



THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

OCTOBER 2016 VOLUME 24 • ISSUE 8

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH • PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA
OUR VISION: "FAITH. FAMILY. COMMUNITY."

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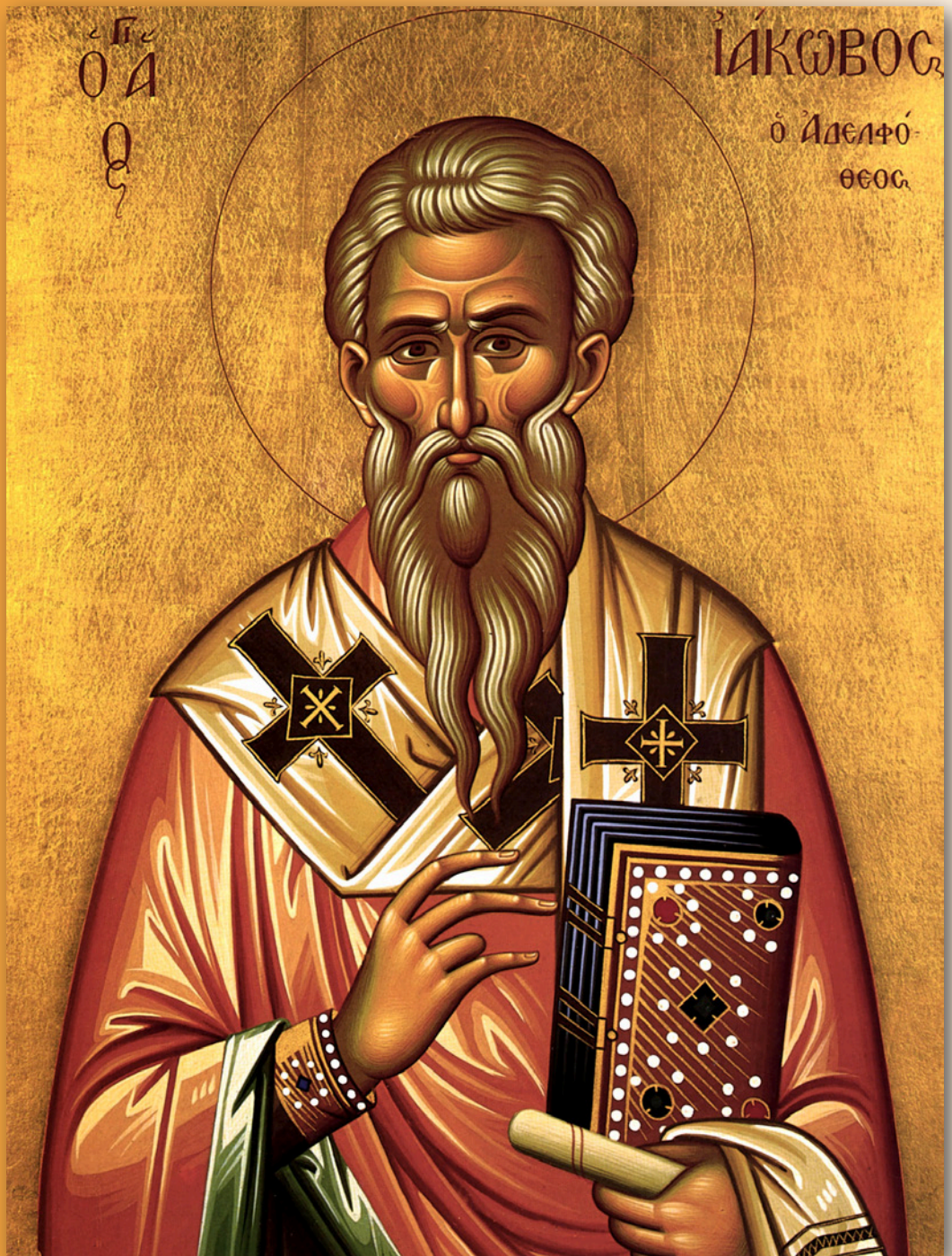
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QUICK NEWS



The Holy Trinity Greek Dancers entertained guests each night during the 2016 "Taste of Greece." Want to see more photos of this 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 at photos.HolyTrinityPgh.org.

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

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Rev. Fr. John Touloumes, Proistamenos

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2016 Parish Council

George Dickos, President

Dean A. Balouris	Michael Passodelis
George Danis	Joyce Athanasiou
Andrew Janis	Stephen Stearns
Van Backeris	Stephanie Sedor
Tom Germanos	Alex Trilivas
Marios Kritiotis	Gerri Valliant

Ministries

Please visit the Holy Trinity website at 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!



"The crossroad of daily life."



