



# THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

OCTOBER 2014 VOLUME 22 • ISSUE 8

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH • PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

## Saint Anastasia of Rome - October 29

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### QUICK NEWS



Our Saganaki Team entertains hungry guests under the "Taste of Greece" Festival Tent. Want to see more photos of this exciting annual event and others in the life and ministries of Holy Trinity Church? See the Community Life Photo Journal on pages 8-12 or visit our online photo gallery site at [photos.HolyTrinityPgh.org](http://photos.HolyTrinityPgh.org).



Saint Anastasia was born in Rome of well-born parents and left an orphan at the age of three. As an orphan, she was taken into a women's monastery near Rome, where she was raised in fervent faith, in the fear of God and obedience. The pagan administrator of the city, Probus, heard of her and sent soldiers to bring Anastasia to him. He subjected her to fierce tortures, but she bravely endured them all, glorifying and praising the Lord. Though she was finally beheaded, she never renounced her faith in her Savior and Lord Jesus Christ.

**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

### Editor

Father John Touloumes, Protopresbyter  
Church: 412-366-8700  
Home: 412-831-3574  
E-mail: [fjt@HolyTrinityPgh.org](mailto:fjt@HolyTrinityPgh.org)

### Production

Mary Portellos, Secretary/Office Administrator  
E-mail: [office@HolyTrinityPgh.org](mailto:office@HolyTrinityPgh.org)

### Contributors

Voula Hareras Vickie Bellios  
Rev. Fr. John Androutsopoulos  
Rev. Fr. Radu Bordeianu

### Photographers

Mary-Magdalene Welsh  
Peter Gagianas Theanne Gagianas

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### About the Parish

**Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church**  
985 Providence Boulevard  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Phone: 412-366-8700 • Fax: 412-366-8710

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

Email: [office@HolyTrinityPgh.org](mailto:office@HolyTrinityPgh.org)

Holy Trinity Church is a parish of the  
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh  
([www.odpgh.org](http://www.odpgh.org)) and Greek Orthodox  
Archdiocese of America ([www.goarch.org](http://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

#### 2014 Parish Council

George Dickos, President

Dean A. Balouris	Marios Kritiotis
George Danis	Charles Petredis
Andrew Janis	Joyce Athanasiou
Jason Farmakis	Stephanie Sedor
Louis Kort	Alex Trilivas
Leo Loomis	Gerri Valliant

#### Ministries

Please visit the Holy Trinity website at [www.HolyTrinityPgh.org](http://www.HolyTrinityPgh.org) for descriptions and contact information on Holy Trinity Church's ministries, including educations, youth, senior, family and cultural opportunities. There is something for everyone, so please get involved today!



**“To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ: May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.”**

**Jude 1.1-2**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Multiplication is a powerful force. Consider this story from a college president: “I was recently in Nepal and had a chance to meet and hear from some incredible Nepalese Christian leaders. I heard an amazing story of the power of multiplication. Nepal is predominantly a Hindu nation. In 1950 there was only 1 known Nepalese Christian, but in the mid 1950s there were around 100 or so. In 2001, there were 150,000 Christians. In 2006, there were around 350,000. Now, in 2012 there are over 1.1 million Christians. How did they grow so quickly? The key is in multiplication, not in addition... The key to this growth is not simply telling others and convincing them, but rather to tell/convince others who will then tell/convince others who will also tell/convince others, and so on... This is the power of multiplication.”

So the question for us to ask ourselves here at Holy Trinity Church, have we put the power of multiplication to work? Or rather, if God is already at work multiplying His mercy, peace and love in the life of this community and His people, have we added ourselves into the equation? When we do, we find that it is a kind of math that: 1) really works, and 2) is a lot easier than we thought.

So we start with the Church, which is the Body of Christ, add each of us as sanctified members of that Body, then multiply it all by the mercy, peace and love we find through the power of the Holy Spirit and we can begin to understand the power that was used not just by the Nepalese Christians cited above, but by the Apostles themselves in their commission from Christ, taking Christianity from a simple band of 12 to the Faith that has converted the world.

We can also start to understand what it is that people see when they come to the festival and then come back for a service, or they drive by this beautiful new temple, then stop in for a tour, or they speak to you as members of this community and perceive the love you have for your Church and say, “I need that in my life.” Indeed, in an increasingly unbelieving, secular, post-modern world that believes everything and believes nothing, they truly do need what Holy Trinity Church and the Holy Orthodox Christian Faith have to offer.

But it all starts at home with the faithful Body of Christ already found here. And the multiplication of mercy, peace and love must start from within. That can be hard sometimes, especially when our desire to serve and be there for our community and for others generates parts of the equation that can turn negative. And the danger of adding a single negative element to a large multiplication equation is obvious. That is why Saint Paul encourages the early Christians in Ephesus as they struggled with one another, “Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you” (Jude 1.1-2). And to the Corinthians he makes it even simpler: “Let all that you do be done in love” (1 Cor. 16.14).

