



THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

JUNE-JULY 2011

VOLUME 19 • ISSUE 5

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June-July Parish Calendar

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**Holy Trinity 2011
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QUICK NEWS



His Grace Bishop Melchizedek of the OCA Diocese holds the relics of Saint Eftemia after removing them from the Holy Altar table at Holy Trinity Church. Want to see other photos of the last services in the life of Holy Trinity Church and the massive moving-out effort? Check out the Community Life Photo Journal on pages 8-17.



One Last Look Down the Aisle: Holy Trinity Church's North Side sanctuary waits in profound silence and anticipation for the final Divine Liturgy on April 24, 2011—51 years and 7 days after the first Divine Liturgy was celebrated there on April 17, 1960. This issue of *The Herald* is dedicated in thanksgiving for those many blessed years and documents the last weeks and worship services of our community's North Avenue home.

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

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

302 West North Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15212-4626

Phone: 412-321-9282 • Fax: 412-321-7272

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Email: office@HolyTrinityPgh.org

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

Jason Farmakis Yvonne Balouris

George Danis George Dickos

Troy Geanopoulos Joanne Germanos

Louis Kort Andrew Athanasios

Vasilios Scoumis Gerri Valliant

Ministries

Philoptochos Kay Balouris, 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 Vas Scoumis, Coordinator

Bookstore Bill and Linda Areheart



It is finished.

John 19:30

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Risen Christ,

Christ is Risen!

During the sacred and solemn observations of Holy Week, with the Passion and Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the three words above were uttered: "It is finished." They are, in the Gospel of Saint John, the last words uttered by Jesus on the Cross. For those walking the steps of His Holy Passion in those moving services, this is a singular and defining moment of deep personal impact. Some would conclude the sentence by saying they were His last words before "He died." Indeed, He did—and He did it for us—but to look at it in only that manner truly misses the ministry, the mission and the saving grace He offered to us. It allows us to contain the uncontainable within the prison of our sorrow.

How, then, can we find the deeper and broader meaning of those words? Perhaps it is a more complete and balanced expression to say they were the last words before "He fulfilled His mission." Maybe we would say they were the last words "of His ministry on earth" as the incarnate Son of God. Finally, we could say they were the last words of hope which opened the door to the grace needed to save us, for He said, "I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you" (John 16:7). No matter how we look at it, it is a real death, a moment of true ending. It is also the passage into new life for all who believe in Him.

Here at Holy Trinity Church, we have experienced a similar sense of "it" being "finished." In some ways it has felt like a death. And like the same words of Christ, our interpretation of the meaning of that expression can lead us to dramatically different conclusions ... and futures. Let's take a look. On the one hand, the meaning—or at least the outward manifestation—of "it is finished" is quite obvious: the photo journal of the removal of the relics, dismantling of the sacred items and closing of the holy sanctuary bring us to the undeniable reality that the days of worship in that sacred space are over. Though its memories as our home, the center of our life of baptisms, weddings, funerals, sacred celebrations and communing as and with the Body of Christ are with us forever, the actual days are "gone." If we remain isolated in that terminal thought, we remain imprisoned in the grief of those who stood by the Cross of Jesus and went no further into that moment than the profound sense of loss and His being "gone." If we stand in the illumination of the Resurrection, however, we are better equipped to proclaim far more: instead of merely being "gone", we can bear witness with thanksgiving that Northside home's time for serving us is "complete," just as 51 years ago this same community grew from its Sandusky Street original location to North Avenue, with one place preparing the way for the other. It was not over then. It is not over now. We have come to yet another important and essential phase in the life and mission of this Holy Church and have embraced it with courage, faith and hope.

When the Son of God took on flesh, He walked among us for 33 years until His mission was accomplished according to God's plan. Holy Trinity Church as we knew it has been with us for the past 51 years, founded in that same Christ and built by our forefathers, and it has now reached the fulfillment of its mission as well. Please join me in thanking God in our soul, carrying with us our beloved forbears in our memories, proclaiming with our lips, "It is finished," and bearing witness in our hearts...

It is just beginning!

