



THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

MAY 2009

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QUICK NEWS

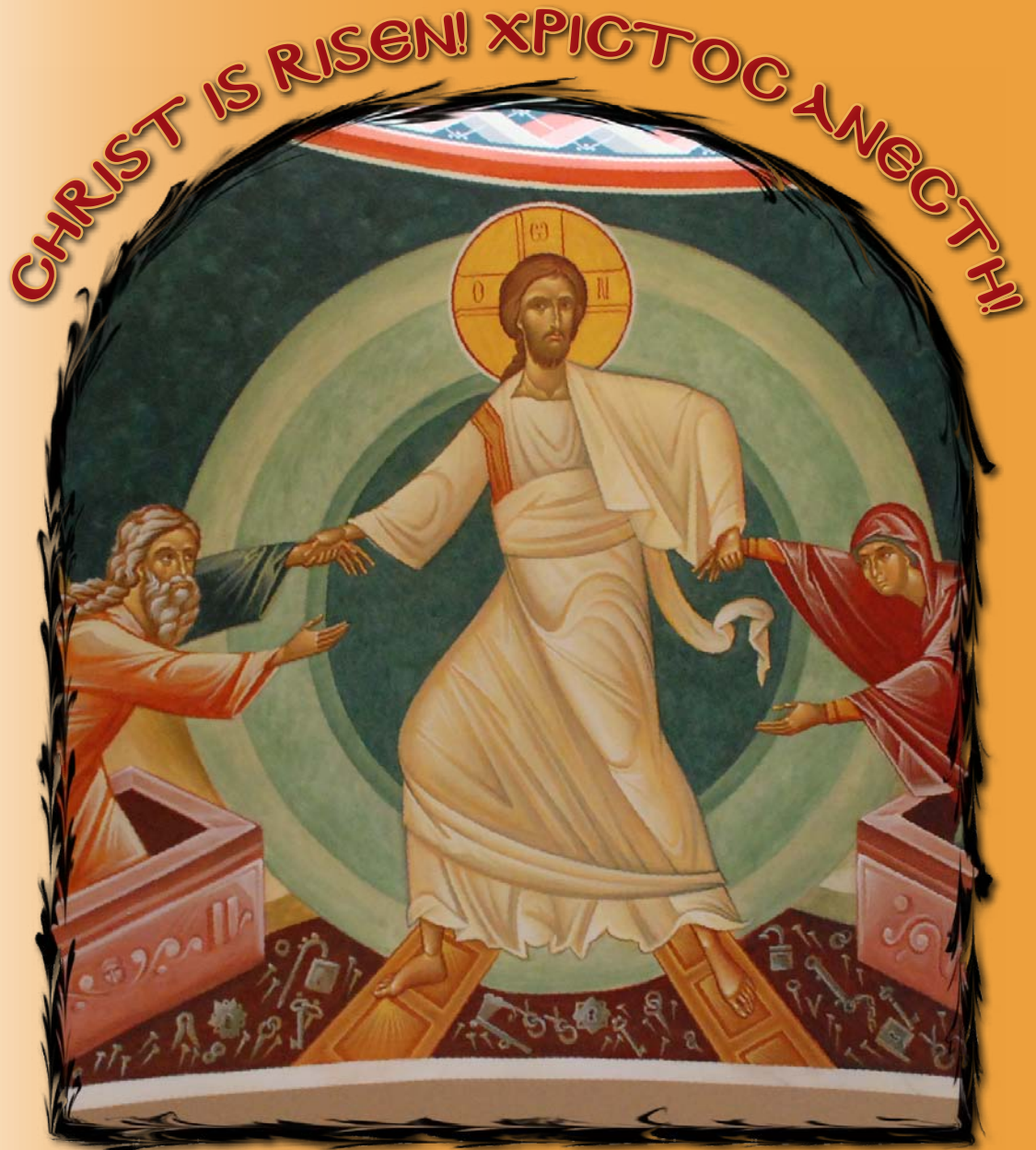


The young people of Holy Trinity Church jumped into the annual Paschal Candy Hunt with enthusiasm and energy as the teens conducted their annual Scavenger Hunt, all following the Agape Vespers Service on Pascha. It was a joyous way to end a beautiful Holy Week. For a selection of Holy Week photos, see pages 8-12.

