



THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

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HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH • PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

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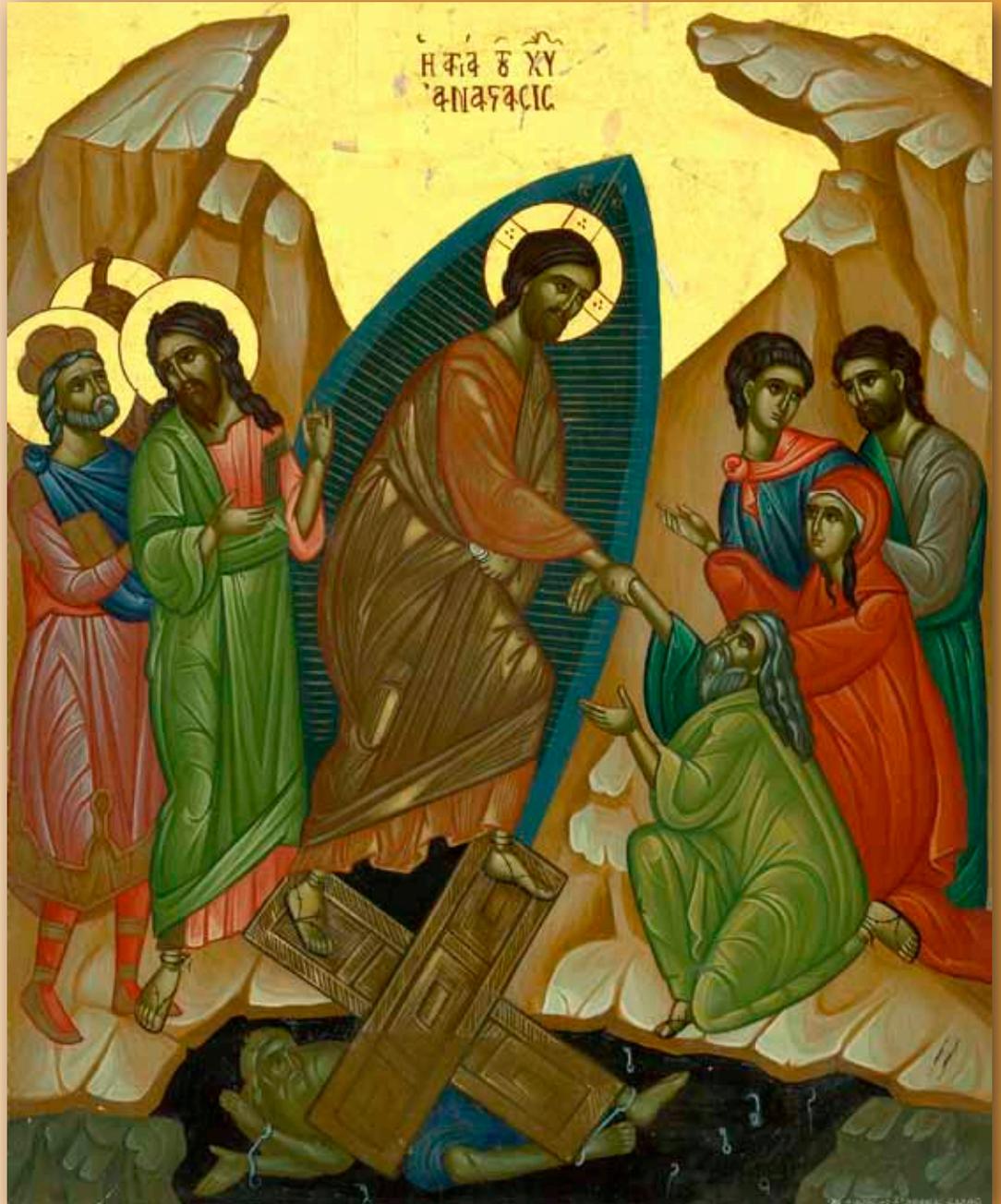
Also enclosed:

- April-May Parish Calendar
- 2011 Holy Week Schedule
- Holy Friday Epitaphion Names
- Spring Festival Flyer
- Festival Volunteer Form
- 2011 HT Gold Classic
- 2011 Pittsburgh Summer Greek Festivals Guide
- ... and lots more inside!

QUICK NEWS



Parish Council President Chris T. Balouris and Vision Committee Chairman Gus Georgiadis join Father John in presenting the check received for the sale of the current church to the community at the end of Divine Liturgy on April 10. For more photos of other recent events, see the Community Life Photo Journal on pages 8-11.



Good News in any language! English: Christ is risen! Truly He is risen! Greek: Christos Anesti! Alithos Anesti! Albanian: Krishti Unjall! Vertet Unjall! Arabic: Al Maseeh Qam! Haqqan Qam! French: French: Le Christ est Resurrecté! En Verite, il est Resurrecté! German: Christus ist Auferstanden! Wahrhaf auferstanden! Romanian: Hristus a Inviat! Adeverat a Inviat! Russian: Khristos Voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese! Spanish: Cristo ha resucitado! En verdad, esta resucitado! Swahili: Khristos amafafouka!

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

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Parish Council

Chris T. Balouris, President

Anthony Loomis Alex Trivilas

Jason Farmakis Yvonne Balouris

George Danis George Dickos

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Louis Kort Andrew Athanasiou

Vasilios Scoumis Gerri Valliant

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Philoptochos Kay Balouris, Pres.

GOYA.....Pres. Becky Touloumes, Advisor

ChoirJohn 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.....Vas Scoumis, Coordinator

BookstoreBill and Linda Areheart



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.

Colossians 2.6-7

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Risen Christ,

Christ is Risen ... and Happy Thanksgiving! No, I am not suffering from a severe case of festal dyslexia or liturgical disorientation. Rather, I am taking the opportunity of this “Feast of Feasts” and “Festival of Festivals,” the Great and Holy Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to stop, look around and understand: His victory over death has given us everything worthy of being thankful for. It is for that reason I greet you today as I survey this community of faith and life and, as Saint Paul does above, abound in thanksgiving!

The list of thanksgiving is, indeed, endless. The past few months, however, have given me as your priest and spiritual father more than a few opportunities to marvel at and be thankful for a number of things in particular. Please allow me to share some of them with you as we walk, during these historic days of the sale of our church, in the light of the Resurrection toward the future.

- Thanks be to God for finding a buyer for our current church.
- Thanks be to God for having that buyer be a church from the local community which will continue to use this location for Christian ministry.
- Thanks be to God for the personal and professional talents and endless hours (really, I mean many hours!) offered by the Vision Committee and Parish Council in meeting the challenge and calling from God to move our new church project forward in a truly united Christian manner.
- Thanks be to God for the labors of love that have been offered by everyone from the “very-involved” parishioners to the “not-so-involved” members of the Holy Trinity community, all of whom are stepping forward in the huge tasks of putting on our last North Side Greek Festival and the logistics of moving the contents of this entire church north.
- Thanks be to God for the amazing and sacrificial support offered by our Holy Trinity Stewards in sustaining our parish through recent difficult financial climate and especially for the Capital Campaign donors who have stepped up and will step up to make this divine calling a reality.
- Thanks be to God for the co-ministry team of Priests and Presvyteres—Father Radu, Father John Androutopoulos and Presvyteres Becky, Lore-dana, Eileen and Ethel—who reach out to you along with me as to their own children and family with love and guidance.

