



THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

JUNE 2009

VOLUME 17 • ISSUE 6

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June Parish Calendar

Special Feature:
Holy Trinity High School
2009 Graduates
(See pages 8-9)

QUICK NEWS



The "Holy Trinity Church of 2009" High School Graduates are pictured here with their parents at the annual Church School Graduation Ceremony on Sunday, May 17. For a photo journal of the graduation event, coverage of the Philoptochos Tea and pictures of the Saint George Chapel iconography progress, see pages 6-11.

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH • PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

With the Prophets, Apostles and the most devout monastic saints, hieromartyrs, teachers and every righteous man, the holy women excelling in asceticism and martyrdom, let the entire host of saints and the ranks of the righteous all be extolled today with divine hymns, for they are the inheritors of heaven's rule and kingdom and the inhabitants of Paradise.

(From the Orthros of the Sunday of All Saints)



"All Called to be Saints"

An interesting phase in the life of the icon, "The Choir of the Saints," one of the scenes of Resurrection and the Second Coming in the newly completed dome of the Saint George Chapel at Holy Trinity Cemetery. For an explanation of the "yet to be written" faces of the saints, see inside.

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

THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

About the Herald

The Herald is the Monthly Newsletter of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

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About the Parish

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Holy Trinity Church is a parish of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh (www.odpgh.org) and Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America (www.goarch.org) under the Spiritual Jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church Parish Administration

Clergy

Rev. Fr. John Touloumes, Proistamenos

Rev. Fr. Radu Bordeianu, Assistant Priest

Parish Council

Chris T. Balouris, President

Anthony Loomis Alex Trivilas

Sondra A. Balouris Yvonne Balouris

George Danis George Dickos

Joanne Germanos Robert Marsh

Nicholas Sarandou Vasilios Scoumis

Gerri Valliant

Ministries

Philoptochos Esther Ladakos, Pres.

GOYA Pres. Becky Touloumes, Advisor

Choir John Nychis, Director

Over 50 Club Stella Athanasiou, Pres.

St. Lydia Study Stacy Dickos, Coordinator

Cemetery Bill Fiedler, Chairman

Greek School Effie Kilantonis, Coordinator

Social Hall Kathy Romanias, Coordinator

Bookstore Bill and Linda Areheart



You are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone.

Ephesians 2.19-30

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we stand between the seasons of Resurrection and Pentecost, we are not only in one of the most beautiful liturgical and theological times of year, we are also in one of the most dynamic. We have been granted the powerful victory of the revelation and proclamation of the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and we have been faithfully chanting those praises for the past 40 days. Now we find ourselves on the doorstep of Pentecost, with the sustaining grace and life poured upon us and the Church at the descent of the Holy Spirit.

Remembering that God wastes absolutely nothing and does nothing without cause, we might, as we stand in awe and amazement for these incredible gifts ask, "Why?" Why does He continually shower us with the gifts, love and attention we normally only associate with "VIP" status? It is because each of us is, indeed, a "VIP" in God's Kingdom. That's not simply a child's Sunday School lesson. It is a direct reflection of his stated love for us, so deep that it led to the Cross and the Tomb: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3.16).

And what name does a "VIP" go by in the Kingdom of God other than "saint?" Again, we might ask, "Me, a saint?" It seems so far from reality, especially some days, but only when we are caught up in the title. Instead, we should be caught up in the calling. To think of ourselves as a "saints in the making" is actually right on the mark according to the calling of the Gospel. As Saint Paul reminds us above, "You are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God" and we are "called to be saints" (Romans 1.7). Indeed, one of the reasons for the very existence of the Sunday of All Saints (the weekend after Pentecost) is so that we might remember that not all those known as saints by God are listed on the calendar or found on the icon screen. And what better time to be reminded of that than having just received the power from on high through the Holy Spirit at Pentecost?

And finally, that brings us to the curious icon on the front cover of this issue. Our iconographer, Florin, has generously allowed photographs of his works in progress, and one day recently he was mid-way through the icon of the saints entering Paradise at the Second Coming. But there were no faces! During the Liturgy that day, standing in the Chapel, I posed a challenge to all those present: put your face on that icon, at least in your mind's eye. Far from pride, it is an acknowledgement of both our true calling and our most sincere prayer: Lord, make us worthy of this! Why aim for less when God calls us to the heights! Let Him be the judge and let us focus on running the race. He has called us. He has empowered us. Indeed, He truly loves us!

