



THE HOLY TRINITY

# HERALD

*Faith. Family. Community*

January 2024  
Volume 32 | Issue 1

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## PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Wise Men from past years reunite on stage during the 2023 Holy Trinity Centennial Christmas Pageant. See more photos of this event and other community life on pages 10-18.



## Holy Theophany - The Baptism of Christ - January 6

Festal Icon from the Baptistry of Holy Trinity Church. Iconographers: Dr. George Kordis and Team

THE NEWS MAGAZINE OF HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH, PITTSBURGH, PA



Father John Touloumes  
Proistamenos

Now in our 101st year!  
1923-2024

**OUR VISION**  
Faith. Family. Community.

**OUR MISSION**  
The mission of Holy Trinity  
Greek Orthodox Church is  
to proclaim and live the Or-  
thodox Christian Faith in its  
fullness as faithful members  
of the Body of Christ.

**No organization—whether it's a nation, business, church, family or sports team—will reach its potential without continually increased momentum. The pull of the world is toward sin and entropy. If you're not working hard to move forward then you're moving backward.**

**John Maxwell**

My beloved Holy Trinity family,

Here we are, having completed a historic Centennial year in which we completed our iconography, finished our church interior furnishings, consecrated our holy temple and added a Deacon to our ministry, just to mention a few of the 2023 highlights. Wow! No matter how you look at it, we have done exactly what John Maxwell says above: we have worked hard—really hard!—all while riding some of the most powerful momentum we have ever experienced as a community, powered by the grace of God!

Maxwell also advises that after such tremendous efforts and accomplishments, it's necessary to take time to celebrate, unite and share in the joy of the fruits of those labors. It just so happens that our Centennial Gala gave us that opportunity on a grand scale and with much joy. Allow me to take one last look back and say to everyone who played a role, visible or quiet...THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU! AND GOD BLESS YOU!

The question we must now ask is, "How do we keep this momentum going so we don't slide backward?" Picking up on the cues from the excellent Stewardship article on page 8 and turning its question into a challenge, I will put forward the thought that we "are about to burst out of our comfort zone and realize that *the impossible is about to become our new possible*. As we embrace the potential of reaching the top of Stewardship Independence Mountain for the first time in the life of this community, momentum will play a central role, and you need to be part of that momentum. Nobody succeeds in climbing a mountain by stopping halfway and saying, "Someday we'll make it to the top." The team looks at each other and says, "Let's go for it!"



Defining what that "it" is is one of the most exciting parts of the adventure. One thing is for sure: we won't wait until the end to plant our flag; we'll plant many along the way. And they will be inward signs to our own parish members as well as outward signs to the community around us that we are keeping up the momentum, moving continually forward and allowing ourselves to be believers that the impossible can indeed happen. As the Lord says, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19.26). We have already seen it. And again from the Lord Jesus, "You shall see greater things than these" (John 1.50).

I truly believe 2024 is going to be a great year for Holy Trinity Church. And that will happen by God's grace when we not only believe it but act on it. I look forward to getting there with you. We can do this!

With paternal love in Christ our Lord,



# JANUARY

## WORSHIP LIFE

### Weekday Services - January

In addition to regular Sunday Orthros at 8:30am, and Divine Liturgy at 9:30am, the following weekday services will be offered this month. Please see the online parish calendar at [HolyTrinityPgh.org/calendar](http://HolyTrinityPgh.org/calendar) for updates. (HT=Holy Trinity Church; SG=Saint George Chapel.)