And finally, I thank God for blessing me with the joy of serving for 18 years in a most blessed vineyard of faith and love we all know as “Holy Trinity Church.” It is truly not just a building, but a richly fruitful vine, rooted in Christ, building itself and others up to the glory of God! Christ is risen! Truly He is risen!

Herald Personal Sponsor for this Issue:

Nicholas & Joy Loomis

In Memory of Mary and John Kokoros

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Church School Graduation Date June 5

Attention Church School Staff, Parents and Students: Please note that the last day of Church School classes for this semester will be May 29. Church School Graduation will be held on Sunday, June 5. All students are asked to attend.

Orthodox Studies Forum May 4, 18

The Orthodox Studies Forum will hold its last meetings of the season on Wednesdays, May 4 and 18 at 7:00pm, at La Roche College, 900 Babcock Blvd., in the Palumbo Science Center, Room 107. All are welcome. For information, see Father Radu or contact him at FrRadu@HolyTrinityPgh.org.

Saint Lydia Women’s Study Fellowship April 14, 28

The Saint Lydia Women’s Study Fellowship meets every other Thursday at the St George Chapel, 8941 Ringeisen Road (behind Duncan Manor Plaza) in Allison Park. The meeting starts at 9:30 a.m. with coffee and fellowship, followed by the study and discussion promptly from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. The ministry is open to women of all ages. The current topic of study is “Selected Readings from ‘Our Thoughts Determine Our Lives’ by Elder Thaddeus of Serbia.” The last meeting of the season will be April 28. Want more info? Contact Stacy Dickos at 412-367-0925 or SaintLydia@HolyTrinityPgh.org.

YOUTH MINISTRIES

GOYA Spring/Summer Activities

Our teens have an exciting season of activities coming up. Please watch for information on the following:

- May 7: Metropolis Volleyball Tournament - Canonsburg
- May 11-15: Help with Holy Trinity Spring Festival!
- May (TBA): GOYA Fellowship meeting
- May/June (TBA): GOYA Senior Dinner
- June/July: Cedar Point Fun/St. Gregory Palamas Mission trip
- June 20-25: FOCUS Appalachia Mission Trip

Summer Camp Dates June 19-25/July 10-16

Please note the designated Holy Trinity weeks for our Metropolis Summer Camp dates in 2011: JOY is Week 1 (June 19-25) and GOYA is Week 4 (July 10-16). Information will be forthcoming and available online at pittsburgh.goarch.org.

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.



Memorial Day Service for Veterans May 30

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 30) 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 11 this year – with a Divine Liturgy & Memorial at the Saint George Chapel at Holy Trinity Cemetery. May their memories be eternal!



Upcoming Memorials

June 5: Harry Geanopoulos (1 year), Julia Welsh (5 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 & EVENTS

Holy Friday Trisagion at the Epitaphion April 22

Each year we offer a Trisagion Service in front of the Epitaphion (the Tomb of Christ) prior to starting the Holy Friday evening service of the Praises (*Engomia*). This year’s will be the last held in our current church, so it is important that we honor all those who have fallen asleep in the Lord as part of the Holy Trinity community by offering their names before the Tomb of the Lord Whom they served and worshiped during their life here. Please be sure to complete the Holy Friday names form enclosed in this issue of *The Herald* and submit it before the start of the service on Holy Friday. Thank you for remembering all our departed members.



Make Plans for the Anastasi Dinner April 23

Don't forget to make plans to attend the Resurrection Orthros, Liturgy and Dinner at Holy Trinity Church, Saturday evening, April 23/Sunday, April 24. Following the liturgical celebration of the Resurrection, join your family, friends and other members of Holy Trinity to break the fast and celebrate the feast in our church hall. We will be serving a traditional Greek Paschal meal of delicious Holy Trinity style lamb, rice, bread, cheese and olives. Free-will offerings will be accepted to help cover the costs of the meal. Special this year: With the recent sale of the church, this will be the last Resurrection celebration and the last Divine Liturgy ever in the church proper (sanctuary) at our current location, so bring family and friends for the greatest Feast in the Orthodox Christian Faith and a final farewell to the church built by our forefathers. The Resurrection Orthros starts at 11:00 p.m., but with a full house expected, doors will open at 10:00 p.m., so be sure to get there early to get a seat!



Agape Vespers & Paschal Candy Hunt. April 24

The Church School ministry is again sponsoring the annual Paschal Candy Hunt on the lawn of the church (weather permitting) on Pascha following the Agape Vespers Service at 1:00 p.m. All the children are invited to come for this beautiful and bright service. It is an especially good way for those with small children who are not able to attend the midnight service to share in a special celebration of Pascha. And again, as above, this year's Agape Vespers will be an especially memorable one, as it is the last service ever in the church proper (sanctuary) at our current location.

Important Historic Holy Trinity Community Photo Dates

With the sale of the current church, we will hold three special group photo opportunities to commemorate the following significant events and dates (plus some later for Pentecost). Please be sure to be there with your family and others from the Holy Trinity community as we mark these milestones in our parish's life and the lives of our parishioners:

- April 17 - Palm Sunday - Group photo at end of Liturgy
This is the last Sunday morning Liturgy in church
- April 23 - Anastasi - Group photo at end of Liturgy
This is the last Liturgy and Resurrection service in church
- April 24 - Pascha - Group photo at end of Agape Vespers
This is the last service ever in the church

These photos will become an important part of the archives of the life of the Holy Trinity community and will be made available in the future to our parishioners. Don't miss them!

Spring Greek Festival Dates May 11-15

Holy Trinity Church will hold a major Spring Greek Festival this year from Wednesday, May 11-Sunday, May 15. Significantly, due to the recent sale of the church, this will be the last Greek Festival at our current North Avenue location.

Thank you to all the volunteers and chairpersons who

worked so hard over the past few months to prepare the food and pastries for this important community event. Remember, however, the job is not done yet! It still takes a lot of work, so please be ready to offer your help. A Festival Volunteer form can be found in this issue of the *Herald*. Please complete it and submit it as soon as possible. There is something for everyone. And please don't forget to invite your family, friends and co-workers for the great Greek lunches and dinners! A flyer is enclosed. In particular, a lot of help is needed for the Festival setup. The dates, also listed on the form, are as follows:

- Sunday, May 1st after Divine Liturgy
- Wednesday, May 4th @ 7:30pm for Table Set-up
- Saturday, May 7th @ 9:00 AM
- Sunday, May 8th after Divine Liturgy
- Monday, May 9th @ 5:00 PM
- Tuesday, May 10th @ 5:00 PM

Thanks for being there for as many of these dates as you can!

Orthodox Food Pantry: Your Help is Needed!

The St. Cyril of White Lake Food Pantry is a ministry of the Orthodox Church dedicated to providing a piece of bread and food to homeless and poor of our community. It is totally supported by the donations of you, God's people, without whom, it is impossible to function. How can you help? By donating food, money, time and most important all of your prayers for the success of this unique ministry. See the enclosed flyer or contact Harry or Joyce Athanasiou for information at 412-292-4205.

Sign Up For the Holy Trinity Email!

Want to receive the Sunday Bulletin directly via email? Want to keep up to date with the latest Holy Trinity news, including changes of events, changes due to weather, etc.? Go to www.HolyTrinityPgh.org and sign up today!

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

Scholarships Available.Deadline April 15

Applications for the three scholarships administered by the Chancellor's Office of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America are now available for awards to be made for the 2011-2012 academic year. Two of these scholarships are for undergraduate studies: the George & Naouma (Gioule) Gioles Scholarship and the Katina & John Malta Scholarship. These two undergraduate scholarships are awarded to students whose families exhibit a true financial need, with preference given to students who are orphans (either one or both parents). The third scholarship is the Paleologos Graduate Scholarship which is awarded for graduate work of a non-theological nature.

