



# THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

1923 · EIGHTY-THREE YEARS OF MINISTRY · 2006

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

November 2006

[www.HolyTrinityPgh.org](http://www.HolyTrinityPgh.org)

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

## Inside This Issue

- 2 Father John's Message
- 3 News & Events
- 5 Gheronda's Corner
- 6 The Cultural Side  
Η Πολιτιστική Πλευρά
- 7 IOCC Outreach Opportunities
- 10 Mouse Tales: The Saint  
Spyridon Children's Library
- 11 Stewardship Update
- 13 Philoptochos News
- 14 Our Worship - Part 15

## Special Inserts

Orthodox Studies Forum Flyer  
November Parish Calendar  
Autumn Wine Tasting Flyer  
Philoptochos Holiday Bake Sale  
2006 Christmas Card Donor Form  
2006 Poinsettias Donor Form

**IMPORTANT NEW  
PROPERTY SEARCH  
INFORMATION  
REPORT, PHOTOS &  
MAP ON PAGES 8-9!**



Jesus said, "I am the True Vine" in John 15.1, an image portrayed here in an icon of the same name. That beautiful analogy is manifested in every aspect of life in His Holy Church. As a reflection of that, Holy Trinity Stewardship and Ministries Sunday on November 12, 2006, will give us all an opportunity to explore the many branches of ministry at Holy Trinity Church made possible through His blessings. Please be there to learn, get involved and, above all, to participate in the "fruitful labor" of Christ.

**OCT. 29 GENERAL ASSEMBLY AGENDA AND PARISH COUNCIL  
ELECTION INFORMATION ENCLOSED. PLEASE SEE INSIDE.**

## Father John's Message

### THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

Parish Newsletter of  
Holy Trinity  
Greek Orthodox Church  
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A Parish of the Greek Orthodox Diocese of  
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#### Publication Schedule

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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  
in Memory of  
Jimmie Regakis  
by his mother,  
Olga,  
along with relatives  
and friends.  
May his memory  
be eternal!



"As therefore you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so live in Him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. (Col. 2.6)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I recently shared with the congregation in the homily one of my favorite little child stories, which fits in so well with the theme of Thanksgiving I thought I would share it here as well. When Presvytera Becky and I used to visit our koumbaroi for meals, we noticed that one of the little girls would always sneak a little food just before the prayer. The more we observed this, the more it seemed that she was not just hungry; she was "up to something." When we asked her ever so gently about it one day, "Why do you always sneak a bite of food just before the prayer?" she responded with a child's innocence, "I wanted to make it was good before we said the prayer so I would know if I should be thankful for it or not!"

Cute, no? Maybe, however, we as adults have never outgrown the idea: only truly offer thanks if it seems to be "good" at the moment. This is easy for the material things: we either have the car we want or not; the house we want or not; the clothes we want or not, and when we have them we are thankful; when we don't we just look forward to the day we do.

But in I Thessalonians 5, St. Paul tells us not to wait, to give thanks anyway: "Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." Taken a step further, he also tells the Romans that even those things which we would not normally give thanks for—the challenges and struggles of life in this fallen world—give us cause for thanks always for the blessings they bring: "We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us."

This is the disposition which allows us to do what the top quote says: abound in thanksgiving. And it is not a once-a-year commemoration for us as Orthodox Christians, but a weekly, daily encounter with the living God, especially as found in that most precious union of Heaven and earth, the Divine Liturgy.

May your Thanksgiving holiday be filled with God's blessings and the acute awareness of them all around you. May our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ live in your heart; may the Holy Spirit pray within you.

"Christ is in our midst. He was, is and always shall be."

Have a blessed Thanksgiving!



## News & Events

### EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES

#### Church School Food Drive.....November

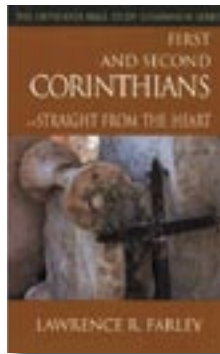


In keeping with the command of the Lord to help the poor and needy, our Church School students will be collecting food for a local food pantry and homeless shelter during the month of November. Look for the bags, which will be provided to the children during Church School class and start filling them 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 Ministry....Nov. 2,16,30

The St. Lydia Women's Study Ministry is 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. All Holy Trinity women are welcome and invited to bring a friend!

This year's theme will continue the 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. A complete schedule for the year is available at [www.HolyTrinityPgh.org](http://www.HolyTrinityPgh.org).



### WORSHIP LIFE

#### Weekday Services.....November

Please take note of the following weekday Liturgies for the feast days in the month of November. Please note that the time for services changes to "Winter Hours" in November. Orthros is at 9:00 a.m., followed by Divine Liturgy at 10:00.

**Ss. Cosmas & Damian..... Wed. Nov. 1**

**The Holy Archangels..... Tue. Nov. 7**  
6:00 p.m. evening Orthros and Divine Liturgy to be held at the Archangel Michael Chapel at Angel's Acres in Canonsburg. This is a feast day celebration of the Canonsburg chapel.