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH • PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

It is the day of Resurrection, people, brilliantly shine! Pascha, the Lord's Pascha! For Christ our God has out of death passed us over into life, and likewise from earth to heaven, as we now sing unto Him a triumphal hymn.

(From the Orthros of the Resurrection)



**The New Icon of the Resurrection of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
from the Saint George Chapel at Holy Trinity Cemetery, Pittsburgh, PA**

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



God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work.

2 Corinthians 9.8

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christos Anesti! Christ is Risen!

I recently travelled to Denver for Archdiocese Presbyters Council meetings and was reminded of the early days of the western settlers and the early land rush, when pioneers were allowed to claim whatever land they could stake off in a day. With real estate being considerably more expensive these days, it seems like an unimaginable opportunity. Talk about God providing ... free land!

Yet He still continues to do so in many ways, recognized and hidden, as Saint Paul promises in the above passage from 2 Corinthians. But notice that, just as the settlers had to work even for their "free" land by rushing out and staking the land, so we also must still put our sincere efforts into seeing, appreciating and using His blessings for the purpose He intends.

I am so deeply thankful as the priest and spiritual father of this community for the many ways so many members of our Holy Trinity family do just that. On any given day, there are people volunteering, cooking, doing accounting, cleaning, teaching, working and helping in any way the Church needs. It reminds us that sometimes, as we look around and wonder where the help will come from, we are the blessing that God has provided to meet the needs of His Holy Church! This happens because, according to Christian researcher George Barna, "He endowed us with brains, language, energy and many other resources so that we can apply ourselves to the challenges of ministry and—with His guidance and blessing—see His will and His people prevail" (*Habits of Highly Effective Churches*, p187).

A great example of who fruitful those labors of love can be came during Lent at Holy Trinity this year. At the beginning of Lent, after all the schedules has been published, our church furnace went out. The weather was bitter cold. We met in the hall on Sunday. But the heat had to be complete shut down for pipe and furnace work during the weekdays. Because of the love and dedication of this community to honor its founders and departed members, the Saint George Chapel, which was built as an offering of love only three years ago, was there for us to hold our Lenten services. And the furnace work, through countless hours of work and some very good resources provided by parishioners, turned out to be much more effective and less expensive than we thought, and that work will be a huge blessing when it comes to selling this building when we move to the new property.

How did that all happen? Because God provided and faithful people stepped up! So when you are asked to cook, clean, serve on a committee or ministry or volunteer in any other way, remember, it is not a burden, it is a part of the blessing that God has provided for you, your family and your community. From festivals to mission trips, from repairs on this church to building a new one, He will provide, but we must respond.

He has given us the victory of the Resurrection: let us use that new life for His glory! Christ is risen!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

St. Lydia's Orthodox Women's Fellowship May 14

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 Stacy Dickos, 8130 Brittany Place, Pittsburgh (412-367-0925). This year's topic for study is the Gospel of St. John, using the Study Guide "The Gospel of John: Beholding the Glory" by Lawrence Farley. The last meeting of the season will be Thursday, May 14.

Orthodox Studies Forum May 6, 20

Now in its third year, the Orthodox Studies Forum is designed for adults who are interested in learning more about the Orthodox Christian Faith. It is led by Father Radu Bordeianu and is for both those who have been Orthodox all their lives and want to learn more as well as those seeking to embrace Orthodoxy from another background and grow further in their faith. The group meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month through May from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at La Roche College, 9000 Babcock Blvd., Pittsburgh. The room is in the Palumbo Science Center, Room SC102. Parking is available next to the building. The last meeting of the season will be May 20.