As we have wrapped up another tremendously successful “Taste of Greece” festival here at Holy Trinity Church, may God grant His grace, peace and restful recovery to all those who so lovingly sacrificed their time, talents and treasures to be here, bring others and support it in every way possible. It was a tremendous work, a great contribution and a powerful witness. The thank you note on the bottom of page 4, received from a festival visitor, says it all. And remember, when even visitors just “passing through” for a bite to eat notice, they will inevitably ask, “Why do you do it?” The moment we have the courage to admit, “Because I love my Lord, His Church and the people in it” we have become another positive multiplier of his mercy, peace and love.

With sincere paternal love in Christ,

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MINISTRIES

### Church School Staff Update

The Church School Ministry has had some changes this year. Many thanks to retiring teachers Karen Georgiadis, Leslie Georgiadis, Chrysoula Balouris and Becky Farmakis for their many years of faithful service to this ministry and to God's precious children. Their impact on the lives of their students will certainly be felt for years to come.

We also welcome a number of new staff members: Milt Constantine, Amy Armanious, Alexandra Valliant, Stephanie Guimond, Mena Durosko and Nicole Steiner. God bless you all for your offerings of love and time toward helping the children of this parish "grow in grace and knowledge" of our Lord Jesus Christ!

**NOTE: Still looking for Pre-K/K Assistants.** Holy Trinity Church School is still looking for two volunteers to help out in the Pre-K and K classrooms as Assistant Teachers. The Lead Teachers are already in place; assistants would assist with classroom activities and supervision. If you can commit to just twice a month and are interested in helping out, please email or call/text Pam Wright (724-831-7849 or churchschool@HolyTrinityPgh.org).

### A Reminder About Church School Dismissal Times

A message from our Church School Staff to all parents: Please assist us in offering our children the time to fully participate in their lessons each Sunday by allowing them to remain in class until the end of the session. Classes for Pre-School and Kindergarten will end each Sunday at 11:15am. Parents of those students may pick up their children on the second level Education Center by using the Education Center stairs at in the Gallery near the Bookstore. All other classes will dismiss at 11:30am and parents are asked to wait for their children downstairs in the Gallery or Grand Room during Coffee Hour. Thank you for your cooperation and support.

### Holy Trinity 2014 Christmas Pageant Video Posted

Just in time to get ready for this year's event, the Holy Trinity 2014 Christmas Pageant video has been posted on our Holy Trinity YouTube channel. Be sure to visit it and see the wonderful talents our children have to offer.

### Saint Lydia Women's Study Ministry Starts October 7

Attention women of all ages: you are invited to participate in the 16th year of Holy Trinity Church's St Lydia Women's Study. The group will continue its series on "Women of Faith" led by Father John starting October 7 at 9:30am. Each week the group will learn about a different woman from the history of the Church and her life in Christ. In our "troubled times," we need the encouragement of those who have gone before us, whether they are faithful women of the Old Testament, New Testament or recent saints. We also need the encouragement, love and prayers of one another. This is not just about learning, it is also about sharing, in our uniqueness as women, the journey we are on toward our own salvation and sainthood. Meetings will begin Tuesday, October 7 and meet approximately every other Tuesday in the Fireside Room. The church will be open for personal prayer and coffee will be

served in the Fireside room at 9:30 am. The study begins at 10:00 and ends at 11:15. Here is the list of dates for 2014/15: Oct 7, 21; Nov 4, 18; Dec 2, 16; Jan 20; Feb 3, 17; Mar 3, 17; April 14, 28; May 12. Come often and invite others!

## YOUTH MINISTRIES

### GOYA Meeting ..... Oct. 5

The GOYA teen ministry will hold a brief meeting following Church School on Sunday, October 5, in the Conference Room. All GOYAns are asked to attend.

### Community Fall Bake Sale. .... Oct. 12

GOYA will host a Fall Bake Sale in the Gallery on Sunday, October 12, following Liturgy. Please support our teens by purchasing some of their homemade goods. Proceeds benefit the many activities of our teens, including retreats and outreach projects. Thank you, good stewards!

### GOYA Steelers Fellowship/Work Project ..... Oct. 12

GOYA will also hold a fellowship gathering during the Steelers game on Sunday afternoon, October 12, at the home of Fr. Radu & Presvytera Loredana Bordeianu after the Bake Sale. We will also be working on the trophy project, so plan on having fun and getting some long-overdue work done too!

### HOPE & JOY Hayride ..... October

The HOPE and JOY children's ministries will be holding a hayride during the month of October at one of the local farms. Please watch the HOPE and JOY email lists for information and plan on attending with the family.

### Metropolis GOYA Fall Retreat ..... Nov. 21-23

The Metropolis will sponsor its annual GOYA Fall Retreat from November 21-23 at Camp Nazareth in Mercer, PA. The Metropolis is honored to have His Grace Bishop Gregory of Nyssa (American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of the U.S.A.) as the retreat speaker. Information and an online registration link will be sent directly to all GOYAns shortly. ALL Holy Trinity GOYAns are asked to attend as part of their overall commitment to the youth ministries of our parish and Metropolis.

## COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS

### A Sampling of Holy Trinity. .... October 19

Be sure to plan to stay following Divine Liturgy on October 19 for "A Sampling of Holy Trinity," a community event highlighting the ministries and organizations of our parish. See the enclosed flyer. This event is for everyone!