**St. Nektarios the Wonderworker ..... Thu. Nov. 9**

**St. John Chrysostom..... Mon. Nov. 13**

**Entrance of the Theotokos ..... Tue. Nov. 21**

**St. Katherine the Great Martyr ..... Sat. Nov. 25**

**St. Andrew the Apostle ..... Thu. Nov. 30**

(Note: Special time 9:00 am Liturgy at St. George Chapel at Holy Trinity Cemetery)

### YOUTH MINISTRY

#### GOYA Basketball Practices ..... Fall/Winter

The GOYA is now holding basketball practices in preparation for the 2006/2007 Metropolis tournament season. The teams meet at 6:30 p.m. at Oliver High School on Brighton Rd.



### COMMUNITY LIFE

#### Regular Fall General Assembly

Please mark your calendar to attend the Regular Fall General Assembly on Sunday, October 29, following the Divine Liturgy. This is not a special assembly to vote on property, but rather the regular fall meeting to review parish life, nominate candidates for the Parish Council and hear reports on important parish matters. It is important that all members attend; although these "regular" meetings may not be as dramatic or historic as the "special" ones, they are quite important in the day-to-day life of the parish, and everyone should attend. Please remember, to vote at an assembly, nominate or be a candidate for Parish Council or to vote in elections, you must be a member in good standing as defined in the Uniform Parish Regulations. This includes, but is not limited to, having a signed 2006 Holy Trinity Stewardship Pledge card submitted.

#### Philoptochos Sunday ..... Nov. 5

Our "Omonea" Chapter of the Ladies Philoptochos Society will celebrate National Philoptochos Sunday on November 5, along with parishes from throughout the Archdiocese. They will offer the following:

- A Memorial Service for all the departed Philoptochos chapter members.
- An Artoclasia (Blessing of the Loaves) in celebration of their feast.
- A special collection to benefit the philanthropic

## News & Events

work of the Patriarchate of Constantinople

- A reception during coffee hour.

Please support our ladies in their efforts to grow their numbers and multiply the fruits of their philanthropic ministries and be ready to support them at all times. God bless you, ladies! (See the Philoptochos report in this issue for information on the Philoptochos ministry.)

### Holy Trinity Autumn Wine Tasting - November 11

Please see the enclosed flyer for information on a special new opportunity from the Holy Trinity Social Committee: Enjoy an evening learning to select great wines to complement every menu! Join friends and family at Holy Trinity's Autumn Wine Tasting Evening on Saturday, November 11 from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. The donation for the evening, including wine, appetizers and wine education by four wine professionals is \$80/couple or \$45/person. Tickets are available from Joyce Countouris (412-366-1498), Nikki Marsh (724-625-2729) or by seeing Jim Balouris during Coffee Hour. (Note: All attendees must be age 21 or older.)

### Fall Community Homeless Outreach.....Nov. 18

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.

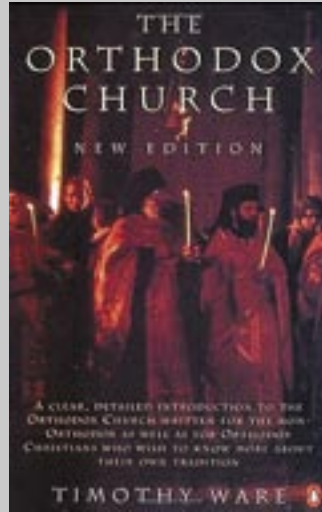
Now, returning to that blessing for the eighth time, on Saturday, November 18, the Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood will again sponsor a sit-down lunch for the homeless here at Holy Trinity Social Hall from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. This philanthropic outreach will be sponsored by various Orthodox parishes in 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 can help by cooking, serving or donating, please contact Julie or Mike Kritiotis at 412-766-5001. During the Christmas fast, 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.

### New Year's Eve at Holy Trinity .....Dec. 31

Please watch for details and make plans now to attend New Year's Eve at Holy Trinity Church. Information is forthcoming.

### Announcing a New Learning Series at Holy Trinity Church:

## THE ORTHODOX STUDIES FORUM



Starting in November!

#### About the Book

This book is probably the best introduction to the Orthodox Church, written in an accessible, though rigorous style. It deals with the history, Liturgy, and teaching of the Orthodox Church. It brings an ecumenical perspective in the sense that it compares the teachings and history of the Orthodox Church with those of other Christian Churches. It

also presents our Tradition in a language that you could use when discussing your faith with people who are not Orthodox.

#### About the Author

Kallistos Ware is one of—if not the—most important living Orthodox theologians. He wrote his dissertation on the Orthodox Church while still a young Protestant student, later developing a fascination with the history, teaching, and Liturgy of our Church. He eventually became Orthodox and was made the bishop of Diokleia, changing his name to Kallistos. He is also a retired professor from Oxford University in Great Britain, whom Pittsburgh will be honored to host in March 2007.

#### About the Teacher/Facilitator

Father Radu Bordeianu is a full-time professor at Duquesne University with a Doctoral degree from Marquette University and is the Assistant Priest at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. He has served and taught at several parishes in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

#### About the Study Series

The Orthodox Studies Forum is designed for adults who are interested in learning more about the Orthodox Christian Faith. It is for both those who have been Orthodox all their lives and want to learn more as well as those seeking to embrace Orthodoxy or grow further in their faith. The group will meet on the **first and third Wednesday** of each month from **7:00-8:30 p.m. starting November 1, 2006** at the LaRoche College campus, 9000 Babcock Blvd., Pittsburgh (next to UPMC Passavant Hospital). The room is in the A.J. Palumbo Science Center, Room SC105.