Paternaly yours in the Holy Spirit,

WORSHIP LIFE

Feast Day Weekend.....June 6-8

Please note the schedule of services for the Feast Day Weekend of our parish, June 6-8 this year. First is the annual Pentecost Saturday of Souls Liturgy at the St. George Chapel at Holy Trinity Cemetery. Pentecost Sunday features the Divine Liturgy and the "Kneeling Service" (Feast Day Vespers). Monday will offer the celebration the Feast Day Liturgy of our Church, the Monday of the Holy Spirit. Here is the complete schedule:



Saturday, June 6 - 8:30 am Orthros/9:30 am Liturgy: Saturday of the Souls Liturgy at St. George Chapel at Holy Trinity Cemetery. Experience the timelessness of Orthodoxy with your family, while honoring and remembering all of those who have preceded us. Now surrounded by even greater beauty as our iconography in the dome has been completed.

Pentecost Sunday, June 7 - 8:30 am Orthros/9:30 am Liturgy: Pentecost Sunday Liturgy, followed by the "Kneeling Vespers" of the Holy Spirit. This is an important blessing for each of to receive. It is the culmination of the Paschal/Pentecostal season and has been placed here by the Holy Fathers who so intimately understood the need for the active reception and presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Some have even called it a spiritual experience akin to baptism. Don't miss it!

Monday, June 8 - 8:30 am Orthros/9:30 am Liturgy: Monday of the Holy Spirit/Official Feast Day of our Church.

Weekday ServicesJune

Please take note of the following weekday Liturgies for the feast days this month. Unless otherwise indicated, Orthros is at 8:30 a.m., followed by Divine Liturgy at 9:30.

Wed. June 10, 6:00 pm.... Paraclesis to the Theotokos

Tue. June 24.....Nativity of St. John the Baptist

Upcoming Memorials & Trisagions June/July

June 14: Julia Welsh (3 years); July 5: Stavroula Repana (3years) and Demetrios Repana (47 years) .May their memory be eternal!

Summer Attire Reminder

Please remember that even during the summer months when many people like to keep things "casual," entering the Holy Church is still a sacred experience which our preparation and attire should reflect. Everyone should refrain from wearing shorts and t-shirts and women are asked, as usual, to wear dresses or skirts instead of pants. While we will not impress the Lord with clothing, we will honor Him with our modesty

and piety. As the scriptures say, "Holiness befits Your house, O Lord, for evermore" (Psalm 93.5).

COMMUNITY NEWS

Feast Day Parish Picnic at New Property..... June 7

Please mark your calendar for the annual Feast Day Parish Picnic, to be held this year on the grounds of our new church property, across from La Roche College at 9000 Babcock Boulevard, Pittsburgh. Watch for details in the Sunday Bulletin about this affordable, family-friendly event for the entire parish family and plan on joining the celebration. *Hronia Polla!*

FESTIVAL NEWS

Festival Cooking Through August

As this issue of *The Herald* goes to press, the Second Annual Spring Greek Festival is about to get underway. Thanks to the many volunteers who helped with the cooking needed for that event. And now...don't forget...we still have the Summer Greek Festival to cook and plan for, September 3-6!

Please note the dates on your schedule and step up to your place once again as a Holy Trinity steward. This is a big year and we have big community plans ahead, so it will require an even bigger-than-ever effort from everyone!

In June, there will be pastries cooking on the following dates:

June 8: 12:00 noon - 4:00pm and 4:00pm - 9:00pm

June 15: 10:00am - 4:00pm and 4:00pm - 9:00pm

June 22: 10:00am - 4:00pm and 4:00pm - 9:00pm

Why two sets of times? There are now **day** and **evening** shifts. Of course, anyone is welcome to stay for all the fun, but please at least try to offer one time slot each time. This is being done to accomodate people's varying schedules and still provide a productive work time for everyone. Everyone is invited and asked to help. Bring a friend and pack a snack. Call Joyce Athanasiou (412-322-6002) regarding pastry preparation, Paula Valliant (412-487-3977) for dolmathes or Kay Balouris (412-766-1263) for other food cooking dates.

"Summer Festival" DatesSeptember 3-6

Don't forget to also keep Thursday-Sunday, September 3-6, free to work at, eat at, bring your friends to and enjoy the Holy Trinity Greek Summer Festival. Please don't wait until the last minute to help: please show up for cooking now and sign up to help at the Festival!