### Tea with Gerontissa Theophano ..... November 1

Come and join the Friends of the Monastery for a Ladies Only High Tea to be served on Saturday, November 1 at the Johnston House, a Victorian Tea House located near Cranberry. Gerontissa will entertain questions and the Sisters will have Christmas gifts available for purchase. Your attendance will help to fund the building expansion at the Nativity of the Theotokos Monastery. Please see the enclosed flyer in this edition of the Herald for details.

## Holy Trinity Traffic Notice: We're Not Alone Anymore!

Since the opening of our new church, Providence Boulevard—the road by which the property is accessed from Babcock Boulevard—has seemed like a private driveway because there was nothing at the top. With the opening of Dick's Sporting Goods, the Cinemark Theatre and more, that is not true anymore. **Please use caution when entering and exiting Holy Trinity Church's driveway. Be sure to look both ways, as traffic may be coming down from the McCandless Crossing development at the top.** Thank you, and drive safely!

## SABIKA Jewelry Philoptochos Fundraiser. . . . November 2

Our Holy Trinity Ladies Philoptochos invites you to a special afternoon Fundraiser featuring SABIKA Austrian Crystal Jewelry, on Sunday, November 2, following Divine Liturgy through 1:00pm. The Fundraiser will showcase the new Fall/Winter 2014 Collection and the Classics Collection. Please come and enjoy refreshments while you shop the Beautiful Collections. Create your own style! Begin your Christmas shopping early!! Our own Alexandra Mayr-Gracik, Vice President of Design at Sabika, will be there to help you select a timeless design. All proceeds benefit the Philanthropic work of our Philoptochos. Call Jan Petredis at 724-935-0805 for more information or see the enclosed flyer.

## Save the Date: New Year's Eve!

Looking for a great way to start the New Year? Join your friends and family at Holy Trinity Church! The evening starts with the Vespertal Liturgy of St. Basil at 6:00pm, followed by a night of live Greek music, dancing and food. Watch for details next month. Start off the New Year right: with God's blessings, surrounded by your Holy Trinity family!

## In the Hospital? Home-Bound? Let Us Know!

In today's age of information privacy, churches are not notified when parishioners are admitted to hospitals, nursing homes or other care facilities. Both those facilities and your church depend on having the church notified by a friends or family member so pastoral care and outreach can be offered. The same goes for those homebound. If you or any of your

loved ones are in any of these situations, please contact the Church Office at 412-366-8700 to request a visit from our priests or visitation ministry. Interested in helping reach out to fellow parishioners in those situations? Please contact the Church Office and offer your time as a visitation volunteer.

## A Reminder: God's House/Our Responsibility!

We have been offering the "God's House/Our Responsibility" message to the students of our Church School. but that lesson is not just for kids! Please remember that every corner of the building - in the Church or not - is a part of God's house. And we are the good stewards God has blessed to take care of it. So remember:

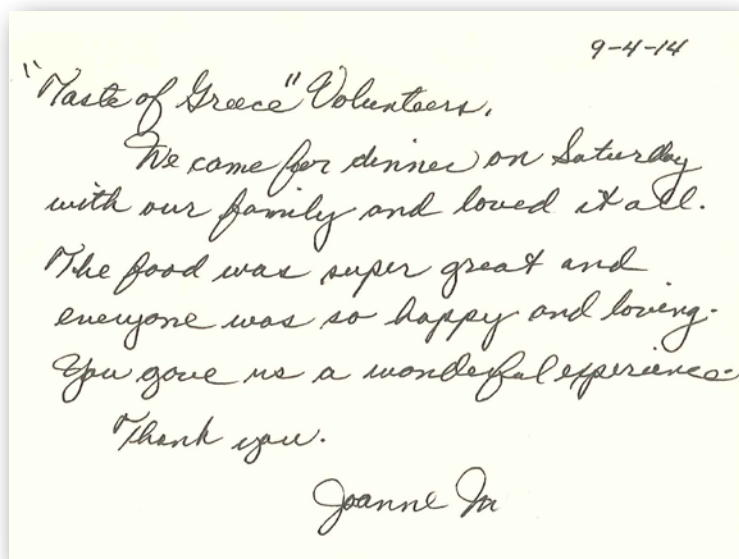
- When you use it, leave it as you found it (or better!)
- If you create or see trash, pick it up and throw it away.
- Be gentle! Careful not to dent and knick things up.
- Treat the place better than you own...it's God's!

So whether that means clean it up, put it away, put it back, lock it up, wipe it off, close it or throw it away, don't give away the honor of taking care of God's house to someone else: do it yourself! Leave it as you found it or better, because when we moved in we committed to keeping the entire place in "Like New" condition. Only you can help make that happen. Thank you, good and faithful stewards of Christ!



## HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS TO MAKE HISTORIC FIRST ARCHPASTORAL VISIT TO HOLY TRINITY CHURCH ON NOVEMBER 9, 2014

Please see the enclosed flyer regarding this very special blessing. His Eminence will be offering an Archpastoral Greeting and Homily following the Gospel at the Divine Liturgy. Be sure to arrive by 9:30 for his message, as he will depart immediately following the Liturgy for the airport.