WORSHIP LIFE**Feast Day Weekend.....June 11-13**

Please note the schedule of services for the Feast Day Weekend of our parish, June 11-13 this year. First is the annual Pentecost Saturday of Souls Liturgy at the St. George Chapel. Pentecost Sunday features the Divine Liturgy and the "Kneeling Service" (Feast Day Vespers) and our LAST LITURGY in the social hall at our 302 W. North Avenue location. 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 11 - 8:30 am Orthros/9:30 am Liturgy: Saturday of the Souls Liturgy at St. George Chapel at Holy Trinity Cemetery.

Pentecost Sunday, June 12 - 8:30 am Orthros/9:30 am Liturgy: Pentecost Sunday Liturgy, followed by the "Kneeling Vespers" of the Holy Spirit. This is also the very last service in our social hall at our North Avenue location.

Monday, June 13 - 8:30 am Orthros/9:30 am Liturgy: Feast Day of the Holy Spirit at Saint George Chapel.

Sunday of All Saints at Canonsburg..... June 19

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. THIS IS NOT A SUNDAY OFF! It is, rather, a rare opportunity to share in community fellowship with a beloved sister parish. They will also be hosting a complimentary feast day luncheon following the service.

First Sunday at Northway Elementary..... June 26

Please note: the first Sunday Divine Liturgy at our interim location, Northway Elementary School, will be held on June 26, 2011, at 9:30 a.m. Please observe all parking signs.

Interim Worship Locations

During our interim stay while our new church is being constructed, please take note of our worship locations:

- **ALL SUNDAY SERVICES: Northway Elementary**
495 Browns Lane (Behind Northway Mall)
- **ALL WEEKDAY SERVICES: Saint George Chapel**
8941 Ringeisen Road (At Holy Trinity Cemetery)

Weekday Services.....June

Please take note of the following weekday Liturgies for the feast days in the month of June. As noted above, all weekday services are held at the Saint George Chapel. Orthros is at 8:30 a.m., followed by Divine Liturgy at 9:30.

Thu. June 2: The Ascension of the Lord

Wed. June 8, 6:00pm: Paraclesis to the Theotokos

Sat. June 11: Saturday of Souls

Mon. June 13: Monday of the Holy Spirit

Wed. June 29: The Holy Apostles Ss. Peter and Paul

YOUTH MINISTRIES**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.

GOYA Spring/Summer Activities

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

June 20-25: FOCUS Appalachia Mission Trip

July 5/6: Cedar Point Fun/St. Gregory Palamas Mission trip

July 10-16: Metropolis Summer Camp

July 17: GOYA Senior Dinner

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

Attention all Holy Trinity campers and families: Online registration is now available on the Metropolis Web Site, pittsburgh.goarch.org. Please note that the deadline for registering without a late fee is May 30. All applications submitted online by that published date will have a total fee of only \$330 (Regular registration fee of \$480 - \$150 Holy Trinity grant). After that it goes to \$495. It just doesn't make sense to waste the money: Going to camp? ... get your application in on time! Don't forget, to receive the Holy Trinity grant you must register online and use the Holy Trinity discount code "150HTP". This must be used at the time of registration and cannot be applied afterward. Don't wait - act now! 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).

COMMUNITY NEWS**Summer Camp Dates.....June 20-26/July 11-17**

Attention all Holy Trinity campers and families: Online registration is now available on the Metropolis Web Site, pittsburgh.goarch.org. Please note that the deadline for registering without a late fee and for receiving the Holy Trinity grant for the 2010 Metropolis Summer Camp season has been extended. All applications submitted online by that published date will have a total fee of only \$310 (Regular registration fee of \$460 - \$150 Holy Trinity grant). It just doesn't make sense to waste the money: Going to camp? ... get your application in on time! Don't forget, to receive the Holy Trinity grant you must register online and use the Holy Trinity discount code "SKDMQC". This must be used at the time of registration and cannot be applied afterward. Don't wait - act this week! Please note the designated Holy Trinity weeks for our Metropolis Summer Camp dates in 2010: JOY is Week 1 (June 20-26) and GOYA is Week 4 (July 11-17).