My Beloved Spiritual Children,

When the faithful leaders and members of this community prayerfully considered a set of goals for the "new church" project back in 2008 (yes, that was 8 years ago!), Issue 1, Volume 1 of the Capital Campaign Newsletter clearly stated that a main goal was to provide a new facility that supports and motivates the members of our parish family to make it the "crossroad of daily life." We wanted to provide a place and a life of ministries that would give us all the possibilities and opportunities to live our life in the church beyond Sunday morning. "A seven day a week community" was another way of expressing it.

To the glory of God, part of that goal was accomplished on June 22, 2013. With the sacrificial love and support of many in this community, we are now entering the fourth year of occupancy in a house of God that has been recognized as a jewel of the North Hills. We have the capacity to worship, teach, host and accommodate any kind of service, event or function we can imagine. And we have. But that is only the building. What about the ministries? What do we have to offer beyond Sunday morning? And are we part of it?

Well, for the dedicated volunteers who just spent three, five, seven or more days preparing for, working at and cleaning up from the biggest and best "Taste of Greece" Festival, you may say, "Whoa, you mean that's not enough?" Actually, in so many cases it was above and beyond what anyone would expect, so thank you all from the bottom of our hearts (your Clergy, Parish Council and Festival Committee) for being there for so long with so much energy, dedication and love for your church. You gave and gave. Now it's time for us all to receive.

Applying the gardening analogy of teaching often used by Jesus, if the Festival is the time of year your energies are harvested in that unique and marathon offering for your church, it follows suit that the rest of the year is a time to plant, water, feed and prune. And that is what the ministries of Holy Trinity Church are here to do for you and with you. Since the day we moved in, those ministries have been growing. We have added new ministries and deepened existing ones, all for the purpose of providing you more opportunities to grow in Christ with the church as the "crossroad of your daily life." beyond Sunday morning.

The enthusiastic launch of "Faith and Family Wednesdays" in January of 2014 was a major part of that effort. Now, responding to the changing needs of the community and heeding the feedback of its participants, we are expanding and re-launching this set of ministries as "**Faith and Family WEEKDAYS**," an opportunity for **every** member of this parish family to become actively involved in and blessed by daily life in the church throughout the week. Please take a look at the information on Page 6 of this issue. There is something for you. And it is everyone's opportunity to live the energy and the joy of the Apostles and the early church believers beyond Sunday. What did that look like? As it says in Acts 5.42, "Every day in the temple and at home they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ." Here is your chance. Time for you to grow. See you at the crossroad!

With pastoral love in Christ,

Herald Personal Sponsor for this Issue:

Mary Magdalene Welsh

"For the health of the Chrysanthus Family: Evangelos, Michael, Eleousa and Luka"

WORSHIP LIFE

Weekday Services October

Please take note of the following weekday Liturgies and services this month. Unless otherwise indicated, Orthros is at 8:15 a.m., followed by Divine Liturgy at 9:30 at the St. George Chapel (SG).

Oct. 18: St. Luke the Evangelist (SG)

Oct. 26: Demetrios the Great Martyr (SG)

(Note: In addition, please see the Faith and Family Wednesday schedule for a list of the 6:30pm Wed. eve. services)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

New Church School Dismissal Times

Attention Church School 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. **ALL GRADES** will end class each Sunday at 11:30am. Parents of Pre-School and Kindergarten 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 students will be dismissed at 11:30 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.

SPIRITUAL LIFE MINISTRY

"Faith and Family WEEKDAYS" Launches October 5

Holy Trinity Church's new, expanded "Faith and Family WEEKDAYS" ministry will launch starting October 5. Building on the fruits of our last three years of Wednesday evening, we are now including more days and more opportunities for everyone to participate in and grow from worship, spiritual life and educational ministries beyond Sunday morning and to make the church the "crossroad of daily life." There is something for everyone and everyone. See Page 6 for information and a schedule. To submit ideas or feedback, please see Spiritual Life Ministry Chairperson Joyce Athanasiou (412-292-4205).

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

GOYA Steelers, Skyzone and Fellowship October 9

The GOYA teen ministry will hold a "Steelers, Skyzone and Fellowship" day on Sunday, October 9. They will watch the 1:00pm Steelers game together, spend some Q&A time with Father John at halftime, then go to Skyzone following the game. Watch the GOYA email list for info.

HOPE AND JOY Lunch Project for FOCUS October 21

On Friday, October 21 at 6:00pm, at the church, our HOPE and JOY children will be assembling brown bag lunches for the homeless. We will be delivering the sandwiches on Saturday,

October 22. We will be asking for donations of bottled water, canned pop, bags of bread, lunch meats and cheeses, sandwich bags, fruit, chips and brown bags. Anyone interested in donating items, please feel free to contact Kelley Kaparakos at 724-612-6574 or kelly@hamptonbanquethall.com

GOYA Bake Sale..... October 23

The GOYA teen ministry will hold a fall bake sale on Sunday, October 23, following Divine Liturgy. Thank you for supporting our teens, who use the funds raised to support their activities throughout the year.