## BECOME AN IOCC PARISH REPRESENTATIVE

Parish Representatives play a vital role in generating support for IOCC – in just a few hours per month!

- Display IOCC Materials in fellowship hall
- Insert IOCC ads in church bulletin
- Stay current on IOCC news and be available to answer questions
- Show IOCC's DVD on a Saturday night or Sunday at coffee hour
- Keep priests informed of IOCC related news and campaigns.

IOCC will provide materials.

Interested in serving in this valuable ministry as the Holy Trinity IOCC Parish Rep? Contact Fr. John: 412-366-8700



**IOCC®**



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

## SEPTEMBER 2014 – "THE VOICE OF HOLY TRINITY CHURCH"



**Father John Androutsopoulos**

### A Prayer to the Holy Trinity

My hope is the Father, my refuge is the Son, my protector is the Holy Spirit. Holy Trinity, glory to You!"

### Strength Through Worship

The Church has always been considered the home of God's children, of men redeemed by the crucified and risen Savior. The Church gathers the converted souls to take them further and further on Christ's

way. Christians should feel that in the Church they can live and progress under the watchful eye of God and with His divine help. The Church organizes the Master's work, so that men and women may know of God's love and be confronted by the challenge of the Gospel.

To belong really to the Church, it is necessary to have a sincere desire to be saved, to consider Christian service as holy, and to accept the discipline taught and demonstrated by Jesus Christ. Our faith, our prayer, God's love, and Christ's mercy are major marks of the Church. The Church consists of the chosen ones, those who hear and follow Christ's call, "Come unto Me." We come to Christ with our sins, and He forgives and redeems us. Thus we "are built up a spiritual house....acceptable to God by Jesus Christ."

The Church prays in the Holy Spirit. This means that we pray in the spirit of God. "The Spirit helps us in our weakness." We receive strength through worship. Church members are kept in God's love. This is God's doing. To be kept in God's love is like living in sunshine. His love creates in us a love for others. Thus the Church reflects God's love.

Happy is each person who hears God's call and without perplexity takes his place in the Church, knowing he can find spiritual education there and serve the Lord more effectively. The disciples of the Lord were aware of their weak faith, and felt incapable of doing fully the work of the Gospel. They prayed that their faith might be increased. "The apostles said unto the Lord, "Increase our faith" (Luke 17:5). Jesus told them that even a little faith could work dynamically in the face of any resistance. We followers of Christ may not attain great faith as the apostles did, but we can be transformed from sinners into saints if we fix our faith in God and ever worship Him.

"Pray at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints." (Ephesians 6:18)

### Turn To God

"Lo, I am with you always, to the close of the ages." (Matthew 28:20)

In times of stress we seek relief. Many turn to God for help, but find little comfort in a vague, far-off abstract being. We want a personal God to whom we may be directly related. In Jesus Christ, Christians find God has manifested Himself in a person of flesh and blood. It was He who said, "Lo, I am with you always even unto the end of the world." These words of Jesus give hope to the world. It would be a drab, monotonous, and despairing world without His nearness. Our Lord is present, knows us by name, and speaks to us. We feel His power and experience His grace.

So it is that when stress comes we know that God will be

there to meet us, to go with us all the way. If we build our daily lives on a spiritual foundation, when trials and tribulations come, as they do in all lives, Christ will be there. He will help us keep our faith strong, even in the dark hours of life because we know that He is with us always.



### A Prayer For Our Armed Forces

Protect, heavenly Father, our brothers and sisters engaged in all branches of our Armed

Forces. Arm them with faith, courage and loyalty. Defend and deliver them from all danger and harm of body, mind and spirit. Grant victory to them as they struggle for peace. Send to us and to the whole world a just and lasting peace to the glory of your Holy Name, of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

### A Prayer For Peace

Almighty God, you who are the Father of all the people of the earth, we pray that you will keep us from the cruelties of war and civil disorder. Lead us in the way of peace. Teach us to put away all bitterness and misunderstanding, all hatred and prejudice, that we may draw together as one Family of God, and live always in the fellowship of the Prince of Peace, to whom we give glory, honor and thanksgiving together with you, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### The "Jesus Prayer"

Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Hello to All My Precious Children!



Welcome to the very special month of October, with its cool weather and campfires I just adore - they have such great stories and great food! I hope to see all my precious HOPE and JOY children at the hayride this year, too!

Yiaia always says we should honor the saints. The Church does that in many special ways, including giving them their own special day on the church calendar (they are called "Feast Days") and naming churches, cities and even people after them. This month, I am dedicating my article to the series of books titled, "Lives of the Saints and Major Feast Days" by Father George Poulos.

Reading these books on the lives of the saints is quite an adventure. Some of them were very rich; some were very poor. Some were priests or monks, others were laymen. There are stories of kings and queens who became saints, and there were lots of just plain people and peasants. There are also mothers, fathers and children—and sometimes all together, like Saint Sophia and her daughters, Faith, Hope and Love (celebrated September 17). There are also stories of people who

lived very bad lives and then completely changed themselves and turned to Jesus (like Saint Mary of Egypt).