NEW HOLY TRINITY CONTACT INFORMATION

NEW PHONE NUMBER: 412-366-8700 FAX: 412-366-8710 Effective immediately

NEW ADDRESS: 495 Browns Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15237 Effective June 15, 2011

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

June-July 2011 – The Voice of the Gospel



Father John Androutsopoulos

The Ascension of our Lord

Beloved Brothers and Sisters: Christ is ascended into Heaven; Truly He has ascended!

This Holy Day, one of the great feast days of our Church, is celebrated on the 40th day after Pascha, which is Jesus' resurrection. This year the feast day is celebrated June 2, 2011.

"He ascended into Heaven and seated at the right hand of the

Father." (Our Creed).

What Does The Ascension Proclaim To Us?

On the 40th day after the resurrection, the visible appearances of Jesus in the company of the disciples ceased. The risen Lord returned into the invisible world of God. "So then the Lord Jesus, after He had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down on the right hand of God." (Mark 16:19)

He sat down at the right hand of the Father. This means that Jesus, after His ascension into the Heavens, received from His Heavenly Father the same honor, glory and authority which he had as God existing eternally in the bosom of His Father.

To profess our belief that Jesus is at the right hand of the Father is one way of professing our belief that He is the Lord, the Messiah, and the Divine Son of God. It is also a way of professing our faith that He is our Lord and Savior, and that we can place our confidence in Him. St. Paul reminds us that because Jesus is now at the right hand of the Father pleading for us, we can be sure of God's love for us and His desire that we escape condemnation. (Romans 8:31-31)

Is Jesus Present In The World Today?

He did not forsake this world. As the atmosphere invisibly surrounds all men, so the living Lord is present with all who believe in Him. Jesus has left this world, but not left it. He is not present as He once was, but He is present yet. We await His return some day, but not as though He had completely left us. He is ascended, but with us still. "Lo, I am with you

always to the close of the age." (Matthew 28:20)

God has given His son all authority in heaven and on earth. Since the resurrection and the ascension of Jesus, these words apply: HE LIVES AND REIGNS! "All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me." (Matthew 28:18)

Jesus said this as man, because as God with His Father and the Holy Spirit had the authority before all ages. As man, He did not have the authority, but He received it from God the Father and He said to His disciples that He as man was given to Him every authority which I had eternally as God. "He (God) has put all things under His (Christ's) feet and has made Him the head over all things for the Church, which is His body. (Ephesians 1: 22-23)

Beloved, let us hear what St. Augustine so beautifully shows how we can follow Christ into heaven, not only by virtues, but also by overcoming our evil inclinations and vicious dispositions. We thereby make these inclinations and dispositions as if they were steps upon which we ascend; they will raise us up when we keep them under control. We make a ladder of vices (mortal sins) by mastering them. With the author of righteousness, no wickedness can ascend, nor pride with the teacher of humility; nor impurity with the Son of the Virgin.

Beloved, I am closing my message for the month of June with the following verse from the book of Acts, chapter 1, verse 11. "Men of Galilee" they said two men dressed in white, "why do you stand there looking up in the sky? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven will come back in the same way that you saw Him go to heaven. Beloved, Jesus



Christ is coming again!"

Why is Jesus coming again? When will He come? Both questions (God willing), I will try to give some answers in the next publication of the Herald.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, Son of the living God, we believe that You are at the right hand of the Father, interceding for us. Teach us to have absolute trust and confidence in your love for us. Amen.

*With the Love of the Ascended Lord,
Rev. Fr. John K. Androutsopoulos, Protopresbyter*

Reflections in modern Greek on the Greek National Anthem and the hymn "Ti Ypermaho," excerpted from the periodical, "Pros Tin



Voula Hareras

Ύμνους

Μέσα σέ δυό Ύμνους έχουν κρύψει οί Έλληνες ότι ύψηλό καί άγιο έχει ή ψυχή τους.

Ήνας είναι ό Εθνικός Ύμνος, ό Ύμνος στην Έλευθερία. [Σέ γνωρίζω από την κόψη..]

Όταν ψάλλεται ή άνακρούεται, ριγά ό Έλληνας, στέκεται όρθιος, άκίνητος, Χαιρετά. Δακρύζει.