GOYA Fall Retreat Nov. 18-20

Missing camp already? The 2016 GOYA Fall Retreat will be held at Antiochian Village from Friday, Nov. 18 through Sunday, Nov. 20. Registration must be done at pittsburgh.goarch.org. And watch the Holy Trinity GOYA email list for information on the Holy Trinity reduced fee code.

COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS

Visitation Ministry Team Education Opportunity... Oct. 11

The Visitation Ministry Team is having a special educational opportunity on October 11 Tuesday, 7:00-8:15 p.m. in Conference Rooms A and B. Father John will be presenting the topic "Suffering and the Book of Job." All Visitation Ministry team members are strongly encouraged to attend as we learn more about offering presence to those in need. Father John will share how we may look at Scripture for wisdom, guidance, and truth that can aid us in making life both more meaningful and more manageable. The Visitation Ministry Team welcomes anyone to attend who may be interested in this topic or who may desire to learn more about visitation ministry. Light refreshments will be provided. Feel free to contact Amy Armanious with any questions at visitation@holyltrinitypgh.org or 412-628-0973.

Flu Shot Clinic October 23

Please see the enclosed flyer to take advantage of a great opportunity to get your flu shot right here at Holy Trinity Church following Liturgy on October 23.

Philoptochos Sunday October 30

Holy Trinity Philoptochos will celebrate "Philoptochos Sunday" here at Holy Trinity Church on October 30, a day on which we are celebrate many years of Philoptochos service to our church, our community, our friends and our families. In honor of that event, the Philoptochos will offer coffee hour, and donations collected during a special tray and during coffee hour will be for the benefit of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. There will also be a Memorial offered for the departed Philoptochos members.

Military Appreciation Day November 6

Please see the enclosed flyer about this special new event. Military Appreciation Day will honor of parishioners, family, and community members who have served and are still serving our country in the military. God bless and protect them!

For the latest updates and schedule of parish events, visit www.HolyTrinityPgh.org/calendar

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

OCTOBER 2016 – "THE VOICE OF HOLY TRINITY CHURCH"



Father John Androutsopoulos

Jesus taught that the Father's love for us is the basis of our lives as Christians. It is first of all the basis of our prayer: we are to come before God as a child comes before his father. We can pray with a contrite and humble heart, because the one who made us loves us as a father loves his children. Because of God's love for us we can pray to Him with confidence.

God's Love Helps Us Trust Him

God's love for us is the basis of our trust in Him. Our Father knows our needs even before we mention them. Our Father provides for the needs of the birds of the air. Are we not far more valuable in His sight? Can we not trust Him to provide for all our needs? We, therefore, do not have to worry about such things ourselves and can focus our attention on living our lives with faith, hope and love as members of His Kingdom.

God's Love Helps Us Love Others

God's love for us is the basis of our love for others. We are asked merely to extend to them the love we have received from God. Has God forgiven us? We are to forgive others. Has God provided for our material needs? We are to have a practical concern for the needs of others. Our Christian lives are to be different, because they have experienced God's love. Being a Christian (an Orthodox Christian) is primarily a matter of having been loved, and by repenting and confessing our sins, we will be saved. Our Heavenly Father, we want to show our gratitude for Your love by increasing our love for others. Show us how we can do this in specific, practical ways.

For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

"Your Father Knows What You Need Before You Ask Him."
(Matthew 6:8)

"My Grace Is All You Need, For My Power Is Greatest When You Are Weak." (2 Corinthians 12:9)

The mystery of the Cross in our lives runs deeper than the sufferings that come to us from outside sources. St. Paul did not seem to waver in the face of shipwreck, scourging and imprisonment, but he did pray to the Lord three times to remove the "thorn in the flesh" that afflicted him.