Saints are also kinds of apostles, because the word "apostle" means to be sent out, in their case sent out by God into the world to bring people the Good News of Jesus Christ. Prophets in the Old Testament told about the coming of Jesus many years before He was born of the Virgin Mary. The Fathers of the Church and the Hierarchs taught and defended the faith. Monks and nuns sometimes lived way out in the desert, praying and fasting for long periods of time. And the martyrs ultimately chose to die in this life rather than turn away, deny Jesus and lose their eternal life. All these saints should be and are honored every day in the Orthodox Church.

How do we honor saints? For one, we honor them on their feast day, when we sing special hymns and read about their lives. We name churches and children after them. We have icons of them in our churches and homes. There are relics of the saints in our consecrated altar tables.

We also honor saints by following the examples of their lives, because they show us the way to God. Both they and we were made in the image and likeness of God, and they show us how to help others see that image in us, mainly through faith, love and good works.

Another way we honor the saints is to ask for their prayers, especially in the Divine Liturgy, which was written by the saints. Many of the hymns of the Church were also written by great hymnographer saints such as St. John of Damascus and St. Romanos.

The saints of the Church are both God's friends and our friends. Because we are all God's children, he saints also pray for us as members of their own family. They love us and only ask for God's will for us, for God always knows best. So this month, check out these stories, and remember, honor and love the saints!

In Christ,

Love, Spero

WORSHIP — BYZANTINE MUSIC — LITURGICAL COOKING — ICONOGRAPHY — OUTREACH PROJECTS

## FAITH AND Family Wednesdays AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Feel like you don't know enough about your Faith? Want to understand the Bible better? Like to learn more about living an Orthodox life? The "Faith and Family Wednesdays" ministry offers guides, teachers and practical experience in all these areas and more. It also provides a great opportunity to spend time around your Holy Trinity family and enjoy worship, fellowship, growth and sometimes just fun! It's a great way to live and learn your faith between Sundays!

### ABOUT THE SERIES

The most important thing about the schedule is simple: be there at 6:30 and there will be both a blessing and an opportunity for you. And bring the entire family, because there is something for them, too! The worship service goes from 6:30-7:15pm. After a brief fellowship break, there is a series of simultaneous learning, growth and activity sessions from 7:15-8:30pm. All sessions will take place in the various facilities of Holy Trinity Center. There are three tracks each week: Studies, Growth and Orthodox Family Life. Topics and specific activities will vary from month to month, and information will be published in the Herald, the Bulletin on the email list and on the website.

As we open the second year of this exciting new ministry, many thanks are due to all the teachers, contributors and special guests who have made this series possible. Welcome back to all the participants as well, whose feedback from last season was essential to making adjustments that the Spiritual Life Ministry hopes will make this experience even better this year.

### COMPLETE GUIDE THE TO OCTOBER 2014 "FAITH AND FAMILY WEDNESDAYS"

TRACK	WORSHIP	STUDIES	GROWTH	ORTHODOX FAMILY LIFE
DATE/TIME	6:30pm	7:15-8:30pm		
<b>Oct. 1</b> First Wednesday of the month	Blessing of the Waters and Blessing of the Loaves (Artoclasia)	<b>Orthodox Book Club:</b> "The Illustrated Jesus Through the Centuries" Father Radu	<b>Understanding Orthodoxy</b> Ted Chirpas	<b>"Making Marriage Better"</b> (Marriage Enrichment for Married Couples) Father John
<b>Oct. 8</b> Second Wednesday of the month	Vespers Service	<b>Bible Study:</b> A Panoramic Overview of Holy Scripture Father John	<b>Byzantine Chanting</b> Peter Papadakos	<b>Teen Bible Study:</b> Living My Faith Father Radu
<b>Oct. 15</b> Third Wednesday of the month	Service of the Hours/ Confession also available	<b>Orthodox Book Club</b> (Not meeting this week)	<b>Understanding Orthodoxy</b>	<b>"Journey to Marriage"</b> (Preparation for Pre-Marriage Couples) Father John
<b>Oct. 22</b> Fourth Wednesday of the month	Paraclesis Service to the Theotokos	<b>Bible Study:</b> A Panoramic Overview of Holy Scripture Father John	<b>Guest Speaker:</b> Nicholas Petrogeorge Outreach Coordinator FOCUS North America	<b>Faith &amp; Fun Together</b> HOPE and JOY Ministries Activities for ages
<b>Oct. 29</b> Fifth Wednesday of the month	Service of the Hours/ Confession also available	<b>Fifth Wednesday Special Project: "God's House/Our Responsibility"</b> Community Service Project - Come dressed for cleanup/fixup of the inside & outside of our beautiful Holy Trinity Church facilities		

BIBLE STUDY — BOOK CLUB — JOURNEY TO MARRIAGE — UNDERSTANDING ORTHODOXY — CONFESSION

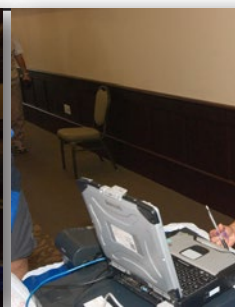




















**(Left) September 6, 2014:** Holy Trinity Church was honored to host the Metropolis of Pittsburgh Metropolis Council meeting in our Conference and Fireside Rooms. Pictured here is His Eminence Metropolitan Savas leading the Council in the opening prayer.