- **Mon. Jan 1: St. Basil the Great (SG)**
- **Fri. Jan 5, 8:30am: Royal Hours of Theophany**  
*This special service offers readings, prophecies and hymns which point to and interpret Holy Theophany.* (HT)
- **Fri. Jan. 5, 6:30PM Vespertal Liturgy of Theophany**  
*This is the first of two Theophany Liturgies and services of Great Blessings of the Waters. Please note that this is also a strict fasting day in preparation for the Feast. (EVENING Liturgy begins at 6:30pm)* (HT)
- **Sat. Jan. 6: the Holy Theophany of our Lord**  
This is the main Orthros and Divine Liturgy of this great Feast along with the Great Blessing of the Waters. (HT)
- **Tue. Jan. 9, 6:30pm: Paraclesis to St. Paisios (SG)**
- **Wed. Jan. 17: St. Anthony the Great**  
*Note: This service is being offered at Saint Anthony Church in Clairton (424 Miller Ave.) as part of the outreach ministry of Holy Trinity Church. 9:00am Orthros/10:00am Divine Liturgy.*
- **Tue. Jan 30: The Three Hierarchs (SG)**

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

### Church School Starts with Church!

Attention all Holy Trinity parents and youth: Remember, **Church School begins with Divine Liturgy.** So please be sure to have all our students there at 9:30 am each Sunday. The youth sermon—a special time for your priests to teach and connect with our youth—takes place early in the service after the Gospel, so they won't want to miss that. Also, parents and young people please remember that all youth ministries at Holy Trinity Church begin with Church School. Thanks for your faithful participation!

### No Church School Class ..... December 24, 31

Attention, parents: there will be no Church School class on December 24 and 31 due to the holiday break. But this is *not a break from worship*, so please join together to worship as a family on those days.

## YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

### GOYA Meeting ..... January 21

The GOYA teen ministry will be holding its monthly meeting on Sunday, January 21, in the Conference Room following Church School. All teens are invited to attend.

### GOYA Basketball Practices ..... January 8, 22, 29

GOYA will hold basketball practice at North Allegheny Intermediate School (NAI), 350 Cumberland Rd, Lower Gym, from 6:00-8:00pm. Watch the GOYA email list for updates and details.

### GOYA Metropolis Basketball Tournaments .... January

Our Holy Trinity GOYA teens, coaches and parents will once again be representing our community at the 2024 Metropolis Basketball Tournaments. The first one will be hosted by Holy Trinity Church in Canton from January 12-14. The second will be at Annunciation Church in Akron, Ohio, from January 26-28. Please know that the entire GOYA is so thankful for the many ways this parish supports this vital teen ministry. Funds raised throughout the year assist our youth in attending not only tournaments, but retreats, camps, mission trips and more. And the community is grateful for the faithful witness with which our teams and adults represent Holy Trinity Church through their honorable conduct and good sportsmanship. God bless you all!

## COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

### Holy Trinity Hosting GOYA Tournament.... Feb. 16-18

Save the dates for the upcoming Holy Trinity hosted GOYA Basketball Tournament to be held February 16-18, 2024! We are making plans to welcome over 400 GOYAns, clergy, coaches and chaperones from 11 parishes throughout the Metropolis. To make the tournament a success, the GOYA will need help from everyone in our community. Volunteers will be needed to run the clocks and keep score, oversee gyms & hotels, serve as medical points of contact at the gyms, sell concessions and prepare and serve meals. Please volunteer online for one or more duties at [HolyTrinityPgh.org/volunteer](http://HolyTrinityPgh.org/volunteer). Contact Tournament Chairperson, Penny Balouris at 724-813-5726 for more information.

### 2024 "Stewardship Independence" - Pledge Today!

Thanks to the dedication and offerings of so many faithful stewards, Holy Trinity Church 2023 was a record Stewardship year. It is, however, still not where we need to be. The Stewardship ministry is raising awareness that

even with that level of support, we still are not doing everything we can to keep our church opening and ministering without outside financing. Covering only 80% of our budget through our own internal offerings means we are only able to stay open and running through November 2. We can and must do better, and we invite all Holy Trinity Stewards to make a 2024 "Stewardship Independence Pledge" this year. See the article on pages 8 and 9, and the infographic on page 19 to see how it works and how you and your family are an essential part of the effort.

Please also remember that every active steward and member of Holy Trinity Church already has a Realm account. You may access your account by visiting [HolyTrinityPgh.org/realm](https://HolyTrinityPgh.org/realm) and click “Sign in”. Never logged in? Just enter your email address and click “Forgot Password” and enter your email address. Still can’t access? Send a message to [realm@HolyTrinityPgh.org](mailto:realm@HolyTrinityPgh.org).

