Scaredy Spider". The video starts out with a cartoon short based on Proverbs 3:25-26. My precious children you do not have to be afraid for our Heavenly Father will always be with you to keep you safe and sound. What do you to fear? Do you fear being lost or left alone? Do you fear being home alone or the monster under the bed or in the closet? Do you fear the dark or things that go bump in the night? Ya' know adults have fears too! Adults are afraid of losing things like their keys, checkbook, or even their hair. In Isaiah 4:10 God tells us "Do not worry for I am with you! Do not be afraid because I am your God and I will make you strong, and I will help you. I will support you with my right hand and save you, so that you are not afraid, and so you can handle your fears, if you do one thing", which we will learn from this DVD.

In Hermie's garden, there was a treaty of 85 that said, No Spiders are allowed in the garden". But, one is spotted. All the bugs are afraid of him. Little do they know that this is a small spider named Webster. Webster is more afraid of all of them. Webster is afraid of so many things like leaving home, talking in front of others, big lizards, flying through the air, and dark places. With the help of Wormie, Webster faces his fears for sometimes fear may seem bigger than we are and sometimes they are real to us. Wormie tells Webster sometimes you become so scared you forget to be brave. Who can make you feel brave when you are scared? God, He loves us and knows each of us by name. If God is for us then who can be against us? Remember, He was with David when he faced Goliath and with Moses when he talked to the Pharaoh. So Webster overcame his fears because he knows God is with him all of the time, even when he was afraid. My precious little ones when you become afraid remember God Our Heavenly Father is right there next to you. He can bring you comfort and peace. God is with us always! Have a Thankful and Happy Thanksgiving!

In Christ
Love Spero



Community Life Photo Journal

On Sunday, October 16, the children of the JOY ministry gathered for a Fall Mini-Retreat and apple-picking adventure. They met at Simmons Farm in McMurray and picked lots and lots of apples, then gathered at the Gagianas home nearby for a retreat with Father John. As part of the retreat, they prepared for the Apple Festival (an apple-themed sale) to be held at church the following Sunday by bagging apples and cleaning some for the many apple pies baked by the moms. Pictured below are scenes from the day: apple-pickers in and out of the trees at Simmons Farm; Father John demonstrating and having a little fun with the "fruits of the Spirit" theme; and finally, the entire gathering of children.



Community Life Photo Journal

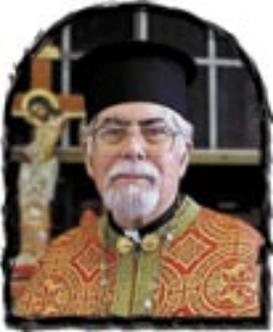


Above: More fun-filled scenes from the JOY Fall Mini-Retreat on October 16, including the "apple separating and bagging" crew above. Right and below: Students, teachers and parents all participated in the annual "Trading Places Open House" on Sunday, October 16. Each year on this Sunday, parents and students "trade places" to gain a broad perspective or what its like in the others' shoes. Parents are dismissed following Holy Communion for a visit to the classrooms, and Father John offers a special message for the students upstairs.



Gheronda's Corner

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



Father John
Androutsopoulos

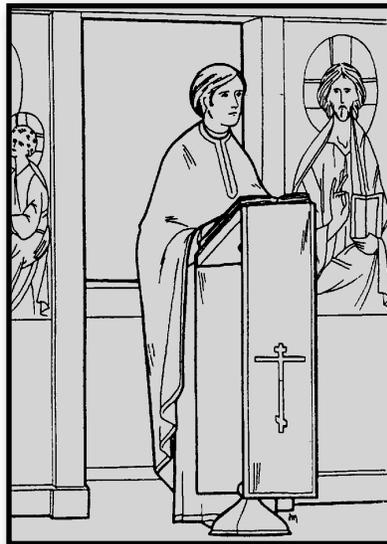
THE POWER OF THE WORD OF GOD

Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, the word of God is strong, like a hammer crushing the rock. It is as a sword severing the body from the soul, that is, carnal desires from the spirit. The divine word is like dew to our souls, giving growth to good works.