WORSHIP LIFE

9:30 Regular Divine Liturgy Hours Now in Effect

Don't forget, regular 9:30 Divine Liturgy hours have now resumed. Orthros is at 8:30 a.m. and Divine Liturgy starts at 9:30 a.m. for both Sunday and weekday services through October. Please set your clocks and your personal schedules to be there on time.



Weekday Services May

In addition to the Lent and Holy Week services, please take note of the following weekday Liturgies for the feast days in April. Unless otherwise indicated, Orthros is at 8:30 a.m., followed by Divine Liturgy at 9:30.

Thu. May 21 Ss. Constantine & Helen

Thu. May 28 The Ascension of the Lord

Memorial Day Service for Veterans May 25

The tradition of Memorial Day started in 1866 as local observance of honoring those who died in the Civil War. After World War I, observances also began to honor those who had died in all of America's wars. In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be observed on the last Monday of May to honor our heroes who gave their lives in battle. In these times when we are especially thankful for and sensitive to the service of those who defend our country against attacks and invasions of every kind of enemy, this service takes



on a special importance. Please join together in front of the Holy Trinity Cemetery War Memorial at 9:30 am on Memorial Day (May 25) as we hold a special ceremony to honor those who have given their lives in defense of the United States, the Constitution and the cause of freedom they so cherished. Please note: this service is to commemorate veterans; it is not a general memorial service for all the departed — that will be held according to Orthodox tradition on the Pentecost weekend Saturday of Souls — June 6 this year — with a Divine Liturgy & Memorial at the Saint George Chapel at Holy Trinity Cemetery. May their memories be eternal!

Upcoming Memorials & Trisagions

May 3: Nicholas Haniotakis (40 days), Irene Tsakos (4-days); May 10: Pantelakis and Scopelitis families; May 17: Fr. David Sedor (6 months); May 24: Leonidas Dedousis (3 years); June 14: Julia Welsh (3 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

Cemetery Clean-Up Volunteer Project

From our Cemetery Chairman: "May 16th we will hold the annual Cemetery Clean-up/Spruce-up Day (with May 23rd as our rainy day back-up). I will be ordering trees, bushes and shrubs from Best Feeds for landscaping around the Chapel as well as buying some annuals to plant. We have cleared the back right corner of overgrown brush and if we get enough people we will try a level the area to receive grass seed. Topsoil will be ordered and available to all parishioners to use of their family plots. Bring your own flowers for your family graves (try to get deer resistant flowers if possible) and remember no trees and perennial bushes are permitted around family graves. Time will be 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Come early or late and leave when you have to. Any help will be appreciated. We'll order pizza and hoagies and provide drink as well. Bring gloves, rakes, shovels and wheelbarrows. (Please make sure your name is on everything!)"

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!*

Church School Last Class/Graduation Date May 17

Attention Church School Staff, Parents and Students: Please note that the both the last day of classes for this semester and Church School Graduation will be held on Sunday, May 17. All students are asked to attend.

FESTIVAL NEWS

Festival Cooking Through August

A updated schedule for Festival Pastry Cooking and Food Cooking was enclosed in previous issues of *The Herald* and is being published in the Sunday Bulletin. Please note the dates on your schedule and step up to your place as a Holy Trinity steward. 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.



"Spring Festival" Dates May 28-30

Holy Trinity Church will hold a three-day "Spring Festival" this year from Thursday-Saturday, May 28-30. Remember, no matter how many days the festival lasts, it still takes a lot of work, so please be ready to offer your help. And please don't forget to invite your family, friends and co-workers for the great Greek lunches and dinners! A flyer is enclosed.

SPECIAL SET-UP HELP REQUEST: Volunteer help is needed for two set-up dates. The first is Saturday evening, May 23, starting at 8:00 p.m. A lot of heavy table lifting needs to be done. Then, on Sunday, May 24, following Liturgy, the rest of the fall needs to be set up. Please be there, good stewards! Thanks!

"Summer Festival" Dates September 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!