**Vasilopita Celebration .....Jan. 7**

On Sunday, January 7, Holy Trinity Philoptochos will host our annual Vasilopita celebration. First, at the end of the Divine Liturgy, a tray will be passed in support of Saint Basil Academy, an education and philanthropic institution of the Archdiocese. Afterwards, the entire parish is invited to the Vasilopita Blessing and sit-down breakfast in the Grand Room, sponsored by Philoptochos and the Parish Council. There is no charge but free-will offerings will be accepted and proceeds from the Vasilopita celebration will go to the Saint Basil Academy.

**Parish Council Installation.....January 7**

As per the Parish Regulations, the 2024 Holy Trinity Parish Council will be installed following Divine Liturgy on Sunday, January 7. Please continue to support and pray for them as they serve you and this community, and always be ready to step up and respond when the Parish Council sends out the call for laborers in vineyard to serve the Church!

## Hospitality Hour Hosts Needed for January/February

Thank you to everyone who has stepped up to host our newly reformatted "Hospitality Hour" following our Sunday Divine Liturgies. There are a number of available Sundays in January and February. Remember a loved one. Celebrate a special event. Share your hospitality with the community. Contact Stacy Dickos at 412-298-9409 or email her at [hospitality@HolyTrinityPgh.org](mailto:hospitality@HolyTrinityPgh.org) to reserve.

**2024 Pilgrimage: "Greece By Faith" .... Sep. 23-Oct. 4**

The Holy Trinity Pilgrimage Ministry is pleased to announce its 2024 Pilgrimage: "Greece By Faith." Many people visit Greece for its beautiful beaches and picturesque islands, and some still have family ties there, but how about seeing Greece through the eyes of faith? Explore it through its Orthodox Christian heritage as we visit famous sites such as Kefalonia (St. Gerasimos), Aegina (St. Nektarios), Meteora (monasteries), and of course we'll visit the Acropolis and many other cultural and historic sites (check brochure for full itinerary). Whether it's your first trip or you go often, you haven't seen Greece like this before! Think of it as "Ionian Village for Adults!" ❖



**The Saint Spyridon Lending Library:  
Now with Orthodox Books for Adults, too!**

Hey adults! You know that awesome Saint Spyridon Lending Library on the second floor Education Center where your children get their Orthodox and other Christian children's books and videos? Guess what? It's not just for children anymore!



As pictured on the left, the library now has shelves with lots of Orthodox Christian reading materials for adults, too! There are books on saints, church history, icons, writings of the fathers, contemporary elders and other forms of spiritual nourishment. There are classics of Orthodox spirituality as well as newly-published materials like Father Radu's "Icon of the Kingdom of God" book on ecclesiology. Adults may visit and check out books on Sundays during Hospitality Hour.



# Faith & Family Weekdays

## Grow Your Knowledge and Practice of the Faith!

### JOM

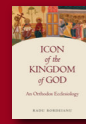
**Journey of Marriage**  
1st Tuesday, 7:00pm



Marriage seminar aimed at preparing couples for their wedding. Based on the "Journey of Marriage" course by Dr. Philip Mamalakis. Conducted as group sessions with couples to share and grow together. Jan. 2, Feb. 6, Mar. 5, Apr. 2, May 7.

### ETW

**Explore the Word**  
Wednesdays, 6:30pm



Father Radu leads us through his new book, "Icon of the Kingdom of God." Drawing on a rich knowledge of scripture, the Church fathers, and theologians, learn what the Church is and means to us. Upcoming dates: Jan...

### MPS

**Monthly Paraclesis Service**  
Second Tuesday, 6:30pm



Join in hymns and prayer, to honor the Theotokos, Saint Nektarios and Saint Paisios of Athos at our beautiful Saint George Chapel. Pray for those in need. Renew your spirit in peace and prayer. Jan. 9, Feb. 13, Mar. 12.

### LCC

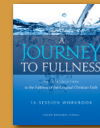
**Liturgical Cooking Class**  
Dates TBD



Did you know that the Prosforo (bread for the Divine Liturgy), Kollyva (memorial wheat), Artoclasia (for the Blessing of the Loaves) are not bought from a store but made by parishioners? You can learn how to make them, too! Watch for dates of these free classes!