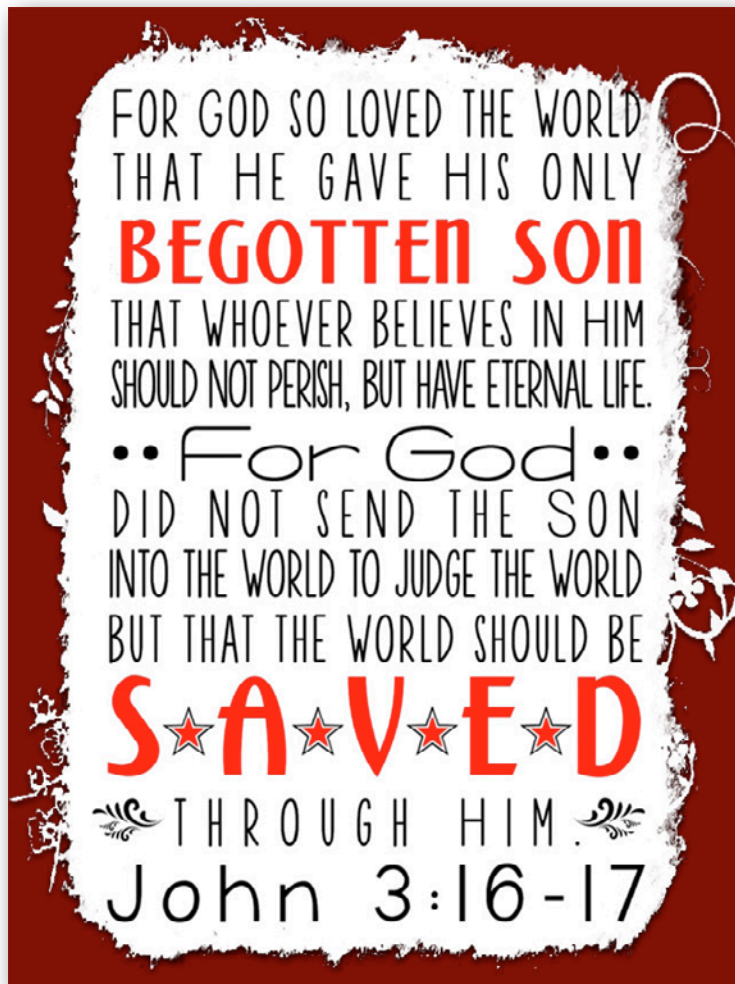
God's Plan Is Part Of His Love For Us

Whatever this thorn in the flesh was (and we really do not know), it was something that brought Paul on his knees before God as no other suffering he underwent did. Amazingly, God said NO to Paul's prayers. We might have thought that whatever Paul asked for he would have been granted. But God did not remove this thorn that left Paul weakened and pleading. Instead, God told Paul that it was a part of His plan for Paul to suffer in this way. It was, paradoxically, a part of His love for him to preserve him from the pride and self-sufficiency he might otherwise fall victim to. It was, paradoxically, because Paul had been given such extraordinary revelations of God that he was also given this thorn in the flesh. And, it was also, paradoxically, because of this thorn in the flesh, that Paul could be given an abundance of grace by God. It was because of Paul's weakness that the power of God could

be especially manifest in him, the power that made Paul's mission effective through signs and marvels and miracles. It was because Paul embraced the cross in his weakness that the strength of God could shine through him.

My beloved: Has there been weakness or suffering in our life that we prayed to God to remove? What happened? How does God's Grace operate in our weakness? Our Heavenly Father: We are content to suffer all You ask us to, if You keep us in Your Grace. We want to depend on Your love not our own strength. Increase our faith in You. GLORY TO GOD.

*With His love,
Rev. Fr. John K. Androutsopoulos
Protopresbyter and Internal Missionary*



Stewardship Lived: Faith, Family, Community In Action

On August 13th, 2015, my mother unexpectedly passed away. Neither she nor we even knew she had cancer until just a few weeks before her passing. It was a surreal and bewildering experience, and as I look back on it today, it continues to humble me.

I once referred to my mother, Caryn, as our “family administrator,” and I was only half-joking. She was the one who coordinated our family’s activities – meals, vacations, plans for the holidays, etc. Naturally, she had been our leader in making funeral arrangements for other members of our family who had gone before her. Now we had to put on a funeral by ourselves. Because her falling asleep in the Lord was so unexpected, no prior preparations had been made, so we had a lot of work to do and a lot of decisions to make. When I look back on the days immediately following her death, they too humble me.

By God’s Grace and through my mother’s intercessions, we made our way through the whirlwind of those few days, and everything that needed to get done for the funeral got done. Many people attended the funeral, including His Eminence Metropolitan SAVAS and almost a dozen priests. Our family was most grateful for their support.

There was also one blessing of that day which really surprised me. Several people came from Holy Trinity to attend the funeral all the way out in Cleveland. I had only been a member of the community for a few months, and furthermore, I hadn’t asked anyone to come. The funeral was on a weekday too, so these people made a real sacrifice to pay their respects to my mother. Like so many other things during that week, this too humbled me. The situation reminded me very much of the passage in the Gospel of St. John when the Lord, as He is being crucified, tells his own mother and St. John that they are to become a new family in His absence. “And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home” (John 19:27).

By God’s Providence, my mother died on the Leave-Taking of the Feast of the Transfiguration. Leave-Takings are occasions in our Church when we are called to “give back” the gift which God has given to us, namely the feast day we have been celebrating

(Christmas, Pascha, the Transfiguration, etc.) The lesson offered by these days is a reminder that the good things we enjoy in life – from our material possessions to even the beloved members of our family – are all gifts from God which we need to take care of as someday we will be required to give them back. As His Eminence later told me, last year the Lord required of me that I give back the gift of my mother, Caryn.