YOUTH NEWS

GOYA Tool Drive for YOCAMA/Missions..... Now

Holy Trinity GOYA is participating in a tool drive to collect tools for use in the upcoming YOCAMA Mission trips to Indian

Reservations in New Mexico and Montana. Additionally, they will be used for a summer mission project at the St. Gregory Palamas Monastery in Perrysville, Ohio. The DEADLINE IS JUNE 10th to bring them to church and deposit them in the containers in the Narthex or social hall. Tools being sought should be in NEW and LIKE NEW condition and may include the following: POWER TOOLS - Circular Skill Saws, Portable Table Saws, Reciprocating saws, Hand-held power drills; NON-POWER TOOLS - Hammers, Screwdrivers, 3 Ft. Levels, Squares (Short and Long), Crow-bars and claws, Line Snaps, Measuring Tapes, Nails, Handsaws, Shovels, Chisels, Hand Sanders, Pole Sanders, Mud Pans, Putty Knives (4", 6", 12"), Corner Putty Knives, Trowels and Ball Pin Hammers; PAINTING SUPPLIES - Paint brushes (large and small), Paint Rollers, Extension Poles, Paint Trays, Buckets and Scrapers. Also, Gift Cards from Lowes, Home Depot, and Walmart can be purchased at the Holy Trinity Scrip desk and donated. Questions? E-mail GOYA@HolyTrinityPgh.org. Any tools that you donate would be appreciated greatly by YOCAMA, and appreciated even more greatly from the people who would benefit by the use of these tools! Thank you!

GOYA Summer Fun/Local Pilgrimage TripJune 15-16

The GOYA will once again be sponsoring a summer fun trip for the teens of our parish, this year to Cedar Point amusement park in Sandusky, Ohio. After a day of rides and fun at the park, they will overnight nearby. The following day, the group will make a pilgrimage to the Saint Gregory Palamas Greek Orthodox Monastery in Perrysville, Ohio, where they will also offer their service to the Monastery in the form of a work project to help the brotherhood with certain work needed to prepare the way for the construction of a new guest house. All GOYAs will be notified via the Holy Trinity GOYA E-mail system. Please watch for details soon, but save the dates!

Summer Camp Deadline ExtendedMay 30

Attention all Holy Trinity campers and families: Please note that the deadline for registering without a late fee and for receiving the Holy Trinity grant for the 2009 Metropolis Summer Camp season has been extended to **May 30**. All applications submitted online by that date will have a total fee of only \$300 (Regular registration fee - \$100 Holy Trinity grant). All applications submitted online after May 30 will have to pay a total of \$425.00 (\$400 + \$25 late fee and NO Holy Trinity grant, no exceptions). Don't forget, to receive the Holy Trinity grant you must register online and use the Holy Trinity discount code "HTPGH100". This must be used at the time of registration and cannot be applied afterward. Don't wait - act today!

FUNERAL REGISTRY

Peter Mitaras

The servant of God, Peter Mitaras, fell asleep in the Lord on March 7, 2009. The Funeral service was held at the Saint George Chapel on March 10, followed by interment at Saint Nicholas Cemetery in Wilksburg. May his memory be eternal!

Nicholas Haniotakis

The servant of God, Nicholas Haniotakis, fell asleep in the Lord on March 15, 2009. The Funeral service was held at Holy Trinity Church on March 19, followed by interment at Saint John the Baptist Ukrainian Cemetery. May his memory be eternal!

Irene Tsakos

The servant of God, Irene Tsakos, fell asleep in the Lord on April 2, 2009. The Funeral service was held at the Saint George Chapel on April 7, followed by interment at Holy Trinity Cemetery. May her memory be eternal!

BAPTISMS & CHRISMATIONS

Ryan

The servant of God, Allen Ryan, was received into the Holy Orthodox Christian Faith through the Holy Mystery of Chrismation on April 12, 2009. His sponsor was James Gambieries and he was chrismated with the name John. May God grant him many years!

Geanopulos

The servant of God, Thomas Geanopulos, son of Troy and Annika (Houmis) Geanopulos, was received into the Holy Orthodox Christian Faith through the Holy Mystery of Baptism on April 25, 2009. His sponsor was Alethea Machamer and he was baptized with the name Antonios. May God grant him many years!

Corcoran

The servant of God, Lance Manolis Corcoran, son of Darren and Mary (Karouzakis) Corcoran, was received into the Holy Orthodox Christian Faith through the Holy Mystery of Baptism on May 16, 2009. His sponsor was Anna Broome and he was baptized with the name Emmanuel. May God grant him many years!

Stephen

The servant of God, Grace Stephen, son of Kirk and Fran (Podimatis) Stephen, was received into the Holy Orthodox Christian Faith through the Holy Mystery of Baptism on May 17, 2009. Her sponsor was George Dickos. May God grant her many years!