**(Below) September 15 & 17, 2014:** The Holy Trinity Seniors Ministry and Philoptochos hosted an AARP Seniors Driver Safety Course as a community service to senior drivers in the North Hills. The event was taught by Marty Snyder (pictured and quoted below) and was attended by both Holy Trinity members and others from the local community. All thoroughly enjoyed it.



September 18, 2014

Dear Holy Trinity Church,

The two-day session went extremely well. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Fr. John, Mary, Joyce and the others helping with the lunches.

I volunteer for this ministry because I feel it is important to give as much information as possible to our seniors, so they can drive safely as long as possible and then know how to transition into alternative transportation methods. Their safe driving also benefits those around them on and off the road. Thanks very much in being a major part of this ministry.

Martin (Marty) Snyder  
Zone 2, District 22 Coordinator



A Greek language offering on the historic moment of "OXI" Day and the world-changing results of the bravery of the Greek people.

28 ΟΚΤΩΒΡΙΟΥ 1940



Voula Hareras

**Τ**ί είναι ή 28η Οκτωβρίου 1940? Μιά ήμερομηνία? Μιά έθνική έορτή? Ενα σπουδαίο έθνικό γεγονός? Τί είναι ή 28η Οκτωβρίου του έτους 1940?

Είναι πρό πάντων καί κυρίως θαύμα μέγα τής Παναγίας μας καί του Θεανθρώπου Υιού της Κυρίου Ιησού Χριστού. Θαύμα που τό έργάστηκε φανερά μπροστά στά μάτια όλου του κόσμου μέ όργανό

του τούς Ελληνες, ήγεσία καί λαόστρατό έκείνου του καιρού. Θαύμα που έντροπιασε άσεβείς καί άπίστους καί έδόξασε μέ άσβηστη δόξα τούς πιστούς καί ώφέλησε όλη τήν άνθρωπότητα.

Τότε, τό 1940, είχε έκραγή ήφαιστειο πρωτογονισμού καί βαρβαρισμού στην Εύρώπη ό Ναζισμός του Χίτλερ καί ό Φασισμός του Μουσολίνι. Οί δύο παρανοϊκοί αυτοί δικτάτορες λάβα είχαν ξεχυθή κι έθαφταν τήν Εύρώπη καί άπειλούσαν όλο τόν κόσμο. Θ'άλλαζαν, καυχιόντουσαν, τήν Ιστορία του κόσμου για χίλια χρόνια. Η γή έτρεμε πανικόβλητη μπροστά τους.

Καί τότε θρασύς ό Μουσολίνι νύχτα έστειλε τόν πρεσβευτή του καί είπε στον Ελληνα κυβερνήτη Ιωάννη Μεταξά: Αφρησε τό στρατό μου να μπή καί να διαφεντεύη τόν τόπο σου. Καί ό Ελληνας πρωθυπουργός στόμα του Ελληνικού λαού, του συγχρόνου του αλλά καί τών πατέρων του, άφοβος έκαμε τό σταυρό του καί του άπάντησε; ΟΧΙ. Θά πολεμήσουμε. Θά υπερασπισθούμε τών πατέρων μας τή γή τήν ιερή. Θά πολεμήσουμε. Καί ό Θεός σώζει τήν Ελλάδα. Καί ό λαός όλος ένωμένος σαν ένας άνθρωπος επανέλαβε; Θά πολεμήσουμε.

Ανακήρυξαν όλοι τότε στρατηγό τους τήν Παναγία μας, που στη γιορτή της, 15 Αύγουςτου, τήν είχαν βλαστημήσει οί Φασίστες Ιταλοί μέ τόν τορπιλλισμό του εύδρομου Ελλη, που τής απέδιδε τιμές, καί μέ θάρρος, αταπάρνησι καί γενναιότητα έπολέμησαν οί μικροί καί λίγοι καί σχεδόν άοπλοι Ελληνες. Επολέμησαν ήρωικά καί οί νίκες άρχισαν να 'ρχωνται. Οί Ιταλοί τσακίστηκαν. Υποχώρησαν. Εντροπιάστηκαν. Ανάγκασαν τό συνέταιρό τους Χίτλερ ν'αλλάξει τά σχέδιά του για τήν κατάκτησι τής Ρωσίας καί να χασομερήσει στην Ελλάδα έξη εβδομάδες. Εστι πρόσθεσε στους έχθρους του καί τό Ρωσικό χειμώνα τό σκληρό.

Καί νικήθηκε. Για τήν ήττα του έπαιξε σπουδαίο ρόλο ή μικρή αλλά πιστή Ελλάδα. Η Ελλάδα που σύμφωνα μέ τήν έμπνευσμένη έκκληση του μεγάλου ποιητή Κωστή Παλαμά είχε μεθύσει μέ τ'άθανато κρασί του είκοσιένα.

Μέ τήν πίστι στο Σωτήρα Χριστό καί τήν προστασία τής Παναγίας Μητέρας του Χριστού καί μέ τήν γλυκειά άγάπη στην ένδοξη πατρίδα Ελλάδα.