Since I first came to Pittsburgh, the Holy Trinity community has treated me like a son, and was especially supportive during the most difficult time in my life. I will forever be grateful for that hospitality and love. I recognize that these great gifts require a response on my part, and that is why I strive to give back to Holy Trinity. I also know that in order to give back in accordance with the Lord’s expectations, my offerings have to be comprehensive – not just what’s convenient, but what I’m truly able to do. That is what stewardship means to me.

It is also a central teaching of our Church that everything we give back to God ultimately gets returned to us. That is why during the Divine Liturgy we give back bread and wine to God, but He does not keep it; He transforms it into Himself, and we receive it once again. I take great joy in the hope that my giving back to Holy Trinity will be transformed into the most miraculous thing I can imagine: to see my mother again in the Resurrection.

With thanks in Christ,
Ted Cherpas



Editor's note:

Ted Cherpas is native of Cleveland, Ohio, a graduate of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology and currently serves as the Camping Ministries Coordinator of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh. He has been an active member of Holy Trinity Church since moving to Pittsburgh in two years ago and has been involved in offering Festival tours, speaking with the youth of the parish, teaching the catechism series and chanting during services. His article, requested by our Stewardship Ministry committee, is yet another personal and powerful testimony of the blessings received through the ministries of Holy Trinity Church that are made

possible by the dedicated and sacrificial offerings of time, talents and treasures of our stewards. Above all, it reflects the important role we all play as stewards of the gift of the God-inspired hospitality that opens the doors of this church and the hearts of our people to all who desire to find their life in Christ here. Thank you, Ted, for reminding us of the power of that sacred trust!

Father John

☑ WORSHIP ☑ LEARN ☑ GROW ☑ PRAY ☑ SERVE

FAITH ^{AND} Family WEEKDAYS

AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

“Every day in the temple and at home they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.” (Acts 5:42)

NEW FORMAT! NEW SCHEDULE!

Three years ago, Holy Trinity Church introduced an innovative series of educational programs under the title of “Faith and Family Wednesdays.” Since then, dozens of presentations, hands-on-learning sessions and worship services provided a way for Christians to grow and progress in the knowledge and understanding of their faith. In active pursuit of growing ministries that are relevant and accessible to our faithful parishioners, this ministry is now re-launched using your feedback as “Faith and Family **WEEKDAYS**!” Check it out!

“FAITH AND FAMILY **WEEKDAYS**” MINISTRIES GUIDE: 2016-2017

DAYS	MINISTRY	SCHEDULE	ABOUT
DAILY	“Prayer Partners” Prayer Support Ministry	Every Day: In your personal prayers	EVERYONE can participate in this vital ministry EVERY DAY. On the first Sunday of January, April, July and October, blank prayer cards will be distributed. Write your first name. They will then be randomly distributed at the end of the service. Each person will commit to praying for the person they receive <u>daily</u> during that quarter. Pray and be prayed for!
TUESDAYS 9:00am	“Hearts of Faith” Women’s Ministry	4th Tuesday Sep.-May Oct. 25, Nov. 29, Jan. 24, Feb. 28, Mar. 28, Apr. 25, May 23	The Saint Lydia Women’s Fellowship returns with a monthly morning session of conversation with God and each other. The group meets at church at 9:00 a.m. for a 30 minute morning prayer, then gathers in the Fireside Room for an hour of sharing and discussion about the matters a woman’s heart.
TUESDAYS 7:00pm	“Journey of Marriage” Marriage Prep Ministry	2nd Tuesday Oct.-June Oct. 18*, Nov. 8, Dec. 13, Jan. 10, Feb. 21*, Mar. 14, May 9, Jun. 13 (*=3rd Tues)	Marriage preparation for couples using the excellent and interactive “Journey of Marriage” materials developed by Dr. Philip Mamalakis and Fr. Charles Johannides. From “Hello!” to honeymoon, this series educates and equips couples for fruitful Orthodox Christian marriage. It’s lots of fun, too!
WEDNESDAYS 6:30pm	“Journey to Fullness” Faith Growth Ministry	Wednesdays: 2 series of sessions, 8 weeks each Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26, Nov. 2, 9, 16, 30, / Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25, Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22	Father Barnabas Powell has released an excellent new video series for everyone who wants to learn more about the “fullness of the faith” found in Orthodox Christianity. Fr Barnabas’ style is sincere, straight-forward and he is not afraid to raise and speak to the tough questions. At the end of each segment there is a brief question and answer review which delves deeper into issues raised in the talk.
THURSDAYS 7:00am	“Prayer and Panera” Men’s Ministry	3rd Thursday Sep.-June Sep. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17, Jan. 19, Feb. 16, Mar. 16, May 18, Jun. 15	The Saint Nikodemos Men’s Fellowship hosts this morning session of prayers and Christian fellowship (with coffee and bagels, too!). The group meets at church promptly at 7:00 a.m. for a 15-20 minute morning prayer and scripture, then moves up the hill to Panera for 30-45 minutes of coffee, breakfast and Christian men’s conversation.
THURSDAYS 7:00pm	“Orthodox Movie Night” Entertainment/Fellowship	2nd Thursday Oct.-June Oct. 13, Nov. 10, Dec. 8, Jan. 12, Feb. 9, Mar. 9, Apr. 6, May 11, Jun. 8	A monthly offering of inspirational movies with snacks and good company in the Fireside Room. Free to all, it’s a relaxing and uplifting alternative to the “same old stuff” on cable TV. Why sit around alone and watch that when you can enjoy a night of Holy Trinity fellowship and entertainment?