## Gheronda's Corner

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



**Father John  
Androutsopoulos**

### P-R-O-S-P-E-R-I-T-Y

**R**emember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth." (Deuteronomy 8:18)

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Prosperity has dangers.

Although God wants to give the abundance of the promised land to His people (Israelites), He knows that there is a risk involved. They may become so taken up with enjoying their wealth that they forget who gave it to them. Therefore, Chapter 8 of Deuteronomy sounds a warning: Do not forget God in your prosperity. Enjoy the prosperity God has given you, but do not let it turn you aside from Him. Remember that you need to put your trust in Him just as surely if you are wealthy as if you are poor.

Chapter 8 has an important message for us. It sounds the first warning about the dangers of wealth. Wealth and prosperity are not themselves condemned. They are in fact seen as God's blessing on his people. But there are dangers in them; one danger being that they may give us a false sense of self-sufficiency and may make us feel we do not need to rely on God.

God trained His people in the desert to trust Him. Our trust should always be as if we had to rely on Him for our every drink of water and mouthful of bread (as indeed many people do in the world today). Our trust, as we sit in our comfortable houses with well-stocked refrigerators, should be no less than the trust of the Israelites in the desert, standing parched before the rock, waiting for the water to flow.

### Questions From The Above Message

Do we turn to God in times of hardships, when we do not know how we are going to pay our bills? Do we rely on Him just as fervently when everything is going well? Lord Jesus, we want to be your disciples and follow you absolutely in good times as well as bad, whether we have much money or none at all.

### Our Here Determines Our Hereafter

The Gospel reading for Sunday, November 5th is the "Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus." To understand the remarks and conclusions of the following message, please read the Gospel of Luke, 16:19-31.

Jesus told us about two men in order to illustrate the fact that how we live here determines how we live in the hereafter.

The rich man of Jesus' parable should have fed the poor man who sat at his gate. But what are we to do when the solutions to poverty do not appear so simple?

What are we to do when the starving man does not lie at our doorstep but in another part of the world?

The rich man in the parable acted as if his problem was ignorance. He asked Abraham to send Lazarus to go back to his brothers to warn them what to do. But he was told, "Your brothers already know what to do. They just need to start doing it." And that, harsh as it sounds, seems to be Jesus' message to us.

It may be difficult to know how to solve social problems and relieve poverty today, but the problem lies less in our ignorance than in our selfishness. We may wonder if this cause or that cause is

worthy of our financial support. But the real obstacle to our coming to the help of others is our unwillingness to sacrifice our own enjoyment or security for someone else. We can find good enough ways of helping others, if we have a real desire to do so.

Jesus warns us that we have to make an ultimate choice between serving God and serving money. "You cannot serve both God and money" (Luke 16:13). He does not condemn our having money, but He does want to guide how we use it. "For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil." (1 Timothy 6:10). He wants to be the Lord of our lives, and that includes His being the Lord of our checkbooks.

### Thoughts From The Above Message

How do we use our money? Are we good stewards to the Church? Are we generous above and beyond our offerings to those in need? May the Good Lord give us more generous heart to respond to the needs of others.

With His Love,

*Rev. Fr. John K. Androutsopoulos*





## The Cultural Side • Η Πολιτιστική Πλευρά



**Voula Hareras**

### 28 ΟΚΤΩΒΡΙΟΥ 1940

Τι είναι η 28η Οκτωβρίου 1940? Μιά ημερομηνία? Μιά εθνική έορτη? Ένα σπουδαίο εθνικό γεγονός? Τι είναι η 28η Οκτωβρίου του έτους 1940?

Είναι πρό πάντων και κυρίως θαύμα μέγα τής Παναγίας μας και του Θεανθρώπου Υιού της Κυρίου Ήσου Χριστού. Θαύμα που τό εργάστηκε φανερά μπροστά στά μάτια όλου του κόσμου μέ όργανό του τούς Έλληνες, ήγεσία και λαόστρατό εκείνου του καιρού. Θαύμα που έντρόπισσε άσεβείς και άπίστους και έδόξασε μέ άσβηστη δόξα τούς πιστούς και ώφέλησε όλη τήν άνθρωπότητα.

Τότε, τό 1940, είχε έκραγη ήφαιστειο πρωτογονισμού και βαρβαρισμού στην Εύρώπη ό Ναζισμός του Χίτλερ και ό Φασισμός του Μουσολίνι. Οί δύο παρανοϊκοί αύτοί δικτάτορες λάβα είχαν ξεχυθή κι έθαφταν τήν Εύρώπη και άπειλούσαν όλο τόν κόσμο. Θ'άλλαζαν, καυχιόντουσαν, τήν ιστορία του κόσμου γιά χίλια χρόνια. Ή γή έτρεμε πανικόβλητη μπροστά τούς.

Και τότε θρασύς ό Μουσολίνι νύχτα έστειλε τόν πρεσβευτή του και είπε στον Έλληνα κυβερνήτη Ιωάννη Μεταξά; Άφησε τό στρατό μου νά μπη και νά διαφεντεύη τόν τόπο σου. Και ό Έλληνας πρωθυπουργός στόμα του Έλληνικού λαού, του συγχρόνου του αλλά και τών πατέρων του, άφοβος έκαμε τό σταυρό του και του άπάντησε; ΟΧΙ. Θά πολεμήσουμε. Θά υπερασπισθούμε τών πατέρων μας τή γή τήν ιερή. Θά πολεμήσουμε. Και ό Θεός σώζει τήν Έλλάδα. Και ό λαός όλος ένωμένος σάν ένας άνθρωπος επανέλαβε; Θά πολεμήσουμε.