Guimond Twins

The servant of God, Eric Joel Guimond, son of Guy and Stephanie (Kostos) Guimond, was received into the Holy Orthodox Christian Faith through the Holy Mystery of Baptism on May 23, 2009. His sponsor was George Athanasiou and he was baptized with the name Joel. May God grant him many years!

The servant of God, Steve George Guimond, son of Guy and Stephanie (Kostos) Guimond, was received into the Holy Orthodox Christian Faith through the Holy Mystery of Baptism on May 23, 2009. His sponsor was Andrew Athanasiou and he was baptized with the name Stephanos. May God grant him many years!

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



Father John Androutsopoulos

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

1 John 3.11-18

"The message you heard from the very beginning is this: we must love one another...My little children our love should not be just words and talk; it must be true love, which shows itself in action."

Explanation of the Passage

There are many people, who, blinded by self-love, imagine that they love God, if they only go to church often and read some pious prayers, while in their heart they hate their neighbor, and are ready to injure him, if occasion should offer.

These unfortunates are not aware that their prayer is an abomination before God, Who says through His Apostle, St. John: "Whosoever hates his brother, is a murderer (1 John 3,15.) They are also liars, for, "if any man say I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar" (1 John 4.20). For he cannot love God, whom he has not seen, if he does not love his brother, whom he has seen. (v. 21) The command that Christ has given us is this: whoever loves God must love his brother also. The proof of the love of God is given by the love of our neighbor.

How Can We Know That We Really Love Our Neighbor?

We will know by the presence of the works of charity. If a rich person sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against his brother, how can he claim that he loves God (1 John, 3.17)? Thus, the rich man in the gospel gave evidence that he had no charity, because he refused his aid to poor Lazarus.

Find Meaning In Life

"We love, because God first loved us." (1 John 4.19) Every person is interested in getting the most out of life and in finding meaning in it. It is commonly agreed that the great enemies to Christians today are the flesh, the world and the devil. Also, fear, anxiety, hatred, bitterness, jealousy, envy, greed, lust, prejudice, and so the list runs on.

The Greatest Good

On the other side of the picture, more and more we are coming to see that love, kindness, courage, faith, hope trust, and the like are really the great benefactors of mankind. Love, in all of its deeper meanings, is the greatest single factor for good in life. A loving Christian tends to be a healthy Christian. A joyous person radiates good cheer, and "a cheerful heart is a medicine." With love and joy goes health,

The Freedom of Love

But how can we be freed from the enemies of our spiritual life? How can we rid ourselves of hatred, envy, jealousy, fear? How can we replace love for hate, joy for fear, and goodwill for jealousy?

We read in the scripture that "perfect love casts out fear." And this love has only been fully manifested in the life and person of Jesus of Nazareth. He alone has shown us how to love.

The great loving Christians and Fathers of our Church which we have known in our Church have been those who were devoted to Jesus Christ and committed to Him. They have lived so close to Him that His love was manifested in their lives.

May The Love Of Christ Will Be Manifest In Our Lives.

*With the love of
the Lord,
Rev. Fr. John K.
Androutsopoulos*

Editor's Note:

During this month when we celebrate Father's Day, we offer our love, respect and prayers for one of Holy Trinity Church's most beloved fathers, our "Gheronda", Father John A. May God grant you many years!

"This is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, and not be like Cain who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. Do not wonder, brethren, that the world hates you. We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death. Any one who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But if any one has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or speech but in deed and in truth."

1 John 3.11-18



"The primary lesson for life must be implanted in the soul from the earliest age. The primary lesson for children is to know the eternal God, the One Who gives everlasting life."

(Saint Clement)



Pre-School Class



Kindergarten Class



First-Second Grade Class



Third-Fourth Grade Class



Fifth-Sixth Grade Class



Seventh-Eighth-Ninth Grade Class



Tenth-Eleventh-Twelfth Grade Class



St. Spyridon Children's Lending Library Award

"The family should strive to be that image of godliness that will preserve the holiness that is intended to be its identity. Surrounding the child with the Holy Sacraments and sacred images, a regular life in the Church, and strengthening the good in the child are what instill this life of grace. This grace acts as a powerful hedge of protection around the family. A child that is provided such a hedge has the advantage of becoming a true witness to the love and holiness of God." (M. Hock, *"Blessed Are the Pure In Heart For They Shall See God."*)



Anthony Balouris with his parents, Dean and Diane



Maria Georgiadis with her parents, Gus and Penny



Michael Georgiadis with his parents, Mark and Karen



Nicholas Georges with his parents, George and Arnette



James Janis with his parents, Andrew and Sophia



Aris Pantelas with his parents, Paul and Constance

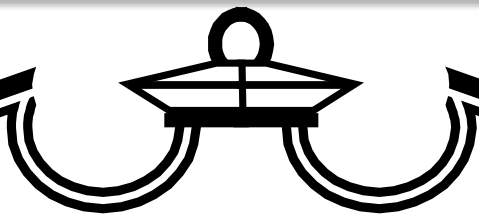


Alexandra Petredis with her parents, Charles and Jan



Christian Petredis with his parents, Charles and Jan

Congratulations and May God's Blessings Be With All Our Graduates and Their Families!