Looking for information on Orthodoxy?
Check out these great Internet resources:

www.goarch.org
and

www.OrthodoxyNowTV.com

... and coming this month...
the all-new Holy Trinity site:
www.HolyTrinityPgh.org

SUMMER CAMP 2009 INFO!

ATTENTION SUMMER CAMP PARENTS: THIS IS REALLY IMPORTANT INFORMATION!

Summer Camp 2009 is not that far away! As always, our Metropolis has requested each parish to support this important ministry. At Holy Trinity, this takes the form of parish grants offered to the campers of our parish, thanks to the generous support of the Philoptochos, the Parish Council and other donors (see below). This program has resulted in tremendous Summer Camp attendance in recent years, with many children attending from Holy Trinity (one of the highest parishes in the Metropolis!).

Important: In order to qualify for the largest discount, parents of children who participate in our Church School ministry and JOY/GOYA ministries **must register online at pittsburgh.goarch.org by May 20** to indicate that their child(ren) will be attending. Late or verbal applications will NOT qualify for the Holy Trinity discount. (Please note: our "Holy Trinity" weeks this year are Week I for JOY and Week IV for GOYA.) This year the applications will not be mailed out: all applications must be submitted through the new online camp registration system at the Metropolis web site, pittsburgh.goarch.org.

Holy Trinity Discount Code: When registering online, it is important to use the discount code "**HTPGH100**" to received the Holy Trinity reduced price.

Remember, the online application must be completed by May 20 for the best discount. Here is the list of "discounts" and deadlines (it will really pay to meet the May 20 deadline!):

Postmarked by May 20:

Initial Fee	\$400.00
Less Metropolis early reg. discount.....	-\$25.00
Less Holy Trinity grant (see above)	-\$100.00
Net fee if registered by May 20	\$275.00

Postmarked after May 20:

Initial Fee	\$400.00
Late Fee.....	+\$25.00
NO Holy Trinity grant.....	-\$0.00
Net fee if registered after May 20	\$425.00

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

REMEMBER:
REGISTERED ONLINE BY MAY 20!
USE THE SPECIAL DISCOUNT CODE!

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



Father John Androutsopoulos

Christ Lives!

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Christ is risen! Truly He is risen! The angel spoke to the women. "You must not be afraid," he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was nailed to the Cross. He is not here; He has risen, just as He said. Come here and see the place where He lay." (Matthew 28: 5, 6)

Christ lives!

He is not dead. He is alive—still with us. We are told that the early Christians greeted each other with, "He lives." In our Orthodox Christian Churches we shout with joy, "Christ is risen!" "Truly He is risen!" We believe Christ lives, that He is Master of life, Conqueror of death, Victor for all times.

We are glad that the women found that tomb empty. You go to Mecca and they say, "Mohammed is our prophet and here is his grave." And, they show you a tomb decorated with millions of dollars worth of rubies and sapphires and diamonds. But, the Christian can shout, "Jesus is my Savior, and His tomb is empty! He is not a dead Savior—He is alive!"

Would that all of us this might lift this affirmation to one another this Pascha/Easter: "Christ is alive!" Pascha means no less than this—and it can mean more as we die to self and live for Him.

PASCHA - THE DAY OF HOPE, FULFILLMENT, JOY

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"The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23)

PASCHA—EASTER! Immediately we associate this Holy Season with the Resurrection of our Lord. Then with the Resurrection we immediately think of immortality. We do not have to wonder about nor speculate about eternal life, for Jesus assured us of its certainty when He said, "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."

When Jesus was comforting Martha after the death of her brother Lazarus, we hear Him saying, "He who believes in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." Now Christ's Resurrection guarantees ours. Most conclusive of all

His promises is this one. He said, "Because I live, you shall live also." He is called "the first fruits of them that sleep." You go to a tree filled with fruit. You pick the first ripe fruit, then later you go back and pick the remaining fruit as it ripens. So, Jesus was raised first. He is the "first fruits." Then one day we shall follow Him out of our graves and into the mansions above.