Ανακήρυξαν όλοι τότε στρατηγό τούς τήν Παναγία μας, που στή γιορτή της, 15 Αυγούστου, τήν είχαν βλαστημήσει οί Φασίστες Ιταλοί μέ τόν τορπιλλισμό του εύδρομου Έλλη, που τής απέδιδε τιμές, και μέ θάρρος, αύταπάνρησι και γενναιότητα έπολέμησαν οί μικροί και λίγοι και σχεδόν άοπλοι Έλληνες. Έπολέμησαν ήρωϊκά και οί νίκες άρχισαν νά ρχωνται. Οί Ιταλοί τσακίστηκαν. Υποχώρησαν. Έντροπιάστηκαν. Άνάγκασαν τό συνέταιρό τούς Χίτλερ ν'άλλάξει τά σχέδιά του γιά τήν κατάκτησι τής Ρωσίας και νά χασομερήσει στην Έλλάδα έξη έβδομάδες. Έστι πρόσθεσε στους έχθρους του και τό Ρωσικό χειμώνα τό σκληρό.

Και νικήθηκε. Γιά τήν ήττα του έπαιξε σπουδαίο ρόλο ή μικρή αλλά πιστή Έλλάδα. Ή Έλλάδα που σύμφωνα μέ τήν έμπνευσμένη έκκληση του μεγάλου ποιητή Κωστή Παλαμά είχε μεθύσει μέ τ'άθνατο κρασί του είκοσιένα.

Μέ τήν πίστι στο Σωτήρα Χριστό και τήν προστασία τής Παναγίας Μητέρας του Χριστού και μέ τήν γλυκειά αγάπη στην ένδοξη πατρίδα Έλλάδα.

Αυτή είναι ή 28η Οκτωβρίου 1940. Ήμέρα ιερή και άθάνατη. Ήμέρα πλούσια σέ άρετή και μεγαλωσύνη. Και φωνάζει άσίγαστη; Αγαπάτε, Έλληνες, τό Χριστό, τό δικαιο Θεό, αγαπάτε και τήν πατρίδα σας Έλλάδα και θά πορεύεσθε πάντα, όποιοι κι όσοι κι άν είναι οί έχθροί σας, από νίκη σέ νίκη και από δόξα σέ δόξα.

### Και Είπαμε, ΟΧΙ!

Γιά νά μαθαίνουν τήν Ιστορία μας οί νεότεροι. Ό Έλληνο-ιταλικός πόλεμος του 1940-1941 και ό Έλληνο-γερμανικός του 1941 ήταν ένα μέρος - ένδοξο και καθοριστικό - του β'παγκοσμίου πολέμου. Ό Β'παγκόσμιος πόλεμος (1939-1945) προκλήθηκε από τίς έπεκτατικές διαθέσεις τών Δυνάμεων του Άξονα (Γερμανία-Ιταλία-Ιαπωνία). Αντιμέτωποι σ'αυτές ήρθαν οί Συμμαχικές Δυνάμεις (κυρίως Άγγλία-Γαλλία-Πολωνία και, πριν τό τέλος του πολέμου, ή Αμερική). Ή Έλλάδα τήρησε ουδέτερότητα. Μέχρι τή στιγμή που ό δικτάτορας τής Ιταλίας Μουσολίνι τής ζήτησε γήν και ύδωρ, πέρασμα γιά τή Μέση Ανατολή. Τότε είπε στον έχθρό ΟΧΙ! Τά γεγονότα τής περιόδου ήσαν τά ακόλουθα:

15 Αυγούστου 1940	Τορπιλλισμός του πολεμικού μας ΕΛΛΗ, από τούς Ιταλούς, στά νερά τής Τήνου.	9 Μαρτίου 1941	Ή περίφημη έαρινή επίθεση τών Ιταλών.
28 Οκτωβρίου 1940	Ό Μουσολίνι ζητεί τήν παράδοση τής Έλλάδος. Ή Έλλάδα άπαντά ΟΧΙ. Αί ήμέτεροι δυνάμεις άμύνονται του πατρίου έδαφους. Αρχίζει ό Έλληνο-ιταλικός πόλεμος.	21 Μαρτίου 1941	Ό Μουσολίνι ήττημένος έπιστρέφει από τό μέτωπο στή Ρώμη.
14 Νοεμβρίου 1940	Άπό τήν άμυνα στήν άντεπίθεση. Ό Έλληνικός στρατός πολεμάει τούς Ιταλούς στο άλβανικό πλέον έδαφος.	6 Άπριλίου 1941	Γερμανική επίθεση στην Άνατολική Μακεδονία. Έπική αντίσταση τών Ελλήνων στα όχυρά τής γραμμής Μεταξά.
21 Νοεμβρίου 1940	Ό Έλληνικός στρατός έλευθερώνει τήν Κορυτσά. *	27 Άπριλίου 1941	Οί Γερμανοί εισέρχονται στην Αθήνα. Ό Βασιλιάς κι ή Κυβέρνηση τής Έλλάδος μεταβαίνουν στην Κρήτη και μετά καταφεύγουν στην Άλεξάνδρεια. Ό άγώνας τής Έλλάδος συνεχίζεται στο πλευρό τών Συμμάχων.
24 Νοεμβρίου 1940 έως 7 Δεκεμβρίου 1940	Ό Έλληνικός στρατός έλευθερώνει τή Μοσχόπολη*, τό Πόγραδετς*, τήν Πρεμετή*, τούς Άγίους Σαράντα*, τό Δέλβινο*.	1 Ιουνίου 1941	Κατοχή (γερμανική-ιταλική-βουλγαρική) στή Β. Έλλάδα).
8 Δεκεμβρίου 1940	Έλευθερώνεται τό Άργυρόκαστρο*, ή πρωτεύουσα τής Β. Ήπείρου.	1941-1944	Άντίσταση τών Ελλήνων κατά τών κατακτητών.
23 Δεκεμβρίου 1940	Έλευθερώνεται ή Χειμάρρα*.	12 Οκτωβρίου 1944	Ή Αθήνα και πάλι έλεύθερη.
10 Ιανουαρίου 1941	Νίκη τών Ελλήνων κατά τών Ιταλών στην Κλεισούρα.	*Έλληνικές πόλεις τής Β. Ήπείρου, που άδικο οί Μεγάλες Δυνάμεις παρεχώρησαν στο νεοϊδρυμένο, μετά τό 1913, Άλβανικό Κράτος, ως νότια Άλβανία.	