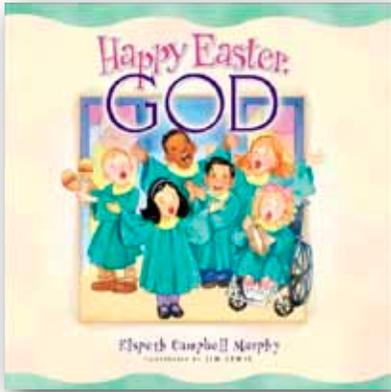
Each of these scholarships was established through generous gifts from dedicated Greek Orthodox Christians who wanted to provide financial assistance towards the education of young people in our Orthodox community. The deadline for applying for all three is April 15, 2011.

Further details, including complete instructions and applications, are available on-line: www.goarch.org/archdiocese/administration/chancellor/scholarships.

Hello, my precious children!

Christ is risen! Truly He is risen!

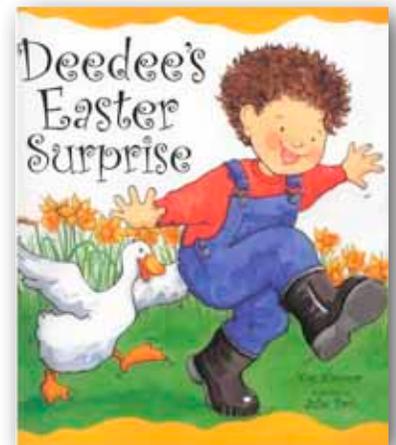
Well, here I stand with my Easter candle. I am always so...o...o excited to be able to stand and sing "Christ is risen!" with the all my precious children each year. It is just the best!



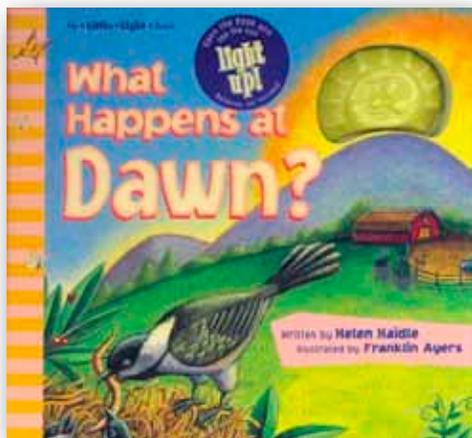
There are also many other great things about celebrating Pascha. There are candy-filled baskets, lots of red eggs to break and pretty new dresses on my precious little girls. In the book, "Happy Easter God" by Elspeth Campbell Murphy, we find out about a lot of different Easter traditions. There are beautiful poems and prayers, which all focus on the big event of the

day: the miracle and the promise of the Resurrection of Jesus. Parents, when you read your children this book, it will not be just for them: something special might happen to you, too. You just might learn to look at our Heavenly Father's beautiful world through the eyes of your children. Your own faith will be refreshed, too!

Another way to experience Easter is "Deedee's Easter Surprise," by Kay Kinnear. In this story, you will meet Jack and Deedee. They are the best of friends who do everything together, even though Jack is a boy and Deedee is a duck. But one awful day Jack discovers that Deedee is missing. Where did she go? Will she ever return, and what special special gift does she bring on Easter morning? To find out, check out this fun holiday book.



Another very special part of the Orthodox Christian Pascha celebration is staying up late for the midnight service. It just feels like the whole world is celebrating.



Then, a few hours later, it's daybreak. In the book, "What Happens at Dawn" by Helen Haidle, it talks about that special time of day. The Bible tells us, "Let everything that lives sing praise to the Lord" (Psalm 150:6). Turning the pages of this book, you will see the wonder of the morning and the rising sun, made by the hands of our Heavenly Father. Together, you will visit bears in the forest and calves on the farm to see what happens when even the animals celebrate the sun coming up. Like Father John says all the time, "This is the day that the Lord has made. We will rejoice in it!" (Psalm 118.24).

Love in the Risen Christ, Spero

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

April 2011 – The Voice of the Gospel



Father John Androutsopoulos

The Crucifixion

"Thy Cross, our Master, we adore, and thy Holy resurrection do we glorify."

Jesus' Sufferings

Over the entire earthly life of Jesus, from the manger/cradle to the Cross, stands the one word: "suffering". He is not spared one form of suffering in soul and body. Nevertheless, he cares for us to the

end. LOVE EVEN UNTO DEATH: that is Jesus' way of life and way of suffering. "For because He Himself has suffered and has been tempted, He is able to help those who are tempted" (Hebrews 2: 18). So also in all our human temptations, sufferings, sorrows, and distresses, we are never alone. There is One there who understands us: the Suffering Lord!

Holy Week!

This week is called Holy Week because we celebrate the most important mysteries of our redemption with touching, religious ceremonies. We should spend this week, according to the intentions of the Church, by meditating on the sufferings of our Lord, on His cruel death; also by fasting more strictly, by strict recollection, and by devout prayer.

Why do Christians hold Holy and Great Friday in such esteem? Because on this day, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of the Eternal Father, gave Himself up into the hands of His enemies after being scourged, crowned with thorns and dying on the Cross, accomplishing the redemption of mankind.

Why do we annually celebrate the memory of this day? So we can render dutifully our thanks to Christ the Lord for our redemption. Beloved, hundreds of years before the coming of Jesus, Isaiah announced the suffering servant: "He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed (Isaiah 53:5). On the Cross this word of prophecy was fulfilled."

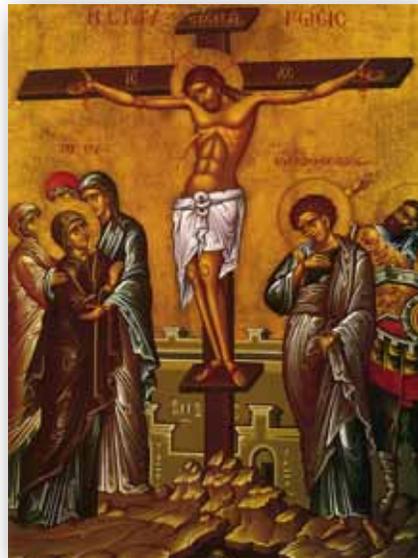
For All of Us! For Each of Us!

This is the holy mystery of the suffering and the dying of Jesus. Jesus said, "For the Son of man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45)

In the Epistle of St. Paul to Timothy (1 Timothy 2: 5-6) we read: "For there is One God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all." Jesus said for many and Paul says for all.

Explanation: Jesus Christ gave his soul as a ransom, dying voluntarily for the salvation of all men. He said "for many" and not "for all men", because even though he delivered himself to death for all men, he did not save them all because not all men rightly believed in him and kept his divine commandments. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate.

When we are professing for us (for our sake), He was crucified under Pontius Pilate, we are professing our faith that Jesus' death was a death for us. Jesus did not merely die through the complicity of Pilate and the crowd; Jesus died willingly as a sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sins. The plot against Him was the cause of His death, but it was not the purpose. Its purpose was to earn us our salvation. Jesus



accepted death in fulfillment of the prophecies of the Old Testament in order to carry out God's plan to reconcile us with Himself. Do we really believe that God sent His Son into the world for our sake? Do we believe that Jesus accepted crucifixion for our sake? How deeply do we believe that God cares about us? Thank you Lord Jesus Christ for being so concerned about us that you gave up your life for us. Thank you for taking our sins on yourself so that we might be forgiven.