Watch for weekly updates, special events, guest speakers and youth activities in the Bulletin. Find more info at www.HolyTrinityPgh.org/ffw

Original Greek language composition by Voula Hareras: Never Forget Our History



Voula Hareras

When World War II broke out in 1939, Greece was trying to maintain a peaceful position and had decided to not take part in the war. In 1940, however, Italy's dictator, Benito Mussolini, tried in several ways to draw Greece into the war. On August 15th 1940, an Italian submarine shot a torpedo inside the island's harbor and shot one of the Greek ships. The governing body of Ioannis Metaxas, which had just come into office, pretended that they did not recognize who had done this—even though they did—in order to avoid any form of battle. The Italians continued their attacks in Greece, and war began to seem inevitable.

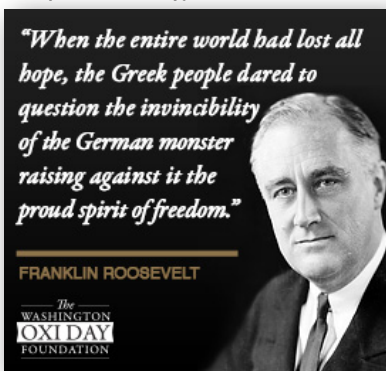


On the night of the 28th of October, 1940, Mussolini sent the Italian ambassador to Athens to the home of the Greek President. Metaxas was woken by the ambassador and asked for free entrance of the Italian forces on to Greece. He immediately gave a negative reply, and with him the Hellenic people answered "OXI" (No!). The war began, the sirens sound, the enemy planes flew over the skies of Greece, and the Italian army was on Greek land. The Greeks fought long and hard for their country. They fought throughout the cold winter in Albania. The Greeks never gave up, but Mussolini, having seen their determination, asked for Hitler's help. The Greeks in turn, fighting with the English by their side, had more triumphs to write of at El Alamein and Rimini. The day of freedom came in October of 1944. Since then, Greece has always commemorated the bravery of Ioannis Metaxas and the Greek patriots for their bravery and conviction in the face of the Italian enemy.

Αν και έχουν περάσει 64 χρόνια έντοτις δέν πρέπει νά ξεχνάμε ότι, τό πρωινό τής 28ης Οκτωβρίου τού 1940, ή Ελλάδα εκλήθη από τήν μοίρα νά πεθάνει ή νά ζήση ελεύθερη.

Κι' ή Ελλάδα όλόκληρη σάν μία ψυχή, σάν νά ήταν ένας μόνο άνθρωπος, συμφώνησε στό «όχι»,

πού έρριξε κατά πρόσωπο, τού Ιταλού φασίστα ό προθυπουργός τής χώρας, πού εκείνη τήν ώρα άνυψώθηκε σέ διαστάσεις γιγαντιαίες,κί εκάλυψε τίς σελίδες,τίς πύ ένδοξης, τής συγχρόνου ιστορικής σταδιοδρομίας της φυλης μας



Η 28η Οκτωβρίου τού 1940 είναι και θά μένει ή πύ μεγάλη μέρα τής Έλληνικής ιστορίας.Δεν θά είναι γιά τόν ιστορικό τού μέλλοντος ή μεγαλειτέρα ήμέρα, πού θά θεωρηθή ως άφετηρία περιλάμπρων νικών μόνο.Καί ούτε ακόμη ως μία μέρα άπαρχής μίας σειράς εκπληκτικών άνδραγαθημάτων μονάχα. Θά είναι μεγάλη γιά τά μεγάλα πού εκείνη τήν στιγμή αποφάσισαν, από τόν Ήρωικόν και Άσκητικόν Βασιλέα τόν Μέγαν Πολιτικόν Ήγέτη τού Έθνους και τό σύνολο τού Έλληνικού λαού, γιά νά φανούν άντάξιοι τών παραδόσεων τής ιστορίας

Η 28η Οκτωβρίου θά είναι ή ήμέρα τής εκ μέρους τών Έλλήνων υπεράτης θυσίας.Τής θυσίας γιά τόν κάθε Έλληνα τού παντός ύπαρκτού. Τής θυσίας τού παντός αγαθού.Τής θυσίας τού παντός χρησίμου είς τά ιδανικά είς τά άυλα πού εκπροσωπεί ή ιδέα τής Πατρίδος.