### JTF

**Journey to Fullness**  
Mondays (6-week series), 7:00pm



An overview of the Orthodox Christian Faith for newcomers interested in joining or life-long members yearning to deepen their understanding. Format: Videos and Q&A/discussion. Upcoming Spring sessions: May 13, 20; June 3, 10, 17, 24.

### P&P

**Prayer & Panera**  
1st & 3rd Thursday, 7:00am



Prayer and Christian fellowship for men. 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 45 minutes of coffee & conversation. Jan. 4 & 18, Feb. 1 & 15 and more.

Orthodox Christian life happens every day, not just Sunday! Faith and Family Weekdays offers many ways during the week to grow in our faith and share in the community life of the Church. Ready to learn more about the Bible, about your Faith, about navigating life's challenges as a Christian, a woman or a man? It's all there. Explore the Bible. Spend quiet time in prayer and fellowship time over coffee at the **Saint Nikodemos "Prayer and Panera" Men's Prayer Fellowship**. Learn more about Orthodox faith, history, and worship on the **Journey to Fullness**. There are lots of opportunities to learn about the Faith, the Bible, marriage and Christian living. Watch the bulletin and check the online calendar for details.



# Bear One Another's Burdens

**B**ear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Gal 6.2). In the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Unless you are totally off the grid and haven't spoken to anyone else in Pittsburgh over the last few days, I will make the assumption today that you are aware of current events in the local Orthodox community. One of our beloved local clergy and a son of this blessed parish has been arrested and charged with theft. We are all wounded. We are all hurting. And we are all bearing a great burden.

I say "we" in the larger sense because this has affected so many: the parish where the events occurred; this parish where he grew up and was ordained; the families and the faithful who have walked together for so long trusting and believing that their church and their clergy are worthy of that trust. Him. His family, so faithful in the life of the Church. We are all wounded. We are all hurting. And we are all bearing a great burden.

It's so tempting to just listen, presume, judge and talk. However, Elder Thaddeus of Serbia, a great spiritual guide of the last century, challenges us to be careful when facing such burdens. Though he reposed in 2003, way before the era of social media, tweeting and click-

baiting, he warned people facing such issues that they need to use compassion when listening and restraint when commenting. "We are oppressed by our own cares, worries and weaknesses," he says. This, I believe, was his way of lovingly cautioning us to check our attitude, our pride and blindness toward our own faults, just as Jesus did when he warned those were about to stone the adulteress woman, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her" (John 8.7).

So where can we turn? Certainly not to the news as it sacrifices souls for ratings. Not to Internet blogs and YouTube cheap shots seeking to profit from the suffering of others. Nor to the gossip corners we would like to say we don't take part in but sometimes cannot resist. Again, Elder Thaddeus sheds spiritual light to lead us out of that darkness. "If we have a burden beyond our bearing, we must turn to the Lord immediately, like this: 'O Lord, I cannot even bear my own infirmities, yet now I must bear the burden of another. I cannot cope with all this responsibility.'"

But it is a responsibility we cannot as a Christian community escape, for the opening quote from Saint Paul's Epistle to the Galatians clearly lays out our charge: "Bear one another's



burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Gal 6.2). And the law of Christ is love. So we must bear that burden, but Elder Thaddeus says we cannot do it alone. Where do we start?

Saint John Chrysostom, a fourth century Patriarch who was no stranger to suffering—being exiled three times—calls us back to home base as Christians and reminds us. "Of all the afflictions that burden the human race, there is not one, whether



spiritual or bodily, that cannot be healed by the Holy Scriptures." And what do those holy scriptures say about one of us being wounded? The Epistle of Saint James makes it clear: "Confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed." Having now had his sins confessed publicly and even broadcast on TV, have we paid heed to the rest of that command, to pray for one another? We must, because the path to the healing we all need is paved with prayer. So I ask us all, in the last few days we may have been shocked, hurt, angry, disappointed, confused or weighed down by many burdens...but have we prayed? Have we asked for prayers over this? If any of us have had a conversation about the events of the past few days without saying, "Please pray for him. Please pray for his family. Please pray for the Church. Please pray for our priests." That is what a Christian family does. We know our priests are on the front lines of spiritual warfare and some get taken down by the evil one. We are not immune. He has plenty of weapons in his toolkit: divorce, addiction, moral lapses and more. Do we walk by them as they lay bleeding or are we the Good Samaritans who bind their wounds?