"And He suffered and was buried." It is a great mystery that He -- through whom the universe came into being -- should take on human flesh and walk on the earth. It is an even greater mystery that He should voluntarily suffer and accept the death of an outcast. It is a mystery beyond our

understanding that through His death, we are given salvation. Beloved, we should be moved to prostrate ourselves in adoration and thanksgiving at the thought that the Son of God did this for us, for our sake. "For our sake, God made the sinless one into sin, so that in Him we might become the goodness of God" (2 Corinthians 5: 21).

Jesus, the innocent one, suffered for our sins. We are set free from our sins because Jesus bore them and paid the consequence with His blood. Jesus suffered for us. Have we suffered? There is One who has suffered more than tongue can tell and He can sympathize with us in our suffering. Do we have troubles? Are the clouds hovering low about our pathway? Jesus knows all about it. He knows what is hurting us. He promises never to leave us nor forsake us. Jesus suffered and He can help those who are suffering. He paid the price to save us and wash us from our sins. Let us come today and give our soul and life in surrender to Him.

Remarks: Do we have a crucifix in our homes? How often do we look at it as a reminder of what Jesus did for us? How often do we gaze on it, in our prayer and meditate on the reality it portrays? Thank you Lord for suffering for us.

The Resurrection

"He is not here: He is risen as He said" (Matthew 28: 5-7). "Jesus, having risen from the grave, as He foretold, has given to us Eternal Life and the Great Mercy." Beloved, we celebrate Holy and Great Friday because we stand within the rays of the Resurrection. Christ has given Himself upon the Cross for our reconciliation, and triumphed over evil and death. Jesus' resurrection is a present reality and a glorious hope. We celebrate the Resurrection because Christ has revealed God's power and His love for us. We celebrate the Resurrection because we are new creatures in Christ who believe passionately in the future. We look forward in hope.

On the Third Day He Rose

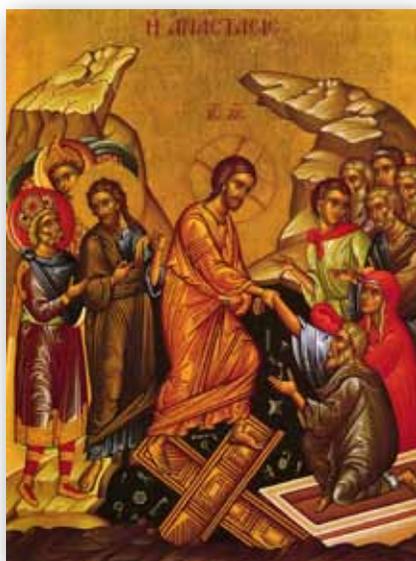
Just as St. Paul insisted on the central place of the Cross, in the Christian message, he also insisted on the truth of the Resurrection. "If Christ has not been raised then our preaching is useless, and your believing it is useless...if Christ has not been raised, you are still in your sins." (1 Corinthians 15: 14, 17)

No matter how sublime Jesus' teaching during His life, no matter how courageously he faced death, if His mission had ended on the Cross, it would have availed us little. Many have taught with wisdom and compassion; many have given up their lives for the sake of worthy causes. But only Jesus of Nazareth rose from the dead, and it is only through the Risen Jesus Christ that we find Salvation. Let us thank God that we have a living Savior – not a mere man who came and lived and died, but a God who could conquer death and the grave.

Confucius lived and died and was buried and stayed in the grave. Buddha lived and died and was buried and stayed in the grave. Mohammed lived and died and was buried and stayed in the grave. But when we go to the grave of Jesus, we hear again the angel's voice, "He is not here, He is risen." A dead man cannot save us. He cannot forgive our sins and take us to Heaven. But Jesus can!

He said, "Come unto me and I will not cast you out" (John 6:37). Peter's first sermon emphasized the fact that Jesus was raised from the dead to sit at the right hand of the Father, and sees this as certain evidence that Jesus truly is both Lord and Christ (Acts 2: 24, 32-36). He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. The empty tomb is therefore the sign of Christ's victory over death.

He rose according to the scriptures: "In fulfillment of the Scriptures" (Luke 24: 13 – 49). The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ were in fulfillment of the prophecies of the Old Testament. But even though Jesus had explained these prophecies to His followers during His public ministry, they failed to understand them. "Everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man is to come true....they will put Him to death, and on the third day He will rise again. But they could make nothing of this, what He said was quite obscure to them, they had no idea what is meant." (Luke 18: 31, 33-34).



When we recite the Creed, we profess our belief that the New Testament is the fulfillment of the Old Testament that God's plan of salvation which began with the descendants of Abraham came to the completion in Jesus Christ. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ was foretold by the prophets (Psalm 15:10). Also it was symbolized with the three days and the three nights burial of the Prophet Jonah in the belly of the sea beast (Matthew 12: 39-40).

Someone asked the Catholic Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen the following questions: How did Jonah survive three days and nights in the belly of the sea beast? The Archbishop answered: "When I get there I will ask him." Then came the second questions: "If he is not there," the Archbishop said, "THEN YOU ASK HIM."

The resurrection also was foretold many times by the risen Lord (Matthew 16: 21) (Matthew 17: 9-22-23) and (John 2: 19) (1 Corinthians 15: 3-9).

"I expect the Resurrection of the dead." Jesus Christ with His Resurrection gave us great proof about the future life after death. The Resurrection is an example – the true one of our own resurrection. Beloved, with the fall of communism in Russia, many ministers of different denominations in the United States went to Russia, an Orthodox Christian country, to preach Christianity. Among them was the Rev. Billy Graham, one of the greatest preachers of the Gospel in the United States. He was preaching the Word of God in large Orthodox Churches, always accompanied by a Russian Metropolitan (bishop).

One day, the Rev. Billy Graham asked the Metropolitan the following question: "How do you like my sermons?" The Metropolitan answered, "I do like your sermons, but you stop with the Crucifixion and do not preach about the Resurrection." The Rev. Graham mentioned the story upon his arrival in the states on television. During the years of communism in Russia, one great communistic speaker was invited to a big city to give a speech about communism. When he finished his speech, the person who invited the speaker asked if there were any questions. An old man raised his hand holding his cane and went to the podium, looked around and with strength in his voice said, "CHRISTOS VOSKRESE!" (Christ is Risen!) All of the people replied with one voice "VOISTINU VOSKRESE!" (Truly He is Risen!). The speaker then left from the side door.

What Does the Resurrection of Jesus Mean For Us?

The third day He rose from the dead. The old serpent, sin and death, Hades, all misery, fear, distress – Jesus Christ proclaimed their doom by his rising from the tomb. The resurrection of Jesus is the guarantee that God has accepted his son for the redemption of our sins.

*With the Love of the Risen Lord,
I wish you all good health and spiritual joy.
May we have a blessed Pascha! Kalo Pascha!*

February 25-27, 2011: Holy Trinity GOYA took three team basketball Tournament of the year at St. John Greek Orthodox C sportsmanship and fellowship, our teams brought back the Consolation Finals; Girls Junior Team - Third Place; Boys Junior awarded the Sportsmanship Award, as seen here being presented to all our players and coaches for a great season and t



ms and a lot of parents and fans to the last Metropolis Basket-
church in Boardman, Ohio. At the end of a great weekend of
following: Girls Senior Team - First Place; Boys Senior Team -
nior Team - Third Place. Best of all, the entire community was
ented at the end of the Divine Liturgy on Sunday. Congratula-
hank you for the parents and community for all their support!