Αυτή είναι ή 28η Οκτωβρίου 1940. Ημέρα ιερή καί άθανατη. Ημέρα πλούσια σε άρετή καί μεγαλωσύνη. Καί φωνάζει άσίγαστη; Αγαπάτε, Ελληνες, τό Χριστό, τό δίκαιο Θεό, αγαπάτε καί τήν πατρίδα σας Ελλάδα καί θά πορεύεσθε πάντα, όποιοι κι όσοι κι άν είναι οί έχθροί σας, από νίκη σε νίκη καί από δόξα σε δόξα.

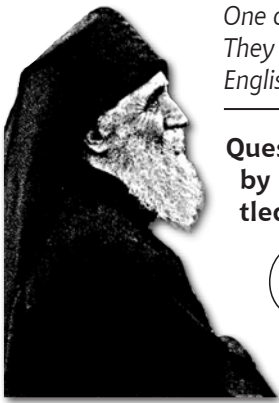
ΚΑΙ ΕΙΠΑΜΕ, ΟΧΙ!

Γιά να μαθαίνουν τήν Ιστορία μας οί νεότεροι. Ο Ελληνο-ιταλικός πόλεμος του 1940-1941 καί ό Ελληνο-γερμανικός του 1941 ήταν ένα μέρος - ένδοξο καί καθοριστικό - του β'παγκοσμίου πολέμου. Ο Β'παγκόσμιος πόλεμος (1939-1945) προκλήθηκε από τίς έπεκτατικές διαθέσεις τών Δυνάμεων του Αξονα (Γερμανία-Ιταλία-Ιαπωνία). Αντιμέτωποι σ'αυτές ήρθαν οί Συμμαχικές Δυνάμεις (κυρίως Αγγλία-Γαλλία-Πολωνία καί, πριν τό τέλος του πολέμου, ή Αμερική). Η Ελλάδα τήρησε ουδετερότητα. Μέχρι τή στιγμή που ό δικτάτορας τής Ιταλίας Μουσολίνι τής ζήτησε γήν καί ύδωρ, πέρασμα για τή Μέση Ανατολή. Τότε είπε στον έχθρο ΟΧΙ! Τά γεγονότα τής περιόδου ήσαν τά ακόλουθα:

Χρονολογία	Εκδηλώσεις
15 Αύγουςτου 1940	Τορπιλλισμός του πολεμικού μας ΕΛΛΗ, από τούς Ιταλούς, στα νερά τής Τήνου.
28 Οκτωβρίου 1940	Ο Μουσολίνι ζητεί τήν παράδοση τής 'Ελλάδος. Η 'Ελλάδα άπαντά ΟΧΙ. Αί ήμέτεροι δυνάμεις άμύνονται του πατρίου έδάφους. Αρχίζει ό 'Ελληνο-ιταλικός πόλεμος.
14 Νοεμβρίου 1940	Από τήν άμυνα στην άντεπίθεση. Ο 'Ελληνικός στρατός πολεμάει τούς Ιταλούς στο άλβανικό πλέον έδαφος.
21 Νοεμβρίου 1940	Ο 'Ελληνικός στρατός έλευθερώνει τήν Κορυτσά. *
24 Νοεμβρίου 1940 έως 7 Δεκεμβρίου 1940	Ο 'Ελληνικός στρατός έλευθερώνει τή Μοσχόπολη*, τό Πόνγραδετς*, τήν Πρεμετj*, τούς Αγίους Σαράντα*, τό Δέλβινο*.
8 Δεκεμβρίου 1940	'Ελευθερώνεται τό Άργυρόκαστρο*, ή πρωτεύουσα τής Β. Ηπείρου.
23 Δεκεμβρίου 1940	'Ελευθερώνεται ή Χειμάρρα*.
10 Ιανουαρίου 1941	Νίκη τών 'Ελλήνων κατά τών Ιταλών στην Κλεισούρα.
9 Μαρτίου 1941	Η περίφημη έαρινή επίθεση τών Ιταλών.
21 Μαρτίου 1941	Ο Μουσολίνι ήττημένος επιστρέφει από τό μέτωπο στη Ρώμη.
6 Απριλίου 1941	Γερμανική επίθεση στην Ανατολική Μακεδονία. Έπική άντίσταση τών 'Ελλήνων στα όχυρά τής γραμμής Μεταξά.
27 Απριλίου 1941	Οί Γερμανοί εισέρχονται στην Αθήνα. Ο Βασιλιάς κι ή Κυβέρνηση τής 'Ελλάδος μεταβαίνουν στην Κρήτη καί μετά καταφεύγουν στην Αλεξάνδρεια. Ο άγώνας τής 'Ελλάδος συνεχίζεται στο πλευρό τών Συμμάχων.
1 Ιουνίου 1941	Κατοχή (γερμανική-ιταλική-βουλγαρική στη Β. 'Ελλάδα).
1941-1944	Αντίσταση τών 'Ελλήνων κατά τών κατακτητών.
12 Οκτωβρίου 1944	Η Αθήνα καί πάλι έλεύθερη.

\*Ελληνικές πόλεις τής Β. Ηπείρου, που άδικο οί Μεγάλες Δυνάμεις παρεχώρησαν στο νεοϊδρυμένο, μετά τό 1913, Αλβανικό Κράτος, ως νότια Αλβανία.