Allow me to approach this from another direction you may not have considered, one that vests you with genuine power in the best sense. What if you are the one whose faith, forgiveness and compassion is the model that someone else needs to see to know that true Christians do not respond like others and that there is something genuinely deep and faithful in them that reflects a beauty the world cannot even mimic? What if trading gossip for grace leads someone else to Christ? Perhaps this story from the Desert Fathers might illustrate it well.

Once some thieves came to an old hermit in the sixth century and said, "We are taking everything in your cell." He answered, "Take whatever you need, my children." They took almost everything in the cell and left. But they missed a little bag of money that was hidden. The elder picked it up and went after them, crying, "Children! You forgot something!" The thieves were amazed. Not only did they not take the money, but they returned everything that they had taken. "Truly," they said, "this is a man of God." That moment of grace brought the thieves to repentance and they became Christians. The old monk did not read sermons to them. He did not rebuke them or threaten them, nor even converse with them. What caused the thieves to change their mind and correct their deeds and their lives? They found in this simple monk something that touched their hearts: a man of God who showed them the transformative power of Christian love.

This could not have happened if the monk's faith had been confined to rituals, collections of rules, and pretty words about God, without real experience of life in Christ. Here is my challenge to you today: What if we are that monk to others in this situation, called by God to have a love and faith that can transform others? You have that power, because it is a gift of God, resting in the "Agape" that loves without judgement. He is calling us all to that greater response.

My dear Holy Trinity family, this is so difficult. We live in a world full of choices, and we all make bad ones. It's hard when those choices affect those we love so painfully. I know that has pierced Father George's heart. Imagine how heavy the burden is on his family. They have always been there for us. It is time to be there for them.

The days ahead are challenging indeed. The legal system will do its work, which we must respect. Of course there will be consequences and accountability. And true change. But he needs love, not shame; help, not hate; compassion, not condemnation. Like you would offer your own son. Or a member of your own family. Because he is.

The spiritual, emotional and relational healing must be given time, freedom and our prayers and love to do its work. In the words of His Eminence Metropolitan Savas to the affected community, "This news is deeply distressing for all of us; 'If one member suffers,' as St. Paul reminds us, 'all suffer together' (1 Cor 12:26). Fr. George is a beloved member of our families, and we must pray for him and for all those affected by this situation. May God guide us all in the difficult days to come, as we work together for the healing and advancement of our beloved All Saints community."

In closing, I must add that it is not just our sister parish that is wounded, but Holy Trinity and the entire Church. The world is watching for our response. We cannot proudly proclaim a man a son of this parish one day when things are good, have him ordained at this very altar, and then in time of deep personal crisis disown him for having fallen into sin. Jesus asks, "Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone?" (Matt. 7.9). May we all drop the stone and reach out with the bread of mercy, love, kindness and forgiveness. Leave the rest to God. He will heal our wounds; He will soothe our hurt; He will make our burden light with the power of His love. Amen.

Delivered December 3, 2023 ❖

# How Stewardship Happens



**PLEDGE NOW!**

**T**he only way to discover the limits of the Possible is to go beyond them to the Impossible.” – A.C. Clarke

Let’s have a show of hands how many of us, perhaps 15 years ago, thought – envisioned – that our church would look the way it does today... Be honest, many hands would be kept down. Based on our humble beginnings, ordinary past and seemingly “insurmountable” mountain to climb over the years, just something better, bigger and more pleasing than what we had – with a dome, of course – would have sufficed in our minds.