In this way many saints were converted by hearing the word of God.

How should we prepare ourselves to hear a sermon?

St. John Chrysostom says: "Who, that wishes to pour precious ointment into a vessel, will not first purify the vessel and clean it?" So should we likewise purify our souls before hearing the word of God, by sincere sorrow for our sins. The earth, before the seed is sown, is carefully prepared; so also should we prepare our hearts before receiving the seed of the word of God. All earthly cares must be banished, lest the seed of God's word fall among the thorns of worldly desires, and be thus choked. The sermon should be preceded by prayer; otherwise very little fruit will be derived from it, as St. John Chrysostom says.



What is to be observed during the sermon?

We should listen attentively to the priest as to a messenger from God explaining to us the will of God, for Christ says: "Behold, I send: you just like sheep to a pack of wolves. You must be as cautious as snakes and as gentle as doves" (Matthew 10.16). St. John Chrysostom says: "When the proclamations of a king are read, silence is observed everywhere, all ears being intent to receive the contents. How much more respect and reverence should we show when the word of God is announced to us, that we may learn the divine will."

What should we do after the sermon?

In the sight of God not they are justified who hear the word, but they who keep it (Romans 2.13). The servant who knows the will of his master and does not do

it, shall receive more stripes (Luke 12.47). For many it would be better never to have known the way of Justice, than having known it, to forsake it (2 Peter 2.21). Hence it is necessary, that after hearing a sermon, we cover the seed, that is, the word of God, with the earth of pious reflection. Thus the Blessed Mother Mary kept the word of God pondering it in her heart (Luke 2.51). Besides this, it is necessary to pray God to send the dew of His grace, so that the seed of the divine word may grow and bring forth fruit in patience.

"Listen, anyone who has ears to hear!" (Luke 8.8)

There are some on whom the Gospel message has little impact. Like seed dropped on a sidewalk and eaten by birds, the word of salvation never springs to life in them. And there are some who receive the Gospel message with such eagerness that it bears a superabundance of fruit in their lives, thirty, sixty, a hundredfold.

Most of us are somewhere between these two extremes. We have accepted the Gospel, but somehow our lives are not as fruitful as we want them to be. We can be like those who accept the word of God but have difficulty enduring in times of trial, or who never reach full maturity because of the concerns of the world.

What are the trials we face? Usually they are not as dramatic as persecution for our beliefs; usually they are simply the normal difficulties that everyone faces. But if our faith is shallow, even ordinary difficulties can overwhelm it.

And what are the concerns of this world that can prevent us from reaching our maturity in Christ? Again, they are most often quite ordinary; spending too much time at our Jobs or hobbies or in front of the TV set can so clutter us with distractions that we overlook the most important things in our life; our relationship with others, our relationship with God.

Beloved, Jesus calls us to reexamine our lives in light of His teaching: "LISTEN, anyone who has ears to hear."

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

The Cultural Side • Η Πολιτιστική Πλευρά



Voula Hareras

**28ην Οκτωβρίου 1940...
28ην Οκτωβρίου 2005**

Έχουν περάσει 65 χρόνια από το πρωινό της 28ης Οκτωβρίου του 1940. Τότε πού ή Ελλάδα έκλήθη από τη Μοίρα, να γράψει και πάλι μιάν άκομα Χρυσή Σελίδα στο γεμάτο ήρωϊσμούς βιβλίο της.

Η 28η Οκτωβρίου 1940 είναι και θά μένη ή πιό μεγάλη ήμερα της Ελληνικής Ιστορίας, όχι μόνον

για τά έκπληκτικά άνδραγαθήματα, στά χιονισμένα βουνά της Αλβανίας, άλλά θά είναι μεγάλη, για τά μεγάλα πού έκεινη τήν στιγμή άπεφάσιαν, ό ηρωϊκος και άσκητικός Βασιλέας Γεώργιος, και ό Μεγάλος ήγέτης του Έθνους Ιωάννης Μεταξάς και τό Σύνολον του Έλληνικού Λαου, για να φανούν άντάξιοι των παραδόσεων τής Ιστορίας.