Όλες οί άλλες μεγάλες μέρες τής Έλληνικής ιστορίας είχαν ήρωισμούς, είχαν κάποια λογική.

Η ήμέρα τής 28η Όκτωβρίου λογική δέν είχε.στό Μαραθώνα ύπήρχαν έλπίδες, στή Σαλαμίνα ύπήρξε ή λογική τής στρατιγηκής και «τακτικής» ύπεροχής.Κι' άκομα όταν ό Έλληνικός λαος έπειτα από τετρακόσια χρόνια δουλείας ξεσηκώθηκε, περιωρισμένος σ'ένα κομματάκι γής, έναντίον τής μεγαλειτέρας και ισχυρωτέρας άυτοκρατορίας τού κόσμου πάλι κατέλειπε στούς μαχομένους

Έλληνες στοιχεία έλπίδων. Αύτος όμως ό άγώνας έναντιον τών ίταλών φασιστών τών όκτώ εκατομμυρίων λογχών και τών δέκα χιλιάδων άεροπλάνων πού θά έπισκίαζαν τόν ήλιο, δέν άφιναν καμμίαν έλπίδα. Γιά νά τό καταλάβη αύτό ό καθένας, έπρεπε νά είχε ζήση εκείνες



τίς ύπέροχες πρωίνες ώρες τής Δευτέρας τό πρωί τής 28ης Οκτωβρίου τού 1940. Στήν Αθήνα, στήν Θεσσαλονίκη,στίς πόλεις στά χωριά.Έπρεπε νά δη γέρους γυναίκες παιδιά,έπρεπε νά δη άναπήρους, νά τρέχουν στό δρόμο, ν' άφίνουν τά σπίτια μέ τίς πόρτες

άνοιχτές και νά φωνάζουν έξαλλοι άπο πατριωτικό μένος. Στόν Στρατώνα! Όλοι όπλα! Καί στήν Ρώμη! Μάταια έλπίδα αλλά πού τήν πραγματοποίησε ό Θεός. Θά κρεμάσωμε τόν Μουσσολίνη! Κι' εκείνην τήν ώρα όταν άντήχησαν τό πρωί οί σειρήνες οί Έλληνες όλοι πίστεψαν βαθύτατα ότι εκάλούντο ν' άποθάνουν.









Community Life Photo Journal | Father Radu 10th Anniversary

A Thank You Note from Father Radu and Family:

Dear Holy Trinity Family:

Fr. Radu and his family would like to thank our entire community for their overwhelming expression of generosity on Sunday. The celebration of Fr. Radu's ten year anniversary in our parish was a complete surprise and your love is deeply appreciated. Thank you all for being our family in Christ.

The Bordeianus



September 10, 2016: The entire Holy Trinity family joined in celebration of the 10th anniversary of the arrival of Father Radu Bordeianu and his family. The Church School students prepared banners and a commemorative booklet with hand-written messages about "Why Father Radu is Special." A luncheon for all was provided by the Parish Council and Philoptochos in honor of the Bordeianu family. Parish Council President George Dickos presented Father Radu with two new sets of vestments as a gift from the community,

Thank you to the following faithful stewards who have submitted their pledge cards for the 2016 pledge year, 270 as of this publication. Please join them in their support for the ministries of Holy Trinity and complete your 2016 pledge commitment today! Remember, a signed pledge card is required as part of maintaining your membership in good standing at Holy Trinity Church each year.

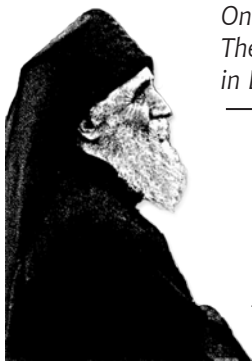
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Saint Paisios

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.

Gheronda, what is the relationship between intelligence and faith?

It is the pure in heart, those who have been cleansed of their passions, who are truly intelligent. True intelligence requires holiness of mind. If the mind does not become sanctified, intelligence will be good for nothing. Look at the journalists and politicians,

for example. They are very bright, but because their mind is not holy, they will often say a great deal of nonsense with their clever remarks. And they do so out of their great intelligence! If man does not make the best out of his mind, the devil will. If man does not put his intelligence to good use, the devil will use it for something evil.

If man does not make good use of his intelligence, rights are granted to the devil automatically. When we do not work spiritually, we adulterate the good and then evil is entirely of our making; the devil has nothing to do with it. If a smart person, for example, will not use his mind, he will become lazy. If he will not put his mind to work, what use is his intelligence?