NARRATIVE OF THE TIMELINE

- 1: "For Sale" signs are posted in front and on the side of Holy Trinity Church on August 22, 2010, just prior to the start of Holy Trinity's Summer Greek Festival.
- 2: Holy Trinity Church receives an inquiry about the sale from the Northside Institutional Church of God in Christ, which was looking for a new home after the loss of their previous church due to a fire. On January 28, 2011, representatives from the two churches reach an agreement on the terms of sale to be presented to their communities and governing bodies.
- 3: Parish leaders from both communities pause for a photo during a "Meet and Greet" event on February 8, 2011. Members of the Northside Church of God in Christ are given a tour of the facility.
- 4: A Holy Trinity Special General Assembly is convened on March 6, 2011 to present the offer to the community. A two-thirds majority is required for approval according to the Uniform Parish Regulations. A proposal to sell an unused/undeveloped portion of Holy Trinity Cemetery is also presented for approval.
- 5: Members of Holy Trinity Church are given an opportunity to speak and ask questions about the sale and about the future plans for the church.
- 6: After the presentation and discussions conclude, voting takes place.
- 7: The voting committee tallies the votes and declares both sales overwhelmingly approved.
- 8: On April 5, pastors and representatives from the leadership of both churches gather to sign papers and exchange payment, deeds and keys.
- 9: The announcement of the closing is made and an enlargement of the check is presented to the Holy Trinity Community on April 10, 2011.

START



TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

FINISH!



2



3



4



5



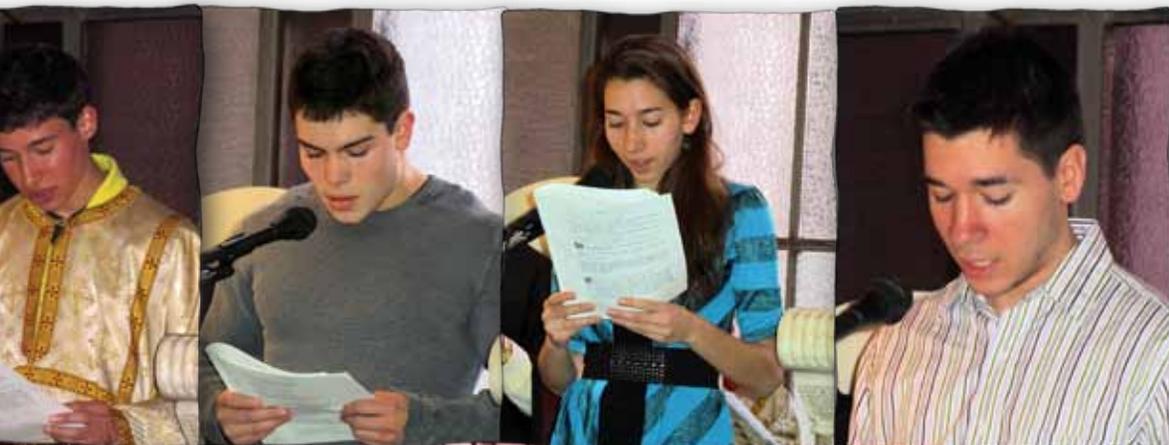
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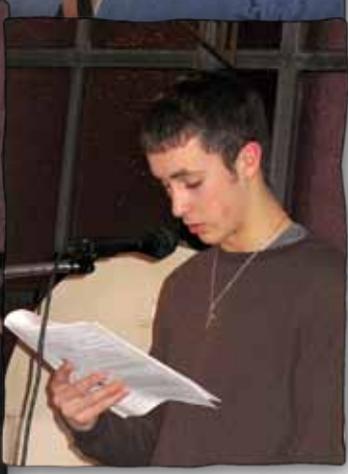
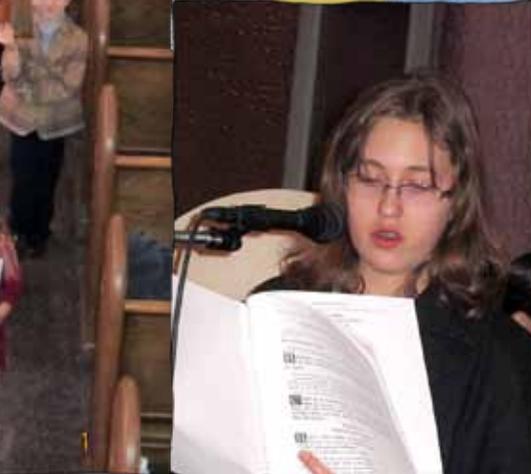
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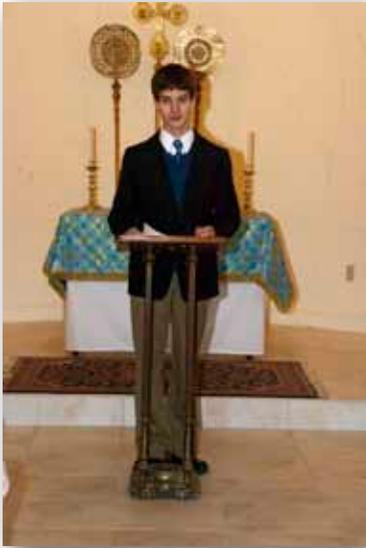






March/April, 2011: Lenten services at Holy Trinity Church once again provided opportunities for many people, especially our youth, to offer their contributions of time and talents through reading, singing and serving. They are pictured here throughout this sacred season. Many thanks to not only our young people, but also to their parents who encouraged, supported and transported them!





April 9, 2011: Holy Trinity Church hosted the Metropolis of Pittsburgh Central Region Saint John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival at the Saint George Chapel. The event was coordinated by Parish Council member and Church School teacher Stephanie Sedor. Seven teenagers from area parishes offered inspirational topics, including fasting, peace and the beauty of Orthodoxy.

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. Want more information? Visit their web site at www.philoptochos.org or contact a local member.

Philoptochos Report: March 2011

Easter Bake Sale

Don't forget our annual Easter Bake Sale. Orders are still being taken. We have the following items available:

- Baklava (9x13 pan) \$30/pan - frozen
- Spanakopita (9x13 pan) \$30/pan - frozen
- Sweet Pascha Bread \$7.50/loaf plain or sesame
- Philoptochos Cookbooks \$15.00/book

All orders must be prepared and received no later than Sunday, April 10 and must be picked up on Palm Sunday, April 17. Please make your check payable to "Ladies Philoptochos Society." See Kay Balouris or call her at 412-766-1263 for more information or questions.

Daffodil Luncheon

The annual Metropolis of Pittsburgh Daffodil Luncheon will be held on Sunday, April 30, 2011 at 11:30am at the Rivers Club, Oxford Center, on Grant Street. Proceeds from this charity event benefit the Philoptochos Social Services Fund and the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute's Melanoma Program. A brochure/reservation form is enclosed in this issue of *The Herald*. The requested donation is \$50 per person. Please see Kay Balouris if you would like to attend.

Lenten Luncheon

A most sincere thanks to everyone who attended the annual Lenten Luncheon. Special thanks for those who supported the event by making a delicious vegetable dish, salad or dessert or by offering a monetary donation.

Membership/Stewardship

In every issue of the Herald we keep asking all the young ladies of the Parish to please join the Philoptochos. In order for this chapter to survive we need new members, because those of us who have been members for a long time want to hand over the reins to you, the young ladies of Holy Trinity.