Αλλά άς γυρίσουμε 65 χρόνια πριν...ας θυμηθούμε για μιά στιγμή τά γεγονότα έκείνα πού άνέβασαν τήν Έλλάδα στις κορφές τής δόξης.

Βράδυ της 27ης Οκτωβρίου. Στην Άθήνα ό πρεσβευτής τής Ιταλίας Γκράτσι, είχε οργανώσει προς τιμήν έξεχόντων Μελών τής Άθηναικής κοινωνίας, πλουσιώτατο γεύμα, στίς μεγάλες αίθουσες του Μεγάρου τής Ιταλικής πρεσβείας, όπου με ύποκριτική εύγλωτία διεκήρυσσε τήν στενότητα των σχέσεων, και τήν πατροπαράδοτη φιλία μεταξύ των δύο πάνάρχαιων Λαών. Μόλις όμως ή ώραία Ελληνοϊταλική γιορτή τελείωσε και όλοι άπεχώρησαν με της καλλίτερες έντυπώσεις...Ο κόμης Έμμανουήλ Γκράτσι κάθησε στο γραφείο του για να έτοιμάση τό άτιμώτερο έγγραφο τής φασιστικής διπλωματίας.

Ήταν 3 παρά πέντε τό πρωϊ τής Δευτέρας 28ης Οκτωβρίου, έκεινη τήν ώρα ό Μεταξάς κοιμόταν. Τό κουδούνι του σπιτιού κτύπησε, ό Μεταξάς φόρεσε κάτι πρόχειρο κ'άνοιξε ό ίδιος, έκπληκτος είδε τόν πρεσβευτή τής Ιταλίας, ό Μεταξάς κατάλαβε και πήρε τό άνάλογο ύφος για να άντιπροσωπεύση περήφανα τήν Έλλάδα.

Ό Γκράτσι μήηκε και έδωσε στον Μεταξά τόν Φάκελο.

Ό Μεταξάς έβγαλε τά γυαλιά του, τά φόρεσε και άρχισε να διαβάζη, τό βλέμμα και τό πνεύμα του είχαν συλλάβει άμέσως τό πνεύμα του τελεσιγράφου. Αλλά ήθελε να ζυγίση κάθε λέξη πού θά έλεγε στον θρασύ νυκτερινό επισκέπτη. Όταν συμπλήρωσε τις σκέψεις του σηκώθηκε, ξαναδιπλωσε τό τελεσίγραφο και τώβαλε ήρεμα στο φακελο.

...Κύριε Πρόεδρε, άρχισε ό Γκράτσι να λέει, ταραγμένος είμαι επιπροσθετως έπιφορτισμένος να σας ανακοινώσω ότι μη άποδοχής των όρων πού αναγνώσατε τά Ιταλικά στρατεύματα θά εισέλθουν εις τήν Έλλάδα εις τας 6 τό πρωϊ.

...Κύριε Πρεσβευτά, άπήντησε άτάραχος ό Μεταξάς, και τό περιεχόμενον του τελεσιγράφου και ό τρόπος πού μου έπεδόθη, σημαίνουν κήρυξιν πολέμου έκ μέρους της Ιταλίας...

...Αλλά άν δώσετε διαταγήν εις τά στρατεύματά σας ν'αφίσουν έλευθέραν τήν εισοδον εις τους Ιταλους...

Ό Ιωάννης Μεταξάς τινάχθηκε...τά γαλανά του μάτια

πέταξαν φλόγες. Περιττόν να προχωρήσετε, φώναξε ΟΧΙ. Δέν πρόκειται να δώσω τέτοιες διαταγές στα στρατευματά μας, και δέν θα έπιτραπή στα δικά σας να περάσουν... και προχώρησε προς τήν πόρτα, ό Γκράτσι κατάλαβε προσπάθησε να δώση τό χέρι του εις χαιρετισμόν, ό Μεταξας γύρισε τό πρόσωπο με άηδία...