Από τό περιοδικό *Προς Τήν Νίκη*  
Βούλα Χαρερά



**Elder Paisios**

*One of the great blessings of Orthodoxy is the presence, prayers and inspired words of the Holy Elders of the Faith. They have been referred to as “precious vessels of the Holy Spirit.” In recent years, many books have been published in English with their writings and talks. This column provides an opportunity for each of us to be blessed by their words.*

**Question: Geronda, is the anxiety felt by a young person over getting settled in life caused by a lack of belief?**

Not always. Often, young people who are concerned about how to best arrange their lives, but also want to be close to God, become anxious about getting settled. This indicates a healthy attitude. When the young remain unconcerned and don't think about how to best arrange their life, an indifferent person is revealed; and it follows that an indifferent person will also be a good-for-nothing person. The young only have to be careful not to allow this anxiety to overcome them, giving the devil the opportunity to lead them into a state of agonising distress that will keep their mind in a state of constant confusion. The young have to entrust themselves to God, in order to live in peace, because the Good God works and takes action as a loving Father exactly where we humans cannot act. They need not rush into making immature decisions about which life they will follow.

**Question: How can young people be helped in discovering their God-given calling in life?**

Every person has an “inclination.” The Good God created humans to be free. God has a noble spirit; He has absolute respect for this freedom of people and allows each one to follow the road that will bring them inner peace. God does not force us all onto the same line with military discipline. This is why the young should allow themselves to be free within the spiritual space of the freedom of God. The parents, the Spiritual Fathers and the teachers ought to help the young to select a vocation in line with their capabilities and to follow their natural inclination, without influencing them or strangling that inclination. The decision about which life they will follow has to be their own. The rest of us can only express simple opinions and the only right we have is to help these souls find their way in life.

Sometimes when I talk with young people who are concerned over these matters, I can see which way the scale is tipping, but I won't say anything because I don't want to influence them. The only thing I try to do is to help them, as much as I can, to discover the right path and inner peace. I remove whatever is harmful from that which gives them peace, so that what remains is the good, the holy, so that they live this life joyfully by being close to God, and live even more joyfully in the other life. Honestly, no matter which life is followed by a young person I know, I will rejoice and will always have the same concern for the salvation of his soul, as long as he's with Christ, in our Church. I will feel like a brother to him, because he will be a child of our Mother, the Church.

**Question: When should young people get serious about choosing their path in life?**

The years pass by quickly. It wouldn't be good for a young person to remain undecided for too long at the crossroads of life. A cross must be chosen — one of the two paths of our Church [married or monastic] — in accordance with the individual's inclination and personal *philotimo* and then to proceed with trust in Christ. Let each person follow Christ to the Crucifixion, if one desires to rejoice in the Resurrection. There are bitter hardships in both ways of life; but, if one remains close to God, sweet Jesus will sweeten them.

Once a person is past the age of thirty, it becomes more difficult to make a decision, and it becomes even more difficult as the years pass. A young person can adapt more readily to whichever lifestyle is chosen. Older persons will rationalise everything as their character has already been formed, and they don't easily adapt to change; the concrete has been poured... This is why I say that on this matter there is need for a little craziness. Overlook some things which are not essential, because no one can have everything come out as expected. Once it began to rain and a downhill torrent started, carrying a lot of water. An impetuous person and a prudent person wanted to cross over the torrent to the other side. The prudent person said, “The rain will eventually stop; the water will subside and then I'll cross over.” The impetuous one did not wait; he made a run for it and crossed over to the other side. He got a little wet, but he reached his destination. In the meantime, the rain, instead of stopping, intensified; and the water in the torrent increased to a dangerous level. In the end, the prudent person was unable to cross over to the other side.

**Question: Geronda, today we live in difficult times and some young people are reluctant to have a family.**

No, this is not an appropriate way to face the circumstances of our times. If there is trust in Christ, they have nothing to fear. Were not the years of persecution difficult in the early Church? Did the Christians then stop having families? We have so many saints who were martyred for the faith together with their wives and children!

**Question: So spirituality brings lifetime blessings?**

I always emphasize that young people should try to live as spiritually as they can before marriage, since preserving their chastity secures their physical and spiritual health. The spiritual life is a basic prerequisite to whatever life one chooses. The world has become like a wheat field that is ready for the harvest, but swine enter and trample it. So now everything is in disarray—weeds, mud, wheat stalks, but here and there on some edge, there is an occasional wheat stalk standing upright.

*Excerpted from “Spiritual Counsels, Vol. IV: - Family Life”*





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## ON THE CHALLENGE OF SPIRITUAL HEALING



Let us not be resentful or faint-hearted when something unexpected happens to us, but allow Him, who knows all these things well, to test our soul in the fire for as long as He wants; for He does this in the interest and for the benefit of those being tested.

A physician is a physician not only when he bathes and feeds the sick man...but even when he cauterizes and cuts.

Knowing therefore that God is more tender-loving than all physicians, do not enquire too curiously about His therapy or ask Him for an explanation of it.

St. John Chrysostom  
 4th century

Scripture of the Month: "Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well." (Matthew 6.33)