Festival

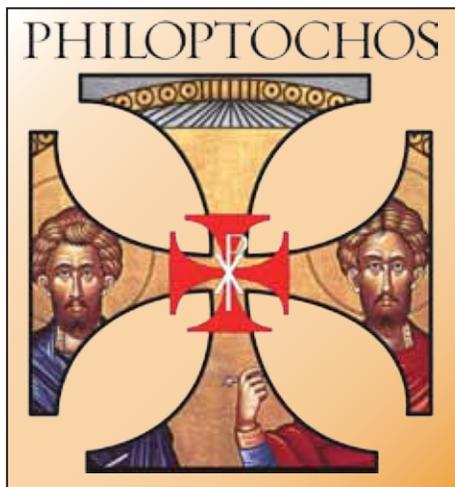
Don't forget about the Holy Trinity Spring Greek Festival from May 11 to 15, 2011. Help will be needed in all areas. Please plan to work and to bring your friends and family to enjoy a great time and good food!

Undies And Socks

We are still collecting undies and socks for needy children. Please help us to fill the box in the Narthex. Remember, every time you place a package of socks or undies in the collection box, you are helping needy children that sometimes do not even have one pair of these basic items when they are admitted for care. All collections benefit the Auberle Center. Thank you.

Allegheny Valley School "Labels for Education" Drive

The Allegheny Valley School is collecting UPC Proof of Purchase labels from Campbell's Products as part of the "Labels for Education" drive. The labels help Allegheny Valley School acquire classroom equipment and accessories. The equipment received through this program helps to enhance individual students at AVS. It's this simple: save your Campbell's Proof of Purchase labels (with the UPC barcode and the "Purchase Labels for Education" program logo on them and bring them to church. Drop them in the designated box at Coffee Hour. Qualifying Proof of Purchase labels can also be found on products from Pepperidge Farm, Pop Secret Popcorn and many other food products. Simply look for the label.



Japanese Earthquake & Tsunami Relief

From our National Philoptochos website: His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios issued an encyclical calling upon the faithful of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America to "offer their fervent prayers" for the people of Japan.

Resulting from continuous Chapter fundraising efforts, the National Philoptochos Society was financially empowered to immediately respond with aid in the amount of \$25,000 from the National Philoptochos Society's National Emergency Fund to the IOCC. The IOCC is coordinating its response with local Orthodox and ecumenical partners in

Japan to identify unmet needs that will complement the assistance being rendered by the Japanese and other governments.

The Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society is dedicated to assisting persons in need. It is our mission to offer kind acts and demonstrate our will to faithfully serve with a generous heart.

Please offer to our Lord and Saviour your most fervent prayers for our sisters and brothers in Japan and for all whose lives have been affected.

Summertime

By the time this issue is mailed, summer will be almost upon us, so we wish you a safe and happy summer!

Respectfully submitted,
Esther Ladakos, Secretary

IMPORTANT DATES TO NOTE DURING TRANSITION TO NEW PROPERTY

Please make note of the following significant dates during the upcoming move from our current North Avenue location to our interim worship and administrative site on our way to our new home at Babcock and Cumberland Roads in the North Hills.

DATE	EVENT	NOTES
Sunday, April 17	Palm Sunday	Last Sunday morning Divine Liturgy in current church sanctuary. Group photo to be taken at end of service.
Friday, April 22	Holy Friday	Trisagion in front of the Epitaphion at 7:00 p.m. Please submit names of all deceased Holy Trinity parishioners to be commemorated.
Saturday, April 23	Orthros and Divine Liturgy of the Resurrection	Last Divine Liturgy in current church sanctuary. Group photo to be taken at end of service. Followed by the last Anastasi Dinner in social hall.
Sunday, April 24	Agape Vespers	Last service to be held in current church sanctuary. Group photo to be taken at end of service.
Monday, April 25	Saint George Feast Day at Saint George Chapel	In addition to this being the Feast Day of the Chapel, this is the first weekday service after our departure from our current sanctuary. IMPORTANT NOTE: From this date until the day we open the new church, all WEEKDAY services (Liturgies, Paraclesis, Vespers, etc.), will be held at the Chapel.
Monday, April 25	Removal of relics and sacred items from church. Beginning of move-out of all items from church in accordance with terms of sale, which must be completed by May 9.	Relics will be removed by Bishop Melchisedek of the OCA at the invitation of our own Metropolitan Maximos, who is unable to attend for health reasons. Following the removal of the relics and other sacred items, our moving team will begin packing and moving all items in the church. Some will go to our interim location and some stored for the new church.
Sunday, May 1	Sunday Worship in Holy Trinity Social Hall	From May 1 through June 12, all Sunday worship services will held in the Holy Trinity Social Hall.
Saturday, June 11	Feast Day Dinner/Dance	Last Feast Day celebration at North Avenue
Sunday, June 12	Pentecost Sunday	Last Divine Liturgy in Social Hall at North Avenue location. Group photo to be taken at end of service.
Sunday, June 19	Combined communities Divine Liturgy at All Saints in Canonsburg for the Feast of All Saints	The All Saints community has graciously extended an invitation to join them for their Feast Day on the first Sunday we are without a church. This also gives us an extra week to prepare our interim location.
Sunday, June 26 <small>(*Details on interim location to be finalized)</small>	First Sunday worship service at our anticipated* interim location, Northway Elementary School, 495 Browns Lane Pittsburgh, PA (behind Northway Mall)	All Sunday services will be held here until the opening of the new church. This facility will also house our administrative offices, Church School and other activities, as we are full-time occupants.

QUESTION: How will baptisms, weddings and funerals be handled while we are in our interim location?

ANSWER: Funerals will be held at the Saint George Chapel unless deemed to be over approximately 80 people, in which case they will be held at a nearby Orthodox Church. We also have spoken to our sister parishes in Oakland, Mount Lebanon, Oakmont and Canonsburg about baptisms and weddings, so there are many choices on a date-available basis.

Priest Finds Sacred Relics Amid Rubble of Old Church

It was just another red brick building in a block of old red brick buildings on the North Side.

And they were all doomed to come tumbling down according to the blueprints in the urban redevelopment plan.

They were dismantling the building inside; workmen were feverishly cleaning house. They stamped their cigarets out in the doorway and when a hammer struck a thumb, no one cursed.

Still A Church

It was just another red brick building, but to these workers it was still a church — it would always be so. Even as a brick pile.

Standing amid the rubble was a priest, a lone holdout who had refused to abandon the old Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church building at 606 Sandusky St. — not until he found the relics.

The priest was Father John C. Pistes, and for two years he had sought in vain to find the relics — objects such as bones or articles of clothing traditionally secured in a church when it is consecrated.

The relic is kept in esteem and veneration because of its association with a saint or martyr. Because he couldn't find the relics, Father Pistes feared that his congregation had been deprived of worshiping in a properly consecrated church.

Enclosure Found

Then, eight days ago, the demolition crew—the church's board of directors — found identifications that the relics were enclosed in a column-like base of the wooden altar.

Father Pistes was summoned. He threw his gown-like sleeves back over his shoulders and went to work. Sweat flowed from his brow and his black garb became chalky as he scratched away at the protective covering.

Then, gently, he removed what appeared to be an ancient book encased in wax and a gold case the size and shape of a woman's com-



FATHER JOHN C. PISTES Examines precious relic.

pact. Within was a wax-like substance with a piece of bone.

"I never expected to find them," he said with a sigh of relief.

The priest performed a brief ritual and chanted an ancient prayer. Then he turned aside and surveyed the ruins of his first church.