Μόλις ό ξένος έφυγε, ό Μεταξάς άρπαξε τό τηλέφωνο. Μέσα σε μισή ώρα ξύπνησε τόν Βασιλέα του Αρχιστράτηγο, τους Ύπουργούς, και έδωσε διαταγή στα σύνορα να μην αφήσουν να περάσουν οι Ίταλοι. Ντύθηκε γρήγορα και στις 4 το πρωϊ ήταν στο γραφείο του, στο Ύπουργείο έξωτερικών, και άρχισε ό άγώνας.

28η Οκτωβρίου 1940 πρωϊ πρωϊ, ό Μεταξας άνήγγειλε στον Ελληνικό Λαό ότι άρχιζε ό Πόλεμος και τότε όλοι μικροί, μεγάλοι, άνδρες, γυναίκες, άνάπηροι, όλοι, όλοι, ένώθηκαν σαν νάταν ένας. Δέν υπήρχαν τούτην τήν ώρα Δεξιοί, Κουμμουνισται, Δημοκράτες, μιση και πάθη, μόνον Έλληνες βγήκαν στους δρόμους έξαλλοι. Όλοι για τόν άγώνα, και άς ήξεραν με ποιά Αυτοκρατορία πάνοπλοι είχαν να πολεμήσουν όμως δεν δίστασαν ούτε στιγμή, ολα για τήν Πατρίδα. Όλα για τήν Έλλάδα μας, και ποιός τό περιμένε. Να ή μιά Νίκη πίσω από τήν άλη, αναθήρησε ή τρομαγμένη Εύρώπη, ή Έλλάδα τους έδωσε τήν πρώτη Νίκη. 6 μήνες βάσταξαν οι ήρωες, αλλά έδωσαν καιρο στην Άμερική να έτοιμαστή και να ανατρέψη τά σχέδια του παράφρονα Χίτλερ.

Έμεις οι πιό παλιοι τά ζήσαμε τά αξέχαστα έκείνα χρόνια άν και παιδιά τότε μάς μεγάλωσε άπότομα ό Πόλεμος... καθήκον όλων είναι να μην αφήσουμε να ξεχαστούν, 65 χρόνια πέρασαν και θα περάσουν και άλλα και άλλα. Έφ όσον υπάρχει Έλλάδα, έφ όσον υπάρχουν Έλληνες γνήσιοι άπόγονοι των δοξασμένων ήρώων δεν θα ξεχαστούν. Γιατί όπου κι άν βρίσκοντε Έλληνες στα πέρατα του κόσμου τούτην τήν ήμερα θα τήν τιμούν, και θα προσεύχοντε για αυτούς πού με τό αίμα τους εγραψαν Ιστορία.

Ζήτω ή 28η Οκτωβρίου 1940!

Στά Ήρωϊκά Παιδιά

Κρατάτε τό κεφάλι ψηλά
Έξω τό στήθος, όρθιο τό κορμί σας
Κι'ας φαίνεται πως σκύβουνε δειλά,
Και τά βουνά άκόμα στην όρμη σας.

Σάν περπατάτε άς φαίνεται πως τρέχετε
Πως πετάξατε με φτερά από τήν κούνια
Πως τρέμει ό κόσμος τά μουστάκια πού δέν έχετε
Και των ποδιών σας τ'άνυπαρκτα σηηρούνια

Όρθιο τό κορμί, ψηλά τή μύτη σας
Άς φαίνεται πως βγαίνετε από κάστρα
Μην τό ξεχνάτε, πάτε να ξεκρεμάστε τ'άστρα
Άστρα! Σημαιές! Όνειρα, φτερά!
Ας είναι τής ψυχής σας πρωτοβρόχι
Θύελλα νάνε τά ζήτω
Και κεραυνός τό ΟΧΙ!

Βούλα Χαρερά

Our Worship - Part 5

Part of a special series of educational features designed to provide "continuing education" to our parishioners. Taken from the publication, "Our Worship," which examines and explains the main elements of worship in the Orthodox Christian Church.