How do the passions get in the way of good judgement?

First of all, he must be careful not to trust his mind, because, if he is indeed a spiritual man, he will be deceived; and if he is a worldly man he will go mad. He should not trust his thoughts. He must ask around and seek advice so that he may sanctify his mind. In general, we must seek to sanctify everything we have. When our mind becomes holy, discernment follows. Without holiness, intelligence cannot lead to spiritual discernment. On the other hand, a simpleton may mistake a deceived man for a saint and an effeminate person for a pious soul. But when a bright person is cleansed of his passions, he becomes especially discerning.

In order to purify an intelligent mind, we must not accept any "telegrams" from the devil, nor have crafty, wily thoughts; instead, our mind must work with goodness and simplicity. This is how we come to think clearly, through divine illumination, and when this happens, we can look into the hearts of others and not come to conclusions using human criteria.

How does one find divine illumination, Gheronda?

If people would only put the brakes on their speeding minds, not only would their mind find rest, but it would be more receptive to divine Grace. Without divine illumination, knowledge ends in disaster. Those who strive and labor for their spiritual life, have their mind illumined by God; they receive divine illumination, divine experiences, and these give them foresight, so that they don't see things only through their own understanding.

A short-sighted person sees clearly the things that are close, but not what is far away. As for a person with normal vision, well, he may be able to see a bit farther, but that too is not

an accomplishment. We cannot have more than two physical eyes; but we can have many spiritual eyes.

Those who distance themselves from Christ are deprived of divine illumination, because they foolishly exchange a sunny place for a sunless one. This is why they suffer from spiritual colds and other such ailments. If man is not purified, if divine illumination does not come to him, no matter how sound his human knowledge might be, it will remain, as I see it, nothing more than rationalism. If there is no divine illumination, whatever they may write or say will not help others.

Consider, for example, the Psalter, written with divine inspiration, what profound meanings it contains! Gather together, if you want, all the theologians and all the philologists of the world, and you, will see that they are not able to compose one Psalm with such spiritual depth. David was illiterate, but you can see clearly how he was guided by the spirit of God.

The Church is suffering today because divine illumination is missing, and each person understands things as he wishes. The human element gets involved, passions are aroused, and the devil comes in and roams all over. This is why people who are governed by their passions should not seek to govern.

What happens when the spiritual life and the intellectual progress become separated?

It all starts with neglecting one's spiritual work; then comes the conviction that one is really a spiritual person and finally he ends up saying all sorts of nonsense. A child does not know much, but with the natural purity of its mind, it always finds the right thing to say to you. By contrast, a highly educated person, whose mind is clouded by demonic influence, can tell you the most blasphemous things.

The person, who constantly sharpens his mind with knowledge, but lives a life apart from God, will eventually turn his mind into a double-edged sword. With the one side of the sword, he will be slowly putting himself to the slaughter, while with the other, he will be slicing people to pieces with all kinds of absolute human views, sharpened by his unyielding mind.

When human knowledge becomes sanctified, it can help others. But if it lacks holiness, then it's only a human construct; it is the work of a mind ruled by secular reason. When the mind is not holy, it resembles an iron rod that has no magnetic power. Even though it strikes other metals to weld them together, it can only bend them out of shape; it has no welding power whatsoever.

This is the sad state of today's world. People see everything through the prism of cold logic. This kind of logic is really destructive. Doesn't the Apostle Paul write, "Knowledge puffs up?" If we lack divine illumination, all the knowledge in the world will be useless to us, and will end in disaster.

Excerpted from "Elder Paisios of Mount Athos, The Spiritual Counsels, Volume I: With Pain and Love for Contemporary Man"



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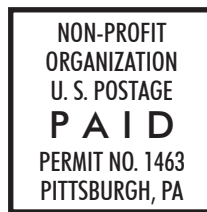
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The Church: Where We Find Life



We are not followers of Christ as some men are followers of a philosopher or a teacher. We are members of Christ's Body, the Church. Christ takes us Christians, despite our unworthiness and sinfulness, and embodies us in His Body. He renders us members of Himself and we—truly, not morally—become members of His Body. As members of Christ's Body, Christ's life is offered to us and it becomes our life. Thus, we are given life, saved and deified.

What a great blessing, to be partakers of the sacred sacraments! Christ becomes ours, His life our life, His blood our blood. Thus, baptized, chrismated and having confessed, we partake of the Lord's Body and and Blood and become gods by Grace. We unite with God, we are no longer strangers.

In the Church, where we unite with God, we experience this new reality that Christ brought to the world: the new creation. This is the life of the Church and of Christ, a life which becomes ours as a gift from the Holy Spirit.

Archimandrite George of Mount Athos (20th c.)

Scripture of the Month: "We, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another." (Romans 12.5)