Plaster Falling

The plaster was falling. A

film of dust covered everything. Icons remained on the glass cases in which they had been framed. One was of the Last Supper.

"It's like losing something inside you, but this church has served its purpose," he said.

Late last week, laboratory technicians at Mellon Institute managed to remove the wax casing from the book found from the altar.

From a parchment within, they learned the bone chip was a relic of St. Euphrosyne, a

who had been martyred in 288 A. D. because she refused to renounce her Christian faith near Constantinople.

Constantinople (now Istanbul, Turkey) is the center of the Greek Orthodox faith and all relics are sent from there to new churches, such as the present home of Father Pistes' congregation, the new Holy Trinity at 302 W. North Ave.

After the ritual, Father Pistes walked out of the old church, reassured that the precious relics had been located.

This article has been taped to a wall in the Holy Sanctuary of Holy Trinity Church for many years. It recalls important events in the history of the previous location of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church at 606 Sandusky Street, not far from the 302 West North Avenue, which will soon be going through its own closure process.

In reading the article, a curious question is raised: Why couldn't the relics be found? They are always in a special place inside the Holy Altar table, covered over and sealed in wax during the process of the consecration of the church.

The answer to that mystery was recently explained by Louis Cherpes, who is a Parish Council Past President and was involved in both the closure of the Sandusky Street church and the construction and opening of the North Avenue church. According to Lou, who personally witnessed the events described here, the author of this article exercised some journalistic license, which resulted in a dramatic description of the story.

What really occurred was, in fact, two events: first, the removal of the holy relics from the Holy Altar table when the church was closed and then, later, the removal of a time capsule-type box from the foundation of the church after the demolition began. The capsule contained only names and receipts! Thanks to Lou for solving the mystery! + Fr. John

Reflections in modern Greek selected by Voula Hareras for the celebration of the Resurrection and the life of St. Anthimos of Chios



Voula Hareras

Χριστός Ανέστη!

Χριστός Ανέστη! Ποτέ φράση δέν άναπαήθηκε τόσο δέν προφέρθηκε με πίο φωτεινό πρόσωπο, δέν παρηγόρησε πίοτερο από ό, τιδήποτε άλλο μισοσβημένα από τόν πόνο μάτια και καταφαρμακωμένα από τήν όδύνη του πίο πικρού θανάτου χείλη.

Χριστός Ανέστη! Λόγος φτερωτός και παντοδύναμος. Γιατί διαλαλεί τήν πίο μεγάλη νίκη των αιώνων

και αιωνίζει τό πίο μεγάλο θαύμα, τή θεία Άνάταση και τήν ανθρώπινη Ελπίδα.

Χριστός Ανέστη! Κι άνοιγουν τά μνήματα του μαύρου (Αδη και ζωή καινούργια, άθάνατη [πολιτεύεται] στό φώς. Η χαρά, ποτάμι άσύγκράτητο, άρδεύει ευφρόσθνα τήν καφαλισμένη από τή φλόγα τής άμαρτίας γή των ψυχών και μιά [καινή κτίση] χορεύει πασίχαρη.

Χριστός Ανέστη! Και σμίγουν οί ψυχές στό Θεϊκό άσπασμό, πού λαχταρούσαν, μά τίς χώριζαν οί καταχθόνιες άνθρωποκτόνες δυνάμεις του Εχθρού.

Χριστός Ανέστη! Ο πίο γλυκός χαιρετισμός κι ή πίο χαρμόσυνη διακήρυξη. Χριστός άνέστη! Και ό άνθρωπος άνέστη!

Ανθος Εύωδίας Πνευματικής Άγιος Άνθιμος

Ανθος Εύωδίας Πνευματικής - Άγιος Άνθιμος και τής μαστίχας, αλλά και τό Νησί των Άγίων. Είναι μυροβόλος ή Χίος διότι είναι

Μυροβόλος ονομάζεται ή Χίος, και όχι άδικα. Είναι νησί με σπάνια φυσική όμορφιά πού μοσχοβολά από άκρη σε άκρη. Ωστόσο ή Χίος δέν είναι μόνο τό νησί των λεμονανθών τόπος ιερός και άγιασμένος. Τά χώματά της τά άγιασαν ένδοξοι μάρτυρες, όσοι Πατέρες άξιοι ποιμένες και διδάσκαλοι, σε διάφορες εποχές μέχρι και τίς ήμέρες μας.

Άνάμεσα τους ξεχώρισε τελευταία με τήν άρετή και τήν αγιότητά του ένας νεοφανής Άγιος, ό Άγιος Άνθιμος τής Χίου, ό θαυματουργός (1869 -1960). Άληθινό άνθος εύωδίας πνευματικής.

Μητέρα έλα γρήγορα... τί συμβαίνει, Νικόλα΄.

Έτρεξε ή Μάνα άλαφιασμένη, από τήν μιά έβλεπε να τήν κοιτάζει μέσα από τήν κούνια με τά γαλανά του ματάκια και από τήν άλλη τόν πρωτογιό της Νίκο άποσβολωμένο να έχει σταυλώσει τό βλάμμα του πάνω στο μικρό αδερφάκι του.

Τί έγινε Νίκο είσαι καλά , ή Παναγία ήρθε ή Παναγία Μάνα.. τήν είδα να σκεπάζει τό μωρό μας σαν μέσα σε ένα φώς Μητέρα τ΄ άκούς.

Έκανε τό σταυρό της ή πιστή μάνα, δέν ήξερε τί να πεί. Νάταν άλήθεια ή παιδικό όνειρο...Οί μέρες περνούσαν και ό Νίκος συχνά έβλεπε να επαναλαμβάνεται ή ίδια σκηνή με τήν Θεοτόκο να φανερώνεται δίπλα στο αδελφάκι του λουσμένο μέσα σε φώς θεϊκό. Τώρα πιά δέν υπήρχε άμφιβολία. Η Παναγία σκέπαζε ιδιαιτέρως με τήν χάρη της τό μικρό παιδί πού έμελλε να ξεχωρίσει με τήν άγιασμένη ζωή του.

Ο Άργύρης, έτσι βάπτισαν τό παιδί, μεγάλωσε. Τό σχολείο δέν τό τελείωσε, γιατί ήταν τέτοιες οί άνάγκες και από μικρός έμαθε να δουλεύει τσαγκάρης. Ήταν και αυτός ένας τρόπος να βοηθά οίκονομικά τό σπίτι. Ο ίδιος δέν είχε άπαιτήσεις. Ζούσε άσκητικά, λίγο φαγητό του άρκούσε, τηρούσε όλες τίς νηστείες και προσευχόταν κάθε ήμέρα, και με τήν χάρη τής Παναγίας διατηρούσε καθαρή τήν ψυχή του και προόδευε σε κάθε άρετή.

Ο πιστός νέος έτρεφε μέσα του ιδιαίτερη εύλάβεια για τήν Ύπεραγία Θεοτόκο, μάλιστα είχε φυλάξει ως ιερό κειμήλιο τήν εικόνα τής Παναγίας τής βοήθειας, τήν όποία είχε πάρει από τήν μητέρα του και αυτή από τήν γιαγιά της. Αυτή ή εικόνα άποτελούσε τή μόνιμη συντροφιά και παρηγοριά του. Είχε γίνει παλληκάρι πιά 19 χρονών, όταν ένα γεγονός σημάδεψε τή ζωή του.