THE GOOD NEWS OF EASTER

"Because I live, you shall live also." (John 14: 19)

The Scriptures tell us that Jesus Christ lived and went about doing good, healing the lame, giving sight to the blind, comforting the broken-hearted, freeing men from their sins. They tell us that He was crucified and arose again on the third day. They tell us that He is alive now, moving in our midst, sharing life with us, offering us new life, trying to get us to give our sinful hearts to Him, to free us from all that would keep us from being our best.

He is here in the world trying to let us know that His victory over death means that we too can be victors in His name, that at the heart of life is a loving and caring God, and that we need not be afraid of life and the future. He is here and wants us to know that our real hope lies not in the relics we all leave, not in the honors which come our way, not in the status we may reach, not in the degrees we may hold, not in the bank balances we may leave nor the stocks and bonds we may pass on to

those left behind; but that our real hope lies in God as we know Him in Christ, and to know Him is to have eternal life.

PASCHA! Day of hope, Day of Promise, Day of Joy! No wonder we sing on PASCHA, "Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life."

We should thank God for knowing our lives have been resurrected through His saving power. May we trust Him more completely, serve Him more faithfully and love Him more dearly. On Pascha, let us dedicate our lives to the Risen Lord.

May the Risen Lord, the King of Kings on this most radiant Feast of Pascha fill our hearts with Joy and grant Fr. John, the parish priest, and his family and everyone in our family at Holy Trinity Church, good health and many, many years without pain and suffering and sickness.

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



Stewardship | 2009 Stewardship Pledges Received

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!

Rev. Fr. John & Pres. Becky Touloumes	Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Countouris	Mr. & Mrs. Carlo Isella	Mr. James J. Patsilevas
Rev. Fr. Radu & Pres. Loredana Bordeianu	Mr. Mark Countouris	Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Janis	Mr. & Mrs. Steve Pefanis
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Miss Victoria Andromalos-Dale	Miss Betty Dickos	Mr. & Mrs. George Karpakis	Mrs. Olga Regakis
Mrs. Carol Anestis	Mr. & Mrs. George Dickos	Mr. & Mrs. James Kermes	Mrs. Sophia Regas
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Mrs. Helen Chapas	Mr. & Mrs. Spiros Giannoutsos	Mr. Michael Panos	Mr. Demo Zamagias
Mrs. Mary Charis	Mr. & Mrs. Burmice Golihue	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Panos	Mrs. Effie Zamagias
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Cherpes	Mr. & Mrs. Jeremy Gracik	Mr. & Mrs. George Pantelakis	Mr. and Mrs. Evan Zanic
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Ms. Barbara Christou-Liuosz	Mr. & Mrs. Guy Guimond	Mr. & Mrs. George Papadopoulos	Dr & Mrs. Antonios Zikos
Col. Thomas Cocheres	Mr. & Mrs. Nick Hanna	Mr. and Mrs. Stylianos Papakirk	Miss Christina Zikos
Mr. Gabriel Cocheres	Miss Pennie Hareras	Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Pappas	Mrs. Dorothea K. Zikos
Mrs. Johanna Cocheres	Mrs. Voula Hareras	Mr. Gregory Pappas	Miss Anna Zissis
Mrs. Elenie Cocheres	Mr. & Mrs. Charles Henigin	Mrs. Joann Pappas	Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Zissis
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Condos	Mr. & Mrs. Lon Hildebrand	Mr. & Mrs. Orestes Paras	Mr. & Mrs. Louis Zozos
	Ms. Tina Houmis	Mr. & Mrs. John O. Paras Sr	Mr. & Mrs. George L. Zozos
	Mr. & Mrs. George Hulse	Mr. Eleftherios Parikakis	

A Mother's Prayer for Her Children

O God, Maker of all creation, You have made me worthy to be the mother of a family, and through Your goodness have bestowed children upon me; and so I dare to say: these children are Yours, for You have given them being, have infused them with an immortal soul, and have raised them to life through baptism, and in accordance with Your will You have adopted them and received them into the bosom of Your Church.