## **Imagine Big. Plan Big. Do Big.**

The visionaries always say and do these things. If you imagine it, they say, you envision it and plan for it, you can develop it, and accomplish it. Whatever that “it” might be – An 80-year old reaches the summit of Mt Everest; a double amputee scales the highest mountain in the United Kingdom by crawling on his hands and kneecaps; researchers develop a one-and-done infusion therapy that could eliminate sickle cell anemia. How the rest of us envy them! Because, we must admit, many of us stop short of forming grand visions, or think they’d be impossible to become reality. We take small, cautious steps, minimizing risks and being happy with small victories. For example, how far can we possibly imagine our stewardship to our community, or to our world, to reach? Dear brothers and sisters, do you realize that this past decade became our own climb to the summit? Do you not see the results? And we are only at base camp, at the foothills of great things. Could we now be testing the limits of possible and are about to burst out of our comfort zone, and realize that the impossible could really be our new possible? If we still think “no, we reached our limit”, that we’re not in the top echelons of society, that our resources are limited, consider

these two true stories of extraordinary vision by ordinary people:

## **Three Students**

Nick, Mark and Tim are three friends. When they were graduate students at Rutgers University, they made a decision. All in their mid-20s at the time, they were among a group of students who launched the first U.S. chapter of “Giving What We Can,” an international charity movement dedicated to eliminating poverty around the world. (“Empowering Ordinary People to do Extraordinary Good” is their motto, and this relatively young organization of “ordinary” donors now has pledges of over \$3.3 Billion!) Even though the three student friends earned no more than \$20,000 a year at the time of their first pledge, they considered themselves well-off when compared with the vast majority of people in the rest of the world – and pledged to add a larger chunk of their earnings when they begin their careers, until they retire. They are living proof that you don’t have to be rich to give. And give to people they will never meet who are in need. “If everyone who considered his income ‘ordinary’ decided not to give, many of the most important causes could go unfunded,” Nick pointed out, when asked why he did this. “Moreover, people of even modest income can make a significant difference in the lives of large numbers of people. While my parents are not rich by national standards, I do consider my upbringing privileged from a global point of view, as should most Americans.”

## **The Forest Man**

It was the scorching summer of 1978 when Jadav Payeng, a tribal teenage boy in India, returned from his exams to his village, near a river island that had become a barren sandbar over time. What he saw broke his heart: on the dry



and desolate sandbar, more than a hundred snakes lay lifeless. The snakes had been washed up to the sandbar by floods and, without tree cover or food, had died.

Distressed, he sought counsel by the villagers, who exhorted him to grow trees to save the wildlife. Along with their native wisdom, the villagers offered the boy 50 seeds and 25 bamboo plants. And from them burst forth a springtime without bounds. He sowed the seeds and shoots. But he went way beyond that: for the next 37 years, he planted a tree each day. He can now lay claim to nearly 1,400 acres of dense, defiant forest that now houses five bengal tigers, over a hundred deer, wild boar, more than a hundred vultures, several species of birds, including pelicans, four rhinoceroses, besides of course, the snakes, who were at the genesis of this extraordinary story.

Payeng is basically the living embodiment of the philosophy that one person can make a difference beyond anyone's expectations – including their own. "I never thought that my small initiative would make such a difference one day," he says. After all, Payeng, third among 13 siblings, which included seven sisters, started small and poor. His father and mother were dairy farmers who sold milk for a living. Over the years, he has received accolades and awards. Expectedly, he spends all the cash awards on more forest. He has now recruited four laborers for planting as he eyes another 5,000-acre area.



The great Cretan author and thinker Nikos Kazantzakis wrote (inset) "Unless the human heart overflows with Love or Anger, nothing can be done in the world". The heroes in our two stories were moved by both. We probably all feel the same. Love – for our families, community, fellow man, the sick, the world, God. Anger – for injustice, poverty, hunger, illness, persecution, violence, war.