Η εικόνα τής Παναγίας τής βοήθειας πού διατηρούσε ως οίκογενειακό κειμήλιο, από τό πέρασμα του χρόνου παρουσίαζε άρκετές φθορές. Θέλησε λοιπόνά τήν επιδιορθώσει και γι΄ αυτό τή μετέφερε στη σκήτη των Άγίων Πατέρων. Εκεί οί μοναχοί θα μπορούσαν να κάνουν σωστά τήν συντηρησή της. Αυτό έγινε άφορμή ό νεαρός Άργύρης να αγαπήσει τό Μοναστήρι και να γνωρίσει από κοντά τό γέροντα Παχώμιο, τόν ήγούμενο τής Μονής πού είχε διατελέσει και πνευματικός του Άγίου Νεκταρίου.

Έκτισε λίγο πίο έξω από τό σπίτι του μιά καλύβα, (μιά ταπεινή κέλλα) όπως τήν όνόμασε και εκεί άποσυρόταν και προσευχόταν. Εκεί είχε άποθέσει ως πολύτιμο θησαυρό και τήν εικόνα τής Παναγίας τής βοήθειας, ή όποία τόν ενίσχυε στον πνευματικό του άγώνα, τόν παρηγορούσε στις δυσκολίες και έπιτελούσε θαύματα. Κημερινά έρχονταν οί γείτονες να τήν προσκυνήσουν και να λάβουν πλούσια τή χάρη της.

Ο Άργύρης συνεχώς προόδευε στην πνευματική του ζωή. Σε ήλικία 40 έτών έγινε μοναχός και έλαβε τό όνομα Άνθιμος. Παρά τήν εύθραυστη υγεία του επιδόθηκε σε έντονους άσκητικούς άγώνες και αξιώθηκε να δει ούράνιες όπτασίες, ό άγιος Θεός του έδωσε τό χάρισμα να τελεί θαύματα, και πολλοί άσθενείς κοντά του βρήκαν τή θεραπεία τους.

Χειροτονήθηκε πρεσβύτερος και ένδεδυμένος με τήν χάρη τής Ιερωσύνης οδηγούσε πολλές ψυχές στη λύτρωση και τήν σωτηρία. Μεγάλο κεφάλαιο τής ζωής του άποτελούν τά είκοσι χρόνια πού υπηρέτησε ως έφημέριος στο λεπροκομείο τής Χίου. Στάθηκε δίπλα στους άσθενείς με στοργή και με άγάπη μέχρι αυτοθυσίας. Τό φωτεινό παράδειγμα του μετέβαλε τό λεπροκομείο σε τόπο μετανοίας και άγάπης Θεού.

Ωστόσο τό τέλος τής ζωής του άνηκε όποκλειστικά στην Ύπεραγία Θεοτόκο πού τόσο άγάπησε, Έκτισε ένα Μοναστήρι στο όνομα τής Παναγίας τής βοήθειας, όπου έγκατεστάθηκαν άρκετές μοναχές, τίς όποιες καθοδηγούσε ό ίδιος στην πνευματική ζωή.

Στό Μοναστήρι αυτό άφιέρωσε τά τελευταία 30 χρόνια τής ζωής του, μέχρι τό 1960, όποτε και παρέδωσε τήν ψυχή του στον Πανάγαθο Θεό, ήταν ήδη 91 έτών.

Μετά τήν κοιμησή του ό Άγιος Θεός φανέρωσε ακόμη πίο έντονα τήν αγιότητά του, ό άγιος Άνθιμος δέν έπαυσε να θαυματουργεί και μάλιστα να θεραπεύει ακόμη αι τίς πίο δύσκολες άσθένειες.

Νικηφορος, Από τό περιοδικό προς τήν Νίκη

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Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

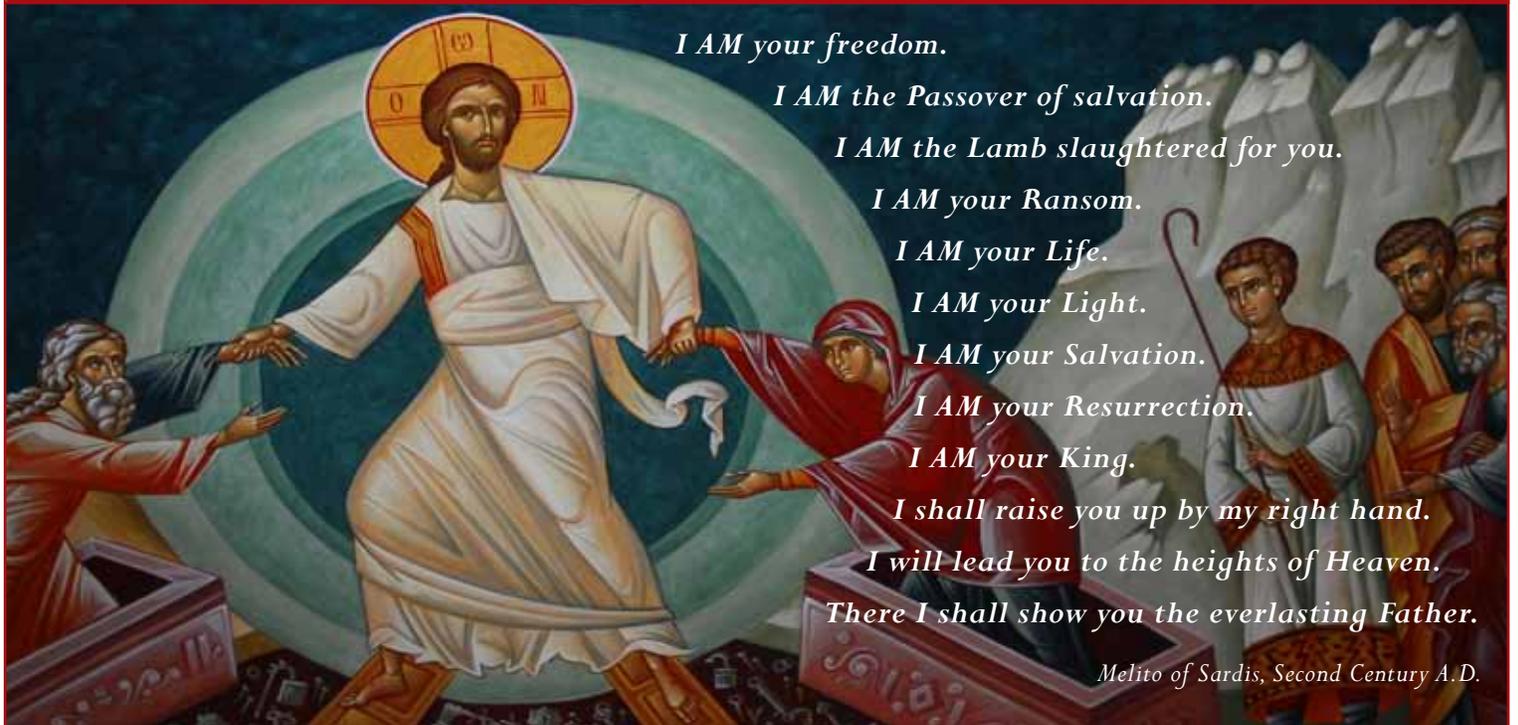


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The "I AM's" of Pascha



I AM your freedom.

I AM the Passover of salvation.

I AM the Lamb slaughtered for you.

I AM your Ransom.

I AM your Life.

I AM your Light.

I AM your Salvation.

I AM your Resurrection.

I AM your King.

I shall raise you up by my right hand.

I will lead you to the heights of Heaven.

There I shall show you the everlasting Father.

Melito of Sardis, Second Century A.D.

Scripture of the Month: "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live" (John 11.25)