Μέσα στις δυό στροφές του Όλοι οί καυμοί καί οί πόνοι τής φυλής του, όλες οί νίκες καί οί θριάμβοι του Γένους, όλη ή ιστορία του...

Ό άλλος είναι Ύμνος άφιερωμένος στην Παναγία μας. [Τή Ύπερμάχω Στρατηγή τά νικητήρια...] Ό πιο γνωστός καί δημοφιλής Ύμνος. Ένας Ύμνος πού ένώνει τούς Έλληνες, γιατί τούς έκφράζει σέ ότι πιο βαθύ έχει τό είναι τους.

Άπό τότε πού πρωτοάκούσθηκε [626 μ.χ.] στή Βασιλεύοθσα Πόλη μέχρι καί σήμερα ή πίστη στή βοήθεια καί προστασία τής Παναγίας μας στις έθνικές μας περιπέτειες έπιβεβαιώθηκε καί ίσχυροποιήθηκε μέ άδιαμφισβήτητα γεγονότα.

Αυτή ή πονεμένη Παναγία μας,παράστεκε στό δούλο γένος μας. Μέ αυτήν πέρασε τά μαύρα εκατόχρονα ό

σκλάβος. Αυτήν έπικαλέσθηκε στις δύσκολες ώρες του Άγώνα ό γέρος του Μωριά. Αυτήν εύχαρίστησε ό Καραϊσκάκης, καθώς καί ό Κανάρης, οί ήρωες πού κράτησαν τή βία του τυράννου στή στεριά καί στήν Θάλασσα.

Σέ αυτόν τόν Ύμνο ή Έλληνική ψυχή κλείνει τή βαθιά της εύγνωμοσύνη γιά ότι τής δόθηκε, αλλά καί τίς προσδοκίες της γιά ότι ποθεί νά λάβει. Όταν ψάλλεται είναι σαν ένας θούριος σαν ένας παιάνας. Αίσθάνεσαι καί τότε την έσωτερική παρόρμηση νά

Δυό Ύμνοι. Δυό αγάπες του Έλληνα. Ή Πίστη καί ή Πατρίδα. Τί όμορφα πού συνταιριάζουν στον Μάρτη, τόν Μήνα τής Έθνεγερσίας, τό μήνα [πού γιορτάζει ή Παναγία, γιορτάζει κί ή Πατρίδα.]

Δυό Ύμνοι δυό άξονες γύρν άπό τούς όποιους κινήθηκαν πάντα οί άγώνες των Έλλήνων.

Γιά του Χριστού την πίστη την άγία
Καί τής Πατρίδος την έλευθερία
Γι' αυτά τά δό θά πολεμώ
Κι' άν δέν τά άποκτήσω
Τί μέ ώφελεί νά ζήσω

Ετσι τραγουδούσαν. Γι' αυτά πολεμούσαν. Γι' αυτό νικούσαν, χαράζοντας καί γιά τούς συνεχιστές τής φυλής τόν δοκιμασμένον δρόμο τής Νίκης.

Από τό περιοδικό πρós την Νίκη

You're Invited! | A Community Invitation from Father John & Family



*What We Are Is
God's Gift To Us*

*What We Become Is
Our Gift To God*



Please join Fr. John & Becky Touloumes & family in celebrating

Maria Ioanna Touloumes

Class of 2011

**Graduating from Bethel Park High School
to JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY**

Friday, June 17, 2011 ~ 6:00-10:00pm

The entire Holy Trinity Church family is invited to join Father John, Presvytera Becky & family in celebrating with them.

Location:
Bethel Park
Community Center
5151 Park Avenue
Bethel Park, PA 15102

RSVP by June 5, 2011
to either:
fjt@HolyTrinityPgh.org
or 412-874-5195





HOLY TRINITY CHURCH CLASS OF 2011

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!