## IOCC Outreach Opportunities in the Gulf Coast

International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), working in cooperation with Habitat for Humanity and local Gulf Coast Orthodox churches, has announced a volunteer program for adults who are willing to contribute their time and labors of love as volunteers for one week or more of service to rebuild homes in the hurricane-devastated Gulf Coast.

The page below is from the IOCC web site, [www.iocc.org](http://www.iocc.org), which contains information about this ministry and an on-line application form. Would you like to consider this kind of service through your church? Please visit the IOCC web site for more information or to fill out an application or call 877-803-4622 to speak to an IOCC representative directly.



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Activities vary depending on location and construction schedules, but can include siding, roofing, framing, landscaping and support.

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To volunteer, fill out the form below or contact the US Programs Department of IOCC at 1-877-803-IOCC. We are only accepting applications from people resident in the US and Canada

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# Property Search Update: Important New Information

*A report to the community on recent developments in the six-year mission to fulfill the direction of the Holy Trinity General Assembly to identify potential new locations for Holy Trinity Church.*

## Recent Developments

Since the last property was brought for consideration to the Holy Trinity community in the Fall of 2005, the Parish Council and the Vision Committee/Property Search Committee have been actively seeking new properties to consider and actively listening to the comments and feedback of the parish membership.

## A New Property

As many of our parishioners are aware, the Parish Council and Vision Committee have been discussing with representatives of La Roche College our possible purchase of a presently undeveloped site from the College. The discussions have focused on at least 9¼ acres bordering on the corner of Babcock Boulevard and Cumberland Road in McCandless Township. To put the location in perspective, the property is the open field diagonally across from UPMC Passavant Hospital.

## Preliminary Progress

At this point, it is important to recognize that our discussions are still preliminary in nature and subject - as always according to the Uniform Parish Regulations - to formal approval of His Eminence Metropolitan Maximos and of a Special General Assembly of Holy Trinity Church. The members of the Parish Council and Vision Committee, however, felt it both necessary and appropriate to update the entire community of the progress so far in an effort to keep communications open and to keep the community well-informed of the work being done on its behalf.

## About the Location

This is truly a remarkable property and all who have seen it and reported their comments are impressed with it. The property is generally level and, by all accounts, will allow us the room we need for our current and future needs for decades to come. Additionally, the property has many desirable features expressed as important by the community: a) it is in a central and visible location at the heart of the North Hills, just off McKnight Road; b) it is easily accessible by car from various directions and has an existing PAT bus stop already on the property; c) all utilities are already present; and d) it is situated virtually in the demographic center of the parish, close

to wherer the vast majority of our parishioners' homes are located. Some pictures and maps of the property are on the next page.

## Initial Discussions

To formalize our discussions with La Roche College, our Parish Council presented the President of La Roche with a non-binding letter of intent to purchase up to 12 acres of property at the location discussed above. The College asked that we consider reducing our request to approximately 9¼ acres to allow them to add a new access road into the property from Babcock Boulevard (this road would be available to us as well).

## Current Land Study

At this point, due to the presence of some potential wetland issues, the Parish Council has commissioned an engineering study to initially assess likely costs to fully utilize the property as a building site. We expect those results to be returned to us within three (3) weeks. At that point, the Parish Council and Vision Committee will meet to discuss a counter-proposal to LaRoche College which will likely include, essentially, our impressions of a fair offer price and set forth the parameters of the land we

would acquire.

## The Process

Again, it is important to emphasize that all of our discussions to date are preliminary and any decision to purchase the property are subject to Metropolis and General Assembly approval, as well as all customary zoning, traffic, engineering and other necessary contingencies. Also, we have not yet commissioned any design of a site plan or building complex because the focus at this point is simply to acquire a property that our community finds acceptable. The design, fundraising and construction phases will come in due time.

## An Invitation

We would encourage everyone to drive by the property at your convenience and to please relay your comments or questions to any member of the Parish Council or the Vision Committee. If talks prove fruitful, we will schedule trips to the property for the entire Community at large to see.