Send down to me Your gracious help in raising my children, for the glory of Your name. Bestow on me patience and strength to do Your will.

Teach me to plant in their hearts the root of true wisdom—the fear of the Lord—that all their lives they may stand in awe of Your words.

Open to them the understanding of Your law.

Until the end of their days let them act with the sense that You are everywhere present.

Plant in their hearts loathing for every transgression, that they may be pure in their designs.

Righteous Judge, sprinkle them with the dew of Your grace. Heavenly Father, order the lives of my children according to Your blessing, do not deprive them in this life of their daily bread, send down to them in due time all that is necessary for the acquisition of blessings in eternity.

Be merciful to them, when they sin before You; look not upon the sins of their youth and ignorance; chastise them and have mercy on them, but turn not Your face away from them.

Turn not Your face from them in the day of their tribulation, that they may not fall into temptations beyond their strength.

Cover them with Your mercy, that Your Angel may walk with them and preserve them.

Abandon not my children, O Lord, and give them that which is profitable for salvation.

Amen.

**Offered in honor of Mother's Day 2009
Adapted from the Orthodox Prayer Service
"Akathist to the Mother of God, Nurturer of Children"**





This year, Holy Trinity Church was honored by having our own Father Radu chosen at the homilist at the area Sunday of Orthodoxy service.

Lenten Services at the Chapel



Saturday of Lazarus

Children and adults gathered on the Saturday of Lazarus to celebrate the feast, then shared breakfast and prepared Palm Crosses and cupped candles for Holy Week.

When the heat at Holy Trinity Church went out for a number of weeks at the start of Lent, we were blessed to be able to use the Saint George Chapel as the site of most of our Lenten services.



Holy Week

For Holy Week, the services were back again at Holy Trinity Church.





Holy Friday

"From the morning watch until night," the faithful gathered to venerate, decorate and process with the Tomb of Christ. The Holy Friday afternoon service was presided over by Hie Eminence Metropolitan Maximos.

On Holy Friday evening, the annual procession around the outside of the church took place, with candle-bearing faithful chanting solemn hymns.





Holy Saturday

From the anticipation of the early morning proclamation, "Arise, O God," and sprinkling of leaves to the all-day wait for the candle-lit "Anastasi," Holy Saturday was marked as always with great anticipation for the hymn of victory: "Christ is risen from the dead, by death trampling upon death!"



Agape Vespers

Celebrating the annual tradition of proclaiming the universal message of the Resurrection of Christ in many languages at the Agape Vespers, Holy Trinity was blessed this year by parishioners offering the following Gospel readings, in addition to the usual New Testament Greek and English offered by Father John and Father Radu:



French... Italian... German... Spanish... Chinese... Latin... Modern Greek... & Romanian!



Children of all ages enjoyed the annual Pascha Candy hunt and teen Scavenger hunt following the Agape Vespers.

The Saint George Chapel

During the first "Saturday of Souls" this year, our iconographer, Florin Vlad, took time to give an explanation of the new iconography at the chapel to the young people of our parish. He is pictured at right pointing out details and answering questions. Below are some of the icons in various stages of completion. At the bottom are photos of the Saint George Feast Day celebration on April 23. At left, clergy and laity process through Holy Trinity Cemetery chanting, "Christos Anesti." At right, the Georges and Georgias celebrating the feast join the clergy, including our new neighbor, Father Paul Suda, from St. Alexander Nevsky Russian Orthodox Cathedral.



ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ!



Voula Hareras

Κατανυκτική πέρασε όλη ή μεγάλη εβδομάδα των Παθών του Κυρίου καί Σωτήρος μας.
Καί τελικά μέ χαρά στην καρδιά μας άκούσαμε τό

ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ...ΑΛΗΘΩΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ

ό Κύριος άγαπητοί μου, καί άς πλυμυρίσουν οί καρδιές μας μέ Αγάπη,
ύπομονή, καί τήν έλπίδα, ή Αγία του Άνάστασις νά φέρει Είρήνη
σέ όλον τόν ταραγμένο κόσμο τής Σήμερον,
Εύχομαι ύγεία σέ όλους σας.