It is now time for us to Imagine Big and Do Big. To go beyond what we've been convincing ourselves is our limit of possible. It's time to pour out – overflow – our cup of

## CLIMBING HOLY TRINITY STEWARDSHIP INDEPENDENCE MOUNTAIN



Love and Anger and go from ordinary to extraordinary. Look what we have done already! We invested in ourselves and began creating a legacy for the next generations. Should we descend in the idle and sinful state of "take [our] ease; eat, drink and be merry" or begin to spread our faith and values, and do a world of good at the same time? We are blessed with a lot more than the people in our two stories had – but the question is 'what will we do with it'? We have been given a truly unique opportunity – we are so close to becoming Stewardship Independent, which means we are ready to be true disciples of Christ and obey His commands. "Having gifts differing according to the grace given to us, let us use them... if ministry, let us use it in service; the one who teaches, in teaching, one who exhorts, in exhortation; one who gives, with generosity; one who leads, with diligence; one who shows mercy, with cheerfulness" – Romans 12:6-8.

Wouldn't it be great if we went from this common online review: "Awesome Greek Food Festival. Great food and friendly people", to one like this in 2024: "Awesome Greek Food Festival. Great food and friendly people. AND, signs everywhere showing the many local and national charities their festival income supports! Made me want to spend more." Wouldn't be a shame if we didn't become extraordinary heroes? It is Possible.

Faithfully yours in the service of Christ,  
Michael Kritiotis  
and the Holy Trinity Stewardship Ministry ❖









December 7: Holy Trinity Philoptochos hosted its annual Seniors Christmas Luncheon in the Grand Room. The morning began with Orthros and Divine Liturgy for the feast of Saint Ambrose of Milan. Following that our beloved seniors enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by the Philoptochos volunteers surrounded by long-time friends and new acquaintances.

Highlighting the afternoon was a visit from Santa, who greeted everyone and handed out gifts. The group sang Christmas carols and, of course, the traditional Greek "Kalanta." There was also a Christmas Trivia Quiz.

Many thanks to our Philoptochos and all the volunteers for honoring our seniors with this wonderful event.





December 17: As the final event in a year-long celebration of the 100th anniversary of Holy Trinity Church, the Church School offered a special "Centennial Christmas Pageant" titled "One Hundred Years of Christmas Pageants: Remembering Yesterday; Celebrating Today; Preparing Tomorrow." It featured, as always, the opportunity for every child in our Church School ministry to participate. The program, custom written by the director, Presvytera Becky, also honored past Clergy, Parish Council Presidents, Philoptochos Presidents and Choir Directors. Many thanks to the students, staff, parents and the many volunteers who helped make this joyous celebration possible. Christ is Born! Glorify Him!



## SILVER BELLS

Holy Trinity 2023 Centennial  
Christmas Pageant Version

People walking, people talking,  
On the way to HT,  
As the children get ready for Christmas.  
Father John and Father Radu,  
Deacon Matthew's there too,  
With our Chanters and Choir you'll hear:

(Chorus 1)  
Church bells ring, choirs sing,  
Christmas is coming in Pittsburgh.  
Pageant's near,  
Almost here,  
It's Christmas time at HT.



Parish Council is on duty,  
Hospitality smiles,  
As they welcome the people to worship.  
HOPE and JOY kids and the GOYAns,  
Sunday Schoolers are here,  
They're all ready for Christmas this year.

(Chorus 1)  
Church bells ring, choirs sing,  
Christmas is coming in Pittsburgh.  
Pageant's near,  
Almost here,  
It's Christmas time at HT.



(Chorus 2)  
Church bells ring, choirs sing,  
Mary and Joseph are coming.  
There's a star from afar,  
Jesus IS our Christmas Day!

Lyrics by Georgia Touloumes











BABY JESUS INFANTS FROM PAGEANT HISTORY



# The Holy Trinity Church S December





WISE MEN FROM PAGEANT HISTORY



# School Christmas Pageant - 17, 2023







During the 2024 Christmas Pageant, the large screen behind the stage displayed various graphics to set the scenes as always, but a special feature this year was the honoring of the past and present Clergy, Parish Council Presidents, Philoptochos Presidents and Choir Directors. They are included below as a final Centennial offering as we conclude this historic year.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH SCHOOL 2024 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT HONORING