# Property Search Update: Important New Information

*An update on the progress of the on-going mission to find a new property as directed by the Parish General Assembly*



A combined map/satellite image from Google Maps of the property currently being investigated. The dotted line encompasses the approximate area being considered. As is clearly marked, it is located directly at the intersection of Babcock Blvd. and Cumberland Rd., just off McKnight Rd. It sits directly across from the Main Campus of La Roche College and diagonally opposite UPMC Passavant Hospital.



Above Left: A map of the greater Pittsburgh region with an arrow pointing to the location of the currently studied property. It is easily accessed from all directions and is centrally located in the North Hills close to the great majority of Holy Trinity parishioners.

Above Right: Two photos of the property under consideration. The top view is taken from the intersection of Babcock Blvd. and Cumberland Rd. looking into the property. The bottom view is taken from the top of the property, looking across the landscape, over Babcock Blvd. and into the La Roche College area.

## Mouse Tales: The St. Spyridon Church School Library Update

Hello My Precious Children!

This month I, Spero, would like to share with you some special goodies my Yiayia is teaching my little sister, Zoe, about prayer.



Yiayia says praying is like talking to our Heavenly Father. She also says there are many different kinds of prayer. First, we have prayers of thanksgiving, which we use to simply thank God for everything. Then there are prayers in which we ask our Heavenly Father for what we need (not just what we want!). Another kind of prayer is when we pray for our friends and family. These are very important, Yiayia says, because they are important ways to show our love for each other. Then there is the really hard kind: prayers for our enemies. Now, that can be really tough, even just finding the right words. But we know that God will bless us for obeying Him even in this very difficult task. You see, in the Bible we are told by Jesus, "Love your enemies and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you (Matthew 5.44).

So, this Thanksgiving when you say your prayers for all the things you are thankful for (that's the easy part), don't forget to also pray for someone who has not been nice to you. See if it doesn't make you feel better. Oh boy, I just can't wait to see what kind of goodies Mommy and

Yiayia are making for that special day!

And since we're in the month of November, that means Christmas is not too far around the corner, and we are soon in the season of preparation for the feast. Christmas is one of the greatest times of year! It is the joy of all the faithful, young and old, big and small, telling each other "I love you and care about you enough to share God's best gift of love with you!" Well, in my library my little friend Hermie learns that lesson in the DVD, "A Fruitcake Christmas." Hermie and his friends learn that sharing God's Gift to the world is the greatest gift of all. Here's what happens: It's Christmas time in the garden and all the little bugs are hustling to prepare for the big day and singing, "Christmas is coming, full of joy and cheer! Christmas is almost here! Christmas is coming, it's my favorite time of year! Christmas is almost here!" But more than anything, all the little bugs are eagerly awaiting the big moment of the holiday season: the arrival of Grannypillar's scrumptious Christmas fruitcake! Nobody makes fruitcake like Grannypillar. But suddenly, everything changes in the garden when Iggy and Ziggy, the greediest bugs in the place steal Grandma's fruitcake. How will they survive this Christmas without it? This fruitcake has been a tradition for, well, forever! They will have to wait another whole year to enjoy it again! Well, all the little friends eventually turn it over to God and pray for the fruitcake to be brought back. They pray for those who stole it so they might know that what they did was wrong.



But Hermie and his friends learn something, too. They learn that they have been putting too much importance on the fruitcake. It was getting in the way of the true meaning of Christmas. The two youngest bugs teach the others through their unselfish generosity and remind them that the celebration of Christmas (the Nativity of Christ) is all about our Heavenly Father sending His only-begotten Son to earth many, many years ago, that He was born in a manger in Bethlehem and that He loves us very, very much, enough to die for us. Yiayia says this is God's best gift to us, because whoever believes in Him will be given eternal life. Now that is a gift we can open every day of the year, and it is only possible through the sacrifice and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Have a blessed and thankful Thanksgiving and a joyful and Jesus-filled Christmas!

In Christ,  
Love, Spero



## Stewardship Update



**Michael Kritiotis**

There is a Greek saying: ‘Ο καρπός αποδίδει ανάλογα με το δένδρο’. Loosely translated, it means, “The fruit yield depends on the quality of the tree”. I heard this recently on a Greek radio station (online), in a context similar to the theme

of our Stewardship campaign for 2006 - Jesus as the Sower of God’s Word to all people, and our willingness to receive the ‘seed’ and allow it to grow for our salvation.

During the radio program, a theologian used the quote while making a point about the rewards for hard work. He said that one cannot expect abundance of fruit from a tree left unattended, or a tree badly pruned back and left weak in the cold wind. If one wants fruit, one needs to keep the body of the tree (our body and mind in this analogy) strong, prepared and ready for growth. Allowing the trunk to falter will undoubtedly lead to disappointing results.

Our “Tree”—Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Community—was in danger of being left weak in the wind a few months ago. The nutrient that was needed to keep it healthy—its members’ Stewardship—began the year in short supply. There were various reasons, but the main message the stewardship committee stressed among all members who had reservations about giving their Time, Talents and Treasures to their Community was exactly the one conveyed in this simple saying: how can we expect fruit from a tree that we leave unattended?

How can we allow the roots to weaken but also expect growth?