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!

Please join us in celebrating the talents and God-given gifts of the students from Holy Trinity Church who are graduating from high school and college this year. We also thank God for the families, relatives and community which have nurtured them in the rich soil of the Holy Orthodox Faith. May God be with them!



Anthony Balouris
Shady Side Academy

Anthony was active in the band, playing French horn and piano; he also played in the orchestra pit for four years and served as Vice-President of the band. He played on the baseball team and studied Chinese. At Holy Trinity Church, he served as an acolyte for ten years, played basketball, attended mission trips to Mexico and Montana and served as GOYA Vice-President. He will attend Drexel University.

Maria Georgiadis
North Allegheny High School

Maria graduated with honors as a Distinguished Achiever and received the President's Award for Educational Excellence. She was very active in musical theatre, choir, Class Council and other clubs. Maria has been involved in GOYA and is currently President. She has served in the Holy Trinity Choir and has been a Greek Dancer and a Holy Trinity missionary. She will attend Elon University.



Michael Georgiadis
Pine-Richland High School

Michael graduated with highest honors and ran both track and cross country. He played trumpet in the Marching Band, Jazz Ensemble and several District Honors bands. He has also participated in the Armstrong Academic Challenge and the Academic Triathlon. Michael has been very active in the life of the Church, from JOY to GOYA to Acolytes. He has participated on three mission trips to Mexico and Montana. He will attend Notre Dame University.

Nicholas Georges
Eden Christian Academy

Nick graduated from Eden Christian Academy, where he earned a place on the Honor Roll for four years and played soccer. He has been involved in the JOY and GOYA ministries at Holy Trinity Church, where he played basketball for seven years. He has also served as an Acolyte and worked at the festival and other projects. He will attend Duquesne University and major in Business.

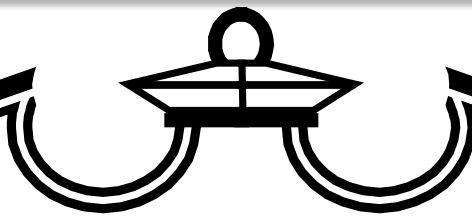


Jason Hodge
Caledonia High School

Jason graduated with honors and was a member of the National Honor Society. He lettered for three years in soccer, four years in track and one year in basketball. He has been active in all aspects on youth ministry, served as GOYA Treasurer and volunteered as a missionary to Project Mexico. He will attend Colgate University.

Let your light so shine
before men, that they
may see your good works
and glorify your Father
in Heaven.

(Matthew 5:16)



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH CLASS OF 2009

Please join us in celebrating the talents and God-given gifts of the students from Holy Trinity Church who are graduating from high school and college this year. We also thank God for the families, relatives and community which have nurtured them in the rich soil of the Holy Orthodox Faith. May God be with them!



James Janis

Upper St. Clair High School

Jimmy graduated as a Highest Honor Roll student and earned the Gold Medal Award on the National Latin Exam as well as High Proficiency status in Spanish. He also received the Certificate of

Recognition from Governor Rendell in the National Foreign Literacy Challenge. He will be attending Palm Beach Atlantic University in the Frederick M. Supper Honors Business Program.

Aris Pantelas

Fox Chapel High School

Aris graduated as an A.P. Honors student from Fox Chapel, where he lettered for three years on the varsity hockey team. He is quite talented in many areas of music and has won numerous district and state awards in music composition. He is also an accomplished guitarist. He will be attending Allegheny College, where he will major in political science and business law and minor in music.



Alexandra Petredis

Shady Side Academy

Alexandra graduated Cum Laude from Shady Side and was elected Senior Class President. She played on the varsity field hockey team, which took the WPIAL championship title. She has participated in youth ministry and religious education at both Holy Trinity and Holy Cross Churches and played on the Holy Trinity GOYA basketball team.

She will attend Vanderbilt University, where she will major in mathematics.