GREAT VESPERS begins our celebration of Sundays and Feast Days

The Church's liturgical day begins at sundown rather than at midnight, following ancient practice. Hence the celebration of Vespers on the eve of a Sunday or Feast Day, in reality, marks the beginning of the liturgical day. It begins our preparation for the fulfillment of Sunday — the reception of the Eucharist at the Divine Liturgy.

Great Vespers opens with our glorification of the Creator...

Psalm 103, or selected verses from it, is chanted. The priest may incense the icons, the worshippers and the entire church building.

*"Bless the Lord, O my soul! Blessed are You, O Lord.
O Lord, my God, You are very great!
Blessed are You!
How glorious are Your works, O Lord,
In wisdom have You made them all!
Glory to You, O Lord, who have created all!"*

Psalm 103 recalls all the blessings of creation: the clouds, the wind, the earth and the waters, and all living creatures.

Following the psalm, the priest, intones the Great Litany, placing before us the needs we encounter in our world. Our response to each petition — "Lord, have mercy!" — reflects how all creation naturally looked to God "to give them their food in due season." Believers become the voice of creation, asking for His protection upon the world.

During this introductory portion of Vespers, we

- Glorify God as Creator
- Are reminded of the beauty and magnificence of God's creation
- Reaffirm that we were personally created to live in union with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit; and
- Act as the voice of creation, asking for God's great mercy upon the world

... and our reflection on the Fall of humankind.

After the initial act of Creation, humanity separated itself from God. Pride — and the desire to exist apart from Existence itself — brought about sin and, ultimately, death.

The Kathisma Psalms of the day (or selected verses from them) follow. As we listen, we reflect upon our separation from the Creator, while affirming our hope in the coming of the promised Savior, Jesus Christ.

*"Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked.
For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly will perish.
Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice in Him with trembling.
Blessed are all who take refuge in Him.
Arise, O Lord! Save me, O my God.
Salvation belongs to the Lord; Your blessing be upon Your people."*



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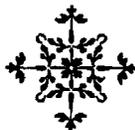
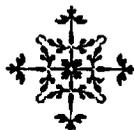
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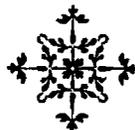
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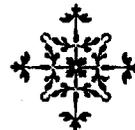


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THE UNITY OF THE CHURCH

The Saint Lydia Women's Fellowship is currently studying Saint Paul's Epistles to the Corinthians using a study guide by Lawrence Farley. The passage below has been excerpted from the commentary on 1 Corinthians 1.10-17 concerning the unity of the Church. It demonstrates clearly both the universality and timelessness of the divine wisdom of the Holy Scriptures.

Having given thanks, the apostle turns to the problem of disunity in the church in Corinth, seeing in this evidence of their spiritual immaturity. As those who were still babes, they had an overly high opinion of secular wisdom and the worldly popularity it brings. They had broken up into cliques and factions. St. Paul makes the repair of unity his first priority. This itself is a revelation of the importance of unity in the Church. Disharmony and lack of love between the brethren is not a minor evil, to be tolerated as inevitable. It is rather the overthrow of all spirituality and an impediment to true maturity in Christ. It must be repented of and avoided as an ontological contradiction in terms as Christ is not divided, so neither must we, His Body, allow ourselves to be divided.

There are, he has been informed, divisions among them. The word in Greek (*schisma*) literally means "tears," as in a torn garment, or "splits" (as in a rock), and thus "divisions, schisms." The image is of the seamless robe of Christ being rent by the quarreling of His disciples. He exhorts them as his dear brothers to cease all this. Let them rather all speak the same thing. Let them be restored (Greek, *katartizo*, used for the mending of torn nets; Mark 1:19) so as to have the same mind and the same opinion. St. Paul does not here mean to ban a normal healthy diversity of views, nor to inculcate a total agreement on every detail of faith and life such as is found only in mind-control cults. The mind (Greek, *nous*) and opinion that they must share are a common attitude and a common commitment to mutual love—not to common conclusions. Diversity of opinion is inevitable and healthy—only let it not lead to quarreling and disunity. As such, the Church's essential inner unity is unbreakable. Individuals may break away from the Church, but the Church itself can never be divided, because Christ can never be divided-up and portioned out.