Βούλα Χαρερά

ΜΗΤΕΡΑ

Στής 10 Μαΐου έορτάζομαι τήν ήμέρα τής Μητέρας.
Όσοι είσθε τυχεροί καί τήν έχεται άκόμη, τό καλύτερο δώρο θά είναι
ένα φιλάκι καί δυό λεχούλες, Σέ άγαπώ πολύ Μανούλα.
Όσοι τήν έχουμε χάσει, άς σηκώσουμε τά μάτια μας ψηλά καί άς τής
πούμε καί μείς, δεν σέ ξεχνάμε ποτέ Μανούλα μας.
Καί αύτή θά τό άκούση καί θά μας στείλη τήν εύχή της...
Άς τής άφιερώσουμε λοιπόν τό ποίημα Μητέρα.

Βούλα Χαρερά

ΣΤΗΝ ΜΑΝΑ

Μανα είσαι μιά ύπαρξη στόν κόσμο αίωνία
Θεοσταλμένηνά σκορπάς ζωή καί άρμονία
Σαν Μάνα καί σάν σύζυγος άνθίζεις σάν λουλούδι
Είσαι διαμάντι φωτεινό ούράνιο τραγούδι
Τρανή καί μαγαλόψυχη πονάς γιά τό παιδί σου
Χαρίζεις άμετρη στοργή τήν θεία συμβουλή σου
Πόσες φορές άκοίμητη ξενύχτισες κοντά του
Παρακαλώντας τόν Χριστό νά φέρει τήν ύγεία του
Πάντα ποθείς καί εύχεσαι νά είν' εύλογημένο
Πετυχημένο στή ζωή, γερό εύτυχισμένο
Ενα γλυκό χαμόγελο στό πρόσωπό σου άνθίζει
Όταν στό δρόμο τόν καλόν τό βλέπεις νά βαδίζει
Άλλοτε πάλι ή όψη σου, θλίβεται συννεφιάζει
Γιατί τό βλέπεις σκυθρωπό νά βαρυαναστενάζει
Νοιάζεις γιά τόν πόνο του νοιώθεις καυμό στά στήθεια
Νά δώσεις πάντα λαχταράς παρηγοριά, βοήθεια.
Κι' άν κάποτε σέ πίκρανε σ' έκανε νά πονέσεις
Ηρθες κοντά του στοργικά συχώρεση νά δώσεις
Μέ τήν πολύ αγάπη σου, τήν τόση καλωσύνη
Κάνεις νά νοιώθουν οί καρδιές βαθειά εύγνωμοσύνη
Κι' όπως σωστά καί άδολα τό τέλειο προσφέρεις
Σέ Σένα είπε ό Θεός τόν λυτρωτή νά φέρεις
Γιά Σένα Μάννα άφθαστη πηγή εύεργεσίας
Θά ψάλλουν ύμνους οί καιροί τιμής, άθανασίας..

Ι.Σ. / Βούλα Χαρερά

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 or contact a local member.

Philoptochos Report: May 2009

CHRIST IS RISEN, TRULY HE IS RISEN!

We pray that everyone had a blessed Easter!

Elections

You will receive your election ballot by mail. The ballot must be returned to the Church office no later than Sunday, May 17, 2009.

Lenten Luncheon

Our sincere thanks to the following:

- Everyone who came to eat and support the luncheon;
- Everyone who brought the delicious food and desserts;
- The ladies who cooked the additional food;
- Everyone who helped clean up;

The proceeds for this annual event go to the Hellenic College.

Mothers' Day Tea

All year long Philoptochos asks for contributions to help us meet our commitments. The ministries of the National Philoptochos, the Metropolis Philoptochos, and our local area all benefit because of your generosity. Please take time to have a cup of tea and reflect on all the important work your contributions have made possible as we celebrate Mothers' Day and honor their dedication to the ministries of the Church. Once again, we ask for your help. Please be generous.