Christian Petredis

Shady Side Academy

Christian graduated Cum Laude from Shady Side. He started for three years on varsity soccer and holds the title of third all-time career goals at the school. He played as a piano soloist for both the Jazz Band and the Jazz Combo. He served for ten years as an Acolyte at Holy Cross and has participated in youth ministries at Holy Trinity as well. He will be attending the Pennsylvania State University Shreyer Honors College and will major in finance and economics.



George Zanic

Upper Saint Clair High School

George was elected Homecoming King and has achieved a black belt in Tae Kwon Do. He has also played baseball, soccer and been on the Holy Trinity GOYA Basketball team.

His church activities include Greek dancing, Acolyte service and the Metropolis Summer Camp. He will attend the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown.



A Special Afternoon For "Ladies Only"

May 2, 2009: The Ladies Philoptochos hosted a new event - A "Special Tea and Luncheon" for the Philoptochos members and other ladies of the Pittsburgh area. This well-attended event featured an on-site hair-styling session and lots of fun with a festive hat competition! Pictured to the left, the guest stylist, Paul Beining, works on the good-sport hair-style volunteer, Tina Fiedler. The event also featured elegant live entertainment provided by the North Hills Senior High School String Quartet.



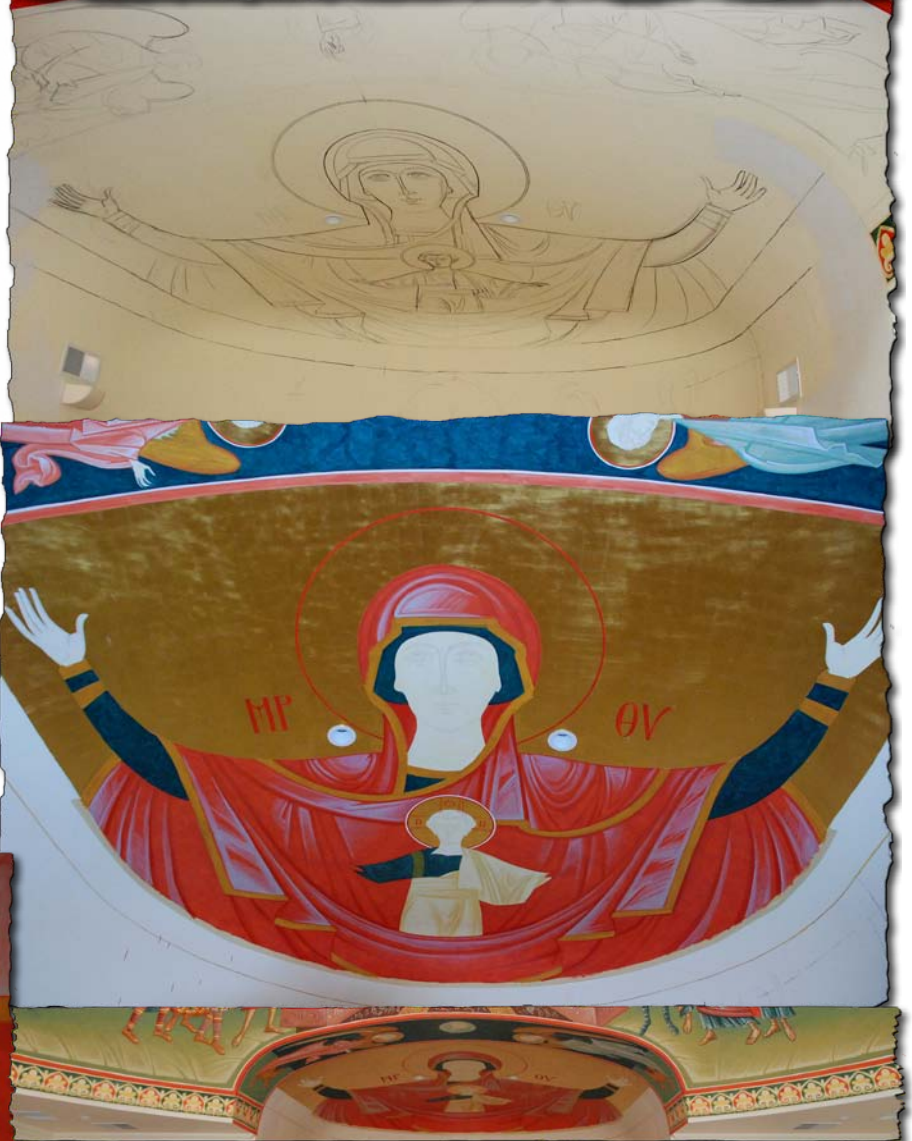
A Work in Progress

The last issue of *The Herald* featured some of the new iconography from the lower dome of the Saint George Chapel, as well as photos from the annual Feast Day Liturgy. In an effort to keep the parish up-to-date on the continuing progress of the iconography—and to provide a rare and interesting glimpse into the process of iconography—this issue contains the next phase: the apse of the Holy Sanctuary. Pictured here are stages in the writing of the Platytera and the Holy Archangels above the Holy Altar table. Our iconographer, Florin Vlad, also took time on Memorial Day to give tours of this exciting new work to visitors and parishioners.