Now, just two months before the year is over, it is with our deepest gratitude and delight we can report that our good stewards continue to faithfully care for their Tree. A sense of excitement is again in the parish air, with volunteers taking leadership positions, from the just-completed, record-breaking Festival, to Youth, Vision, Educational programs, Philoptochos, Social events, and so many more. As for Treasures, we are also seeing your faith in Holy Trinity gain strength! You have committed more than \$135,000 thus far and the amount continues to rise. The number of stewards is expected to surpass last year’s record, further evidence that this community is again vibrant.

The Stewardship Committee thanks you for your generous commitment. In celebration of the various Ministries that you offer to the church, we plan to expand the traditional program during Stewardship Sunday. On November 12th, we will hold a Holy Trinity Stewardship and Ministries Sunday celebration. On that day, you will get a chance to view, discuss and learn about some things you may not know about the extent of Holy Trinity’s ministries. You will also receive the final 2006 Stewardship report and pick up your 2007 Pledge packet.

Please continue to do all the things that help Holy Trinity to yield fruits in abundance, for this and future generations; and may you continue to have God’s blessings.

*Michael Kritiotis*  
Chairperson, Stewardship Committee



**WRITE DOWN THE DATE:**

**NOVEMBER 12, 2006**

**IS HOLY TRINITY STEWARDSHIP AND MINISTRIES SUNDAY!**

*Stop by and enjoy coffee hour and appetizers while learning about the many ministries at Holy Trinity Church ... and how to get involved!*



## Philoptochos News

*An update on the news and activities of our local Holy Trinity chapter of the Philoptochos Ladies Society, a national philanthropic ministry of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. The mission of the Philoptochos is: "to aid the poor, the destitute, the hungry, the aged, the sick, the unemployed, the orphaned, the imprisoned, the widow, the handicapped, the victims of disasters, to undertake the burial of the impoverished persons and to offer assistance to anyone who may need the help of the Church through fund raising efforts; to promote the charitable, benevolent and philanthropic purposes of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, through instructional programs, presentations, lectures, seminars and other educational resources; to preserve and perpetuate Orthodox Christian concepts and the Orthodox Christian Family, and through them, to promote the Greek Orthodox Faith and traditions, in accordance with its doctrines, canons, discipline, divine worship, usages and customs; and to promote the participation in the activities of the Greek Orthodox community, with the cooperation of the Parish Priest and the Parish Council." Want more information? Visit their web site at [www.Philoptochos.org](http://www.Philoptochos.org) or contact a local member.*

### Craft Fair

The Craft Fair recently sponsored by Philoptochos had many varied and exceptionally nice crafters. There was ample opportunity to purchase a unique gift for people and their pets, too! The food was ample, delicious and well received. The only thing lacking was a good attendance. We are open to suggestions to improve attendance for such a venture in the future.

### Thank You

I want to thank everyone who contributed to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society in response to a letter I sent. As you all know, this has become a personal annual event for me as this has personally affected my family. I am overwhelmed by your VERY generous donations which far exceeded my expectations.

Special Thanks to Aphrodite Condos for the wonderful alterations and repair work on all the robes for the acolytes. Also, our thanks to Homer Johnson for doing such a good job in dry cleaning the robes.

### Wine Tasting

On November 11, 2006, Philoptochos will co-sponsor with the Board of Directors an evening of wine tasting. Please make plans to attend this promisingly delightful event. Tickets are available for purchase from members of the Parish Council and Philoptochos. Don't be left out. Buy your tickets now.

### Undy Sundry

Your response to Undy Sunday was great. The undies and socks were sent to AUBERLE HOME FOR CHILDREN in McKeesport. They were very grateful. Some of the children made their own thank you cards. They will be displayed during the Coffee Hour.

### Membership And Stewardship

Last month I asked if you were a member of the Philoptochos. Once again Are you? If not, why not? We need every woman in the community to become a member

if we are to survive. The work the Ladies Philoptochos does is amazing. From the beginning of 2005 through the first six months in 2006, the National Philoptochos gave away over \$2,000,000. Besides giving to National, our chapter supports many local charities and provides direct support to the poor and homeless. Please join us and participate to make this a strong chapter. We can only be as strong as our weakest link. If you have not paid your Stewardship for 2006, please do so now. See Kay Balouris.

### Prayers

Please pray for our loved ones. Please include the following in your prayers:

Mary, Georgia, Louis, Helen, Peter, Olga, Betty and Anna. If you know someone who is ill, please contact Esther Ladakos at 412-761-3977. FIRST NAMES ONLY.

### COFFEE HOUR

We are still looking for people to sponsor the coffee hour. This is one way to help Philoptochos. If everyone took a turn, your turn would only come once every two years. Please contact Kay Balouris to schedule a Sunday.

### Wanted - People Who Knit Or Crochet

Our new project is to make Lap Blankets for Nursing Homes. We are looking for anyone who would knit or crochet 7" x 9" squares. Any yarn, any color is acceptable. You do not have yarn, see Esther Ladakos. After we receive the squares we will join them to make 36" x 35" Lap Blankets. Won't you please help? This is one project you can do in the comfort of your home.