Marielena Balouris **North Allegheny High School**



Marielena graduated as a Senior Scholar from North Allegheny Senior High School, where she was a recipient of the Director's Award for the North Allegheny Choir and the Eleanor Pontiere Memorial Choral Scholarship. She has been involved in musical theatre since 2nd grade, substantial roles in many productions and has also been a five-year

Student Council officer. She has been very active at Holy Trinity, including Church School, Choir and GOYA. She will attend Pennsylvania State University and major in broadcast journalism.

Demetri Danis **North Hills High School**



Demetri graduated from North Hills High School. He has been a life-long participant in Holy Trinity Church School and GOYA, where he especially enjoyed playing for the GOYA basketball team. He also served as an acolyte and volunteered as a worker and dancer for the Greek Festival. Demetri has served as a sight guide for visually impaired teens. He looks forward to working as a YMCA camp counser this summer, after which he will attend Edinboro University of PA in the fall to major in health and physical education.

Tommy graduated from Pine-Richland High School

as a 3-year varsity Football Letterman. During his junior and senior years, he led the WPIAL in receptions and was named to the "Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Fab 22." Tommy has been an active participant in Holy Trinity GOYA, playing for the basketball team. He also works as a coach for various children's sports camps. He will be attending Duquesne University, where he received three separate scholarships. He plans to study international business (and visit Austria as often as possible!)

Ephraim Thomas Berexa **Pine-Richland High School**



Michael Erdeljac **Vincentian Academy**



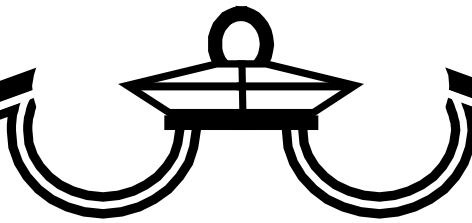
Michael graduated as an Honors Student from Vincentian Academy, where he was captain of the golf team and a two-year captain of the lacrosse team. He was the head of set construction and lighting for the school musicals and was involved in clubs for disability awareness, school publications and political interests. He has been life-long active member of Holy Trinity Church School and GOYA. He will be attending High Point University, where he will major in business administration and political science.



The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

(Proverbs 9.10)





CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!

"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." (M. Hock, "Blessed Are the Pure In Heart For They Shall See God.")

Anthony Fekos **Montour High School**



Anthony graduated from Montour High School, where he was a four-year member of the track team and a member of the school choir. He has participated in the Special Olympics, competing in basketball, soccer, track and field and bowling. He has been an active member of Holy Trinity Church, participating in the Church Choir and volunteering for the Greek Festival, where he was also a Greek dancer. He will be attending a vocational training program in the fall.

Eleni Mermigas **North Allegheny High School**



Eleni graduated from North Allegheny Senior High School, where she participated in four years of track & field and cross-country and was awarded the scholar-athlete for each season. She was also involved in the school's Key Club, Class Council and Student Council. She has been a part of Holy Trinity Church School and GOYA. She will attend the University of Pittsburgh, where she will major in biology and pre-med, with a possible minor in Spanish. She thanks all her new friends in GOYA who welcomed her and her sisters with open arms.

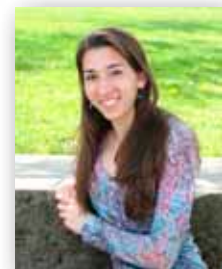
Anthony graduated from Montour High School, where he

Katie graduated in the top 5% of her class at Pine-Richland High School, where she played field hockey all 4 years, earning MVP her senior year. She was a member of the National Honor Society and was active in Student Government, World Language NHS, Key Club and Best Buddies. She has been an active Holy Trinity GOYA member and officer, participating mission trips to Mexico and Montana and "dancing down the court" in GOYA basketball for 6 years. She will attend University of Richmond and major in biology.

Kathryn Georgiadis **Pine-Richland High School**



Maria Touloumes **Bethel Park High School**



Maria graduated as an AP Scholar from Bethel Park High School, where she was a National Honor Society officer and was a captain and four-year letter-winner on the soccer and track teams. She was honored as a Tribune-Review Outstanding Young Citizen and was her school's WPIAL Female Scholar-Athlete 2011 nominee. She has been involved in Holy Trinity Church School and served in GOYA as president and was a missionary to Mexico and Montana. She will attend Johns Hopkins University.