Above: The Archangels Gabriel and Michael flank the Theotokos on the left and right side of the arch extending over the Holy Altar.

Below: The face of Christ is shown here with the face only sketched in charcoal, while the background (clothes, halo) are already done. Byzantine iconography builds from the background to the front, with the face, details and highlights completed last in the process.



The “Platytera Ton Ouranon” (“Wider than the Heavens”) icon of the Theotokos show in charcoal sketch form above, then with the robes and gold leaf in process below. The visual perspective proved quite a challenge!

Stewardship | 2009 Stewardship Pledges Received

In the last issue of the Herald, this page began with the same introduction you still see below, but inadvertently showed a list of the stewards on record as of the end of 2008 - not the current list for 2009! With our apologies, this issue lists the actual 2009 stewards to-date, and Holy Trinity Church thanks them for their faithful commitment. Unfortunately, you see that the page is not as full as before, that the total is not 250+ names; not even close ... yet! Please check: if your name is not this list, please see to it today! We are now approaching June. Why not take a brief moment and get your pledge card completed and mailed? If you don't have one, call the church office (the number is on page 2); or pick up one from the pangari on Sunday and drop it off before you leave church. Become a member in good standing today. Thanks!

We, the undersigned, have pledged to be Stewards to Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in 2009 and are making the following declarations:

We believe – that together we are declaring the need to participate in the life of our Church - spiritually, educationally, culturally and socially.

We believe – Christian Stewardship can be a joyful and easy task but requires the effort of the entire community in order to be successful and requires from each of us a commitment of self, time, talents and treasures. Above all, it places the responsibility of sustaining the Church where it belongs - in the hearts of the parishioners.

We believe – The Lord has always invited us to share the responsibility in meeting this challenge. When He asked the question, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" the Prophet Isaiah answers, "Here I am! Send me." (Isaiah 6:8)

We believe – Stewardship is a serious matter; and we must take the work of the Church seriously, in order to promote its growth and development.

We believe – we are blessed with God's gifts and many blessings; we love Christ and want to support His Church's mission.

We believe - that many others who are not on this list share these same principles. Please become a part of our "petition" and fill out your pledge card, in a manner consistent with your beliefs. Our goal is to get 270 signatures. Only you can make that happen. Please help: submit your pledge card today. We, the undersigned, thank you in advance!

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**[Add your name here...
send in your card today!]**



Vickie Bellios

A Greek language tribute to Father's Day, written by Vickie Bellios, one of our Cultural Side contributors, as a personal dedication to her own father. The poem offers the day to fathers not just in name only, but in honor, calling a father a pillar of strength for not only his children, but all his family. After extolling his virtuous leadership as a father, this dedication ends with the prayer that God may grant him joy, life and progress.

Αφιερωμένο Στον Πατέρα Μου Και Όλους Τους Πατέρες Τον Κόσμο

Πατέρα μου, Πατέρα μου
η ημέρα είναι δική σου
και στην αφιερώνουμε
στην ζήση η των Θανή σου.

Σαν στύλος μεγαλόκορμος
στηρίζεις τα παιδιά σου
και στυλοβάτης άριστος
σε όλη την φαμελιά σου.

Στο βλέμμα σου όλοι βρίσκουμε
αγάπη καλοσύνη
κι όταν μας νιώθεις δίπλα σου
μειώνεις την οδύνη.

Οδύνη που σφυροκοπάς
παιδιά να αναστήσεις
και με μεγάλη φρόνηση
να τα παιδαγωγήσεις.

Σήμερα όλοι στρέφουμε
τα μάτια μας σε σένα
και σου αφιερώνουμε
στεφάνια ανθισμένα.

Κι αυτοί που παραπάτησαν
σαν άνθρωποι με λάθη
πασχίζουν το καθήκον τους
απ' της ψυχής τα βάθη.

Και εμείς που σε εχάσαμε
τα μάτια μας δακρύζουν
αλλά αυτοί που σε έχουνε
την τύχη μακαρίζουν.