Special Tea And Luncheon

We are having a special Tea and Luncheon to honor all the women in your life. The luncheon is being held on Saturday, May 2, 2009 at 11:30 AM at the Holy Trinity Community

Center. Please join us and invite all the special women who are a part of your life. Wear your favorite hat or decorate one to win prizes. We look forward to seeing you there. For reservations please call Areta Kalogeras at 412-931-0142.

Mothers' Day

The late Ann Lozos wrote the following. May her memory be eternal.

What Is A Mother?

SCULPTOR - She is presented with this small bundle of humanity and is expected to mold and form it into respectable human beings;

GARDENER - She cultivates and waters (or keeps dry as necessary) this future citizen;

TEACHER - She imparts all her knowledge to this budding adult;

COOK - She feeds her children and nourishes them;

GUARDIAN - She protects them from all dangers to the best of her ability;

NURSE - She tends every illness and wound;

DISCIPLINARIAN - Of course she must be stern about their behavior.

There are, of course, many more roles, too numerous to mention. Happy Mothers' Day!

Submitted respectfully,
Esther Ladakos
Philoptochos President

The History of Philoptochos (...continued from www.Philoptochos.org)

In November, 1948, Archbishop Athenagoras was elected to the highest ecclesiastical office of the Orthodox Church: Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople. He departed for his historic See in January, 1949. During the years that followed Patriarch Athenagoras I bestowed the highest honors of his Ecumenical Throne on several dedicated Philoptochos Ladies by granting them the title of "Archontissa".

During the first twenty years of its existence the Philoptochos Society's major accomplishments were recorded, among which were the Church's most important institutions: the Holy Cross Theological School (which moved to Brookline, Mass.), and St. Basil Academy.

Archbishop Michael was elected Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church in the Americas in 1949. Under his spiritual guidance, the Philoptochos continued its mission of humanitarian services. They assisted the Archbishop in establishing the Greek Orthodox Youth of America, and participated in an arduous campaign, launched by the Archbishop, to have the U.S. Government place the initials, G.O. on dog tags to accurately identify Greek Orthodox members of the Armed Forces. This was a remarkable accomplishment by the Greek Orthodox community.

Archbishop Michael, in 1951, placed the administration, budget and supervision of St. Basil Academy under the Archdiocese. Since its establishment, the Philoptochos had been totally responsible for its operation. The Society continues to this day its dedicated support of the institution.

A devastating earthquake shook the Ionian Islands in 1953 and once again the Philoptochos chapters rallies its forces to offer considerable assistance, sending food, clothing, medicine and financial support to the beleaguered people of the Ionian Islands.

A new plateau was reached in 1956, when the Philoptochos National Conference, for the first time, was convened simultaneously with the Archdiocesan Clergy-Laity Congress in Washington, D.C. At this Conference the Philoptochos was urged to participate in local chapters of the United Council of Church Women.

(To be continued...)

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On God and Love

The respected twentieth-century priest and theologian, Father Alexander Schmemmann, left a great gift in the soul-searching ponderings and reflections of his personal journal, which were collected and published by his wife, Juliana, after his death. The following thoughts were recorded on Holy Friday, April 16, 1982, a little over a year before his death. They are offered here as seeds for our own reflections over the Lenten, Holy Week and Paschal seasons.



The Journals of Father Alexander Schmemmann, 1973-1983, SVS Press 2002

*How can one come to love God? Where is the locus of this love?
In His self-revelation to us in the world and in life.
The summit and the fulfillment of this self-revelation is Christ.
Everything relates to Him.
The Incarnation, the entrance into the world of nature,
of time, of history is for Him.
It follows that love for God is Christ.
Joy in Him. Love for Him.
The reference of everything to Him.
The gathering of everything in Him.
Life in Him, by the knowledge of Him
in everything through the Holy Spirit.
The Church: the possibility and the gift of this love and life.
Amen.*

Scripture of the Month: "Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.." (1 John 4.11)