### COMING EVENTS

Wine Tasting.....November 11, 2006  
Turkey Fund Raiser .....Letter will be sent Oct. 23  
Angel Christmas Tree.....Names will go up Oct. 29  
Christmas PartyD.....December 7  
Christmas Prepaid Bake Sale.....See enclosed Flyer

*Esther Ladakos, Philoptochos President*

## Preliminary 2006 Holy Trinity Greek Festival Report

**Dear Fellow Holy Trinity Parishioners and Dedicated Festival Volunteers:**

**2006 was a record year in receipts for the Holy Trinity Greek Festival with over \$153,500 total income. The record was the result of many hours of work and efforts by numerous parishioners. It was truly a total community effort that will bring many rewards to Holy Trinity Church.**

**In addition to the overall total record income, sales records were also set in many individual areas of the Festival:**

- ▶ Food total - over \$65,000, with a new high of \$6,400 of takeout items
- ▶ Pstries - over \$27,000
- ▶ Tent - over \$27,000
- ▶ Loukamathes - \$2,900

**For the other areas of the festival, while records were not set, they didn't miss by much, and the contributions to the total were excellent:**

- ▶ Bar - over \$7,000
- ▶ Baklava Sundaes - just under \$2,000
- ▶ Coffee - \$350
- ▶ Frappe' - \$250
- ▶ Greek Marketplace Vendors - over \$3,000

**Moving beyond the dollars, there were a few other impressive numbers, too. We served:**

- ▶ Over 1,200 Souvlaki skewers
- ▶ 800 Chickens
- ▶ 2,500 pieces of Spanakopita
- ▶ 5,400 Dolmathes
- ▶ 1,900 Salads
- ▶ 3,300 Gyros and ...
- ▶ a staggering 16,781 assorted pastries!

**As each year of the Festival enters the history books, we learn more and more about what we can do to improve. Work is already under way to review what went right that made this year such a success as well as looking at ways to take the Festival to the next level. We welcome the feedback, both positive and improvement ideas, as we continue to move forward.**

**We would again like to pass along our heartfelt thanks to all the area chairpersons, the food preparers, the cooks, the servers, the cashiers, and everyone who gave so much of their time and talents to make the 2006 Greek Festival such a success.**

**In Christ,  
Festival Chairpersons,**

***Chris T. Balouris***

***Dean Balouris***

***Steve Hodge***

## Our Worship - Part 15 (The Feast Days of the Church)

*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.*

### THERE ARE SEVERAL OTHER FEASTS OF OUR LORD

#### The Universal Exaltation of the Cross

**September 14**

Commemorates the discovery of Christ's cross by Saint Helena in the fourth century. After this discovery, the cross was publicly venerated by the faithful.



#### The Nativity of Our Lord

**December 25**

is the celebration of Christ's birth. Christ empties Himself of His divine glory to become like us in all things

#### The Holy Theophany

**January 6**

Commemorates the baptism of Christ and the revelation of the Holy Trinity to the world.

#### The Entrance of Christ into Jerusalem

**the Sunday before Pascha**

is celebrated in remembrance of Christ's triumphal entrance into the Holy City after He had raised Lazarus from the dead. This feast is also referred to as Palm Sunday



#### The Ascension of Christ

**Forty days after Pascha**

Recalls Christ's return to His heavenly Father after His resurrection. We also proclaim our faith in Christ's Second Coming on this Feast.



#### Pentecost

**Fifty days after Pascha**

commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles, thereby enabling them to publicly proclaim the risen Christ to all. This feast, often called "the birthday of the Church," also commemorates the revelation of the Holy Trinity to humanity.

#### The Transfiguration

**August 6**

Recalls Christ's revelation of His Divinity to three of the apostles when, on Mount Tabor, He appeared in His divine radiance.

**We also remember how Jesus' family fulfilled two religious traditions of His time ...**

- **The Circumcision of Christ**, January 1, recalls the naming of Jesus, as was foretold by the angel.
- **The Encounter of the Lord**, with Simeon, February 2, on the occasion of His presentation in the Temple.



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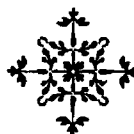
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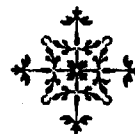
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of my brother,



**Michael**



Louis Manesiotis  
and family

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## ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ON HOLY COMMUNION

**When** the moment of divine Communion comes and you are about to approach the Holy Altar Table, believe unshakably that Christ, the King of all, is present there. When you see your priest offering the Lord's Body and Blood, don't think that the priest is doing this, but believe that the hand stretching out is Christ's. He Who brightened with His presence the table of the Mystical Supper now also adorns the Altar Table of the Divine Liturgy. He is truly present there and examines each one's disposition. He observes who is approaching with piety befitting the holy Mystery and who with a wicked conscience, with filthy and impure thoughts, or with defiled actions. So you also, consider which fault of yours you have corrected, which virtue you have achieved, which sin you have quenched with confession, in what you have become better. If your conscience informs you that you have strived enough to close the wounds of your soul, if you did something more than fasting, then, with the fear of God, commune. Otherwise, remain far from the immaculate Mysteries. When you are cleansed of all your sins, then approach.

So approach divine Communion with fear and dread, with a pure conscience, having fasted and prayed, quietly, without trampling or pushing your neighbors, because this comprises the greatest craziness and the worst scorning of the divine Mysteries.

Tell me, O man, why are you making noise? Why are you rushing? Are you pressured by all the things you have to do? I wonder, does the thought that you have jobs to do pass through you at the time you are going to commune? Or maybe do you have the feeling that you are on earth? Do you think that you are together with people and not with the choirs of the angels? Something like this is a sign of a stone heart..

*(St. John Chrysostom, 4th century)*