KeeP my words and treasure up
my commandments with you;
keep my commandments and live.

(Proverbs 7.1-2)



April 17-22, 2011: Scenes from the last Holy Week at Holy Trinity Church's North Side location, including a group shot of the last Sunday morning Divine Liturgy in the church. Interestingly, the very first Divine Liturgy at the North Avenue church was celebrated on Palm Sunday, April 17, 1960. Exactly 51 years later, on both the liturgical and civil calendars, the last Sunday morning Liturgy was held there on Palm Sunday, April 17, 2011!











CHR





IST IS RISEN!





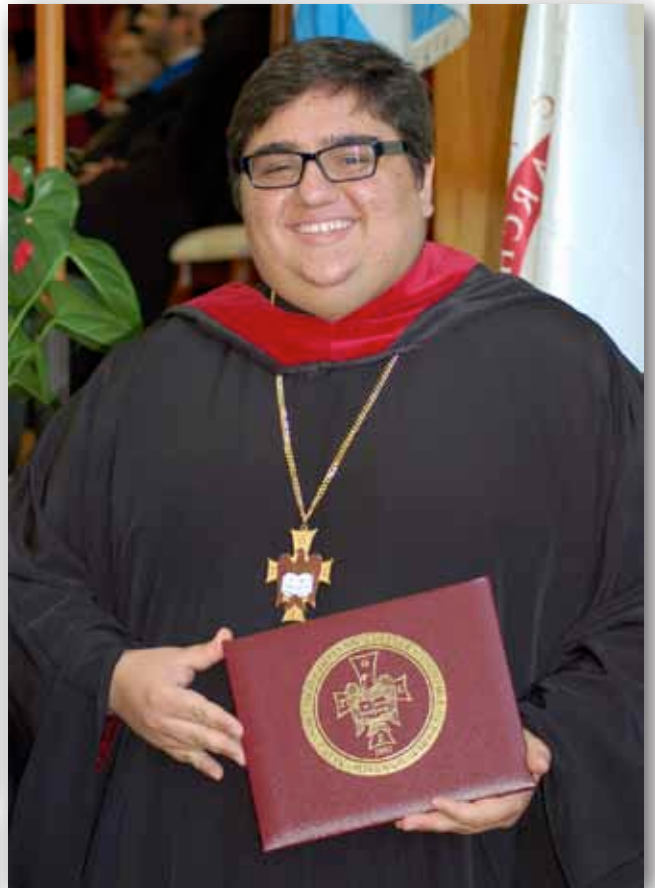






Community Life Photo Journal | Holy Trinity's Seminary Graduate!

May 21, 2011: George Athanasiou graduates Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, MA, making him the first graduate of the school from Holy Trinity Church in over three generations (possibly ever - still checking!). Joining his parents, Joyce and Harry and his brother, Andrew, were members of his family and, representing the entire Holy Trinity community, Father John, Presvytera Becky and George and Niko Touloumes. Congratulations, George! AXIOS!



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Please note new contact information for Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church Interim Location

Address: 495 Browns Lane
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
Phone: 412-366-8700
Fax: 412-366-8710
Internet: www.HolyTrinityPgh.org

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McCandless Township, North Hills

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Contact Cemetery Chairman Bill Fiedler
412-364-1545

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I/we wish to sponsor a *Herald*. Please include the following message:

☐ In memory of... ☐ For the health of... ☐ In thanksgiving for... ☐ In honor of... ☐ To the Glory of God...
☐ other: ()

(list names or further information here):



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The Final Turn of the Key

*For everything
there is a season,
and a time for
every matter under
heaven. I know
that whatever God
does endures for
ever; nothing can
be added to it, nor
anything taken from
it; God has made it
so, in order that men
should fear before
Him. That which is,
already has been.*

Ecclesiastes 3.1, 14-15

April 25, 2011: Following the service of the removal of the relics, senior community member Anthony Balouris turns the key one last time, closing 51 years of worship at Holy Trinity Church, as Father John looks on, bearing the Resurrection candle from the last Liturgy.

Scripture of the Month: “For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.” (Psalm 122.9)