Τύχη να καμαρώνουνε
τον άξιο πατέρα
που την ζωή τους χάρισε
μαζί με την μητέρα.

Κι οι δυο μαζί προσεύχονται
για όλα τα παιδιά τους
να 'ναι πάντα χαρούμενα
κι ας είναι μακριά τους.

Θεέ Μεγαλοδύναμε
δώρισε στον πατέρα
χαρά υγεία, προκοπή
ετούτη την ημέρα.

Η κόρη σου
Vickie

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. and the Parish Council. " Want more information? Visit their web site at [www. Philoptochos.org](http://www.Philoptochos.org) or contact a local member.

Philoptochos Report: June 2009

Summer Months

Summer is just around the corner and we are looking forward to relaxing and enjoying the warm weather and perhaps taking a vacation.

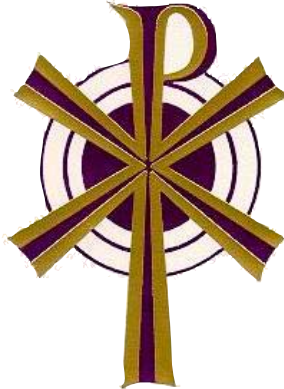
Philoptochos does not take a vacation from its philanthropic duties. We must continue to support our charitable commitments. Please continue to support our activities throughout the year!

Membership and Stewardship

It is said that Philoptochos is the "backbone of the Church"; we work to support every church ministry. How long will we be able to continue to do this if we do not grow our membership?

Our membership list indicates that we have 80 members. 60 of those members are 65 years of age or older, so only 20 members are under 65 years old. Further, of the 80 members, only 48 submitted their 2009-2010 stewardship. That means we have approximately 14 members who do the majority of the work! Those 14 women are the older generation and are getting tired.

I appeal to the "younger" women of our community: Please join Philoptochos and volunteer to work for its valuable philanthropic causes or the Philoptochos of Holy Trinity may cease to exist.



Mother's Day Tea

Last month we sent you a tea bag so that you could make yourself a cup of tea and reflect on all the contributions you have made to Philoptochos. Your contributions help us in our ministries. If you have not sent a donation, it is not too late. Donations are always welcome

Special Tea And Luncheon

Our thanks to everyone who attended and supported this beautiful event. Those of you who did not attend missed a great afternoon. The food and entertainment were wonderful.

Elections

The ballots have been received. You will be notified of the results at a later date.

Festival

Please volunteer to work at the Spring and Fall Festivals. Everyone is welcome and needed.

Easter Bake Sale

Our bake sale was a success. Pans of Baklava (\$30.00) and Spanakopita (\$25.00) are still available. If you are interested in buying a pan or two, please speak to Joyce Countouris (412-366-1498) or Kay Balouris (412-766-1263).

Have a wonderful summer!

Submitted respectfully,
Esther Ladakos

Thank you!

A sincere thank you from Co-Chairperson Joyce Countouris to those who contributed to the lovely "Special Tea & Luncheon":

Len Lavelle and the North Hills Senior High School String Quartet. Their music was a wonderful contribution to the ambiance created by the ladies of Philoptochos who decorated the tables and supplied the luncheon.

Mr. Paul Beining of North Hills did a hair make-over on Tina Fiedler that impressed those in attendance with both his styling techniques and product tips. Mr. Beining also assisted Fr. John in appraising the hats worn by many of the ladies in attendance. They did a fantastic job in selecting several hats for honorable mention and 5 outstanding hats which made for a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

Thanks also to donors of prizes

And finally, to our servers, Craig Steiner and Chris Sarandou, for all their assistance.



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*Call Kathy Romanias at 724-934-3915
for booking information. Thank You!*

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412-364-1545

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Some Practical Principles

There is great peace in silence.

Do not hurry and do not delay.

You may be good but you can become better.

Speak comfortably with others without compromising your principles.

To be rashly daring makes us fall. To be overly despairing when fallen does not allow us to get up.

Listen to the others even when they sound boring and foolish. They too have their pain, their story to tell, and Christ has shed His precious blood for them as well.

Do not idle away your time and do not tire yourself with programmatic endeavors that cannot be sustained. Weariness and loneliness can quickly destroy health.

Be reconciled with God. Be reconciled with yourself. Be reconciled with others in your life, and no one will ever be able to take away the peace from your heart.

These, then, are a few thoughts, offered with love, as a bouquet of flowers from Mt. Athos, the Garden of the Blessed Theotokos.

Athonite Flowers, 2000, Holy Cross Press



Scripture of the Month: "Strive for peace with all men, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord." (Heb. 12.14)