# 100 YEARS

## OUR CLERGY

1	1923	Father Nicholas Papavasiliis	5	1932-1933	Archimandrite Neofitos Timotheou Vamvakos
2	1923	Father Gregorios Tsigourakos	6	1933-1934	Father Georgios Sikas
3	1924-1926	Father Vasilios Pantazopoulos	7	1934-1935	Father Kapellos Kanellopoulos
4	1926-1932	Father Ioannis Gargakos	8	1935-1938	Father Nikolaos Triantafyllou

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH SCHOOL 2024 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT HONORING

# 100 YEARS

## OUR PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

1923	John Pothos	1946	James Retetagos	1958	Paul Zappas
1924	James Rongakos	1947	Anthony Morrison	1959	Dean Backeris
1925	Brassidas Kosmakos	1948-1949	John Chapas	1960	Bill Roomeliotis
1936	Leon Paschaleides	1950	Christ Vellas	1961	Nick Pappas
1937-1941	John Athas	1954	Michael Tetonis	1962	Louis Cherpes
1942	George Anton	1955	Harry Konstantinakis	1963	James Lozos
1943	John Poulos	1956	John Retetagos	1964	James Levandos
1945	William Anastos	1957	Michael Patsalos	1965	George Athanasios

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH SCHOOL 2024 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT HONORING

# 100 YEARS

## OUR CLERGY

9	1938	Father Agapios Galakos	13	1946	Father Demetrios Eliopoulos
10	1938-1940	Father Hartofilakas	14	1946-1949	Father Konstantinos Georgiadis
11	1940-1944	Archimandrite Dorotheos Neamonitakis	15	1949	Father F. Sevastiadis
12	1944	Father Silirkaas	16	1949-1956	Father Athanasios Saridakis

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH SCHOOL 2024 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT HONORING

# 100 YEARS

## OUR PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

1966	William Anastos	1975	Clifford Geanopoulos	1991-1992	Gus Georgiadis
1967	Nicholas Cellis	1976	Dene Pappas	1993	Van Backeris
1968	John Nicholas	1977	George Manias	1994	James Balouris
1969	Steve Charis	1978-1979	Thomas Geanopoulos	1995-1996	George Papadopoulos
1970	James Levandos	1980	George Georgiadis	1997-1998	Michael Kritiotis
1971-1972	George Papadopoulos	1984	Tom Karras	1999-2000	Harry Athanasios
1973	Clifford Geanopoulos	1985-1987	Basil Georgiadis	2001-2003	Christ A. Balouris
1974	George Georgiadis	1988-1990	Nicky Geanopoulos	2004-2005	George Georges

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH SCHOOL 2024 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT HONORING

# 100 YEARS

## OUR CLERGY

17	1956-1971	Father John Pitses	20	1993-	Father John Touloumes (30 years and counting!)
18	1971-1992	Father Michael Sfanos	21	2006	Father Radu Bordeianu First Assistant Priest (16 years and counting!)
19	1992-1993	Father Dionysios LaJoie	22	2023-	Déacon Matthew Palamara First Deacon

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH SCHOOL 2024 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT HONORING

# 100 YEARS

## OUR PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

2006-2008	Leq Loomis
2009-2012	Chris T. Balouris
2013-2016	George Dickos
2017-2018	Gerri Valliant
2019-2021	George Danis
2021-2023	George Dickos

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH SCHOOL 2024 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT HONORING

# 100 YEARS

## OUR CHOIR DIRECTORS

Nick Vrionedes	John Nychis
George Christ	Harriet Valliant
Agnes Saridakis	Eleni Valliant

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH SCHOOL 2024 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT HONORING

# 100 YEARS

## OUR PHILOPTOCHOS PRESIDENTS

Mrs. Fatazi	Visi Kalas	Stella Johnson
Penelope Anastos	Sophia Grivas	Katherine Balouris
Anna Retetagos	Alice Kapnisis	Joyce Countouris
Alexandra Beckas	Chrissie Georgiadis	Yvonne Balouris
Vasiliki Psihogiou	Stella Athanasios	Marianne Stearns
Nina Gradiadis	Despina Ladakos	





(Above, right) November 26: GOYAns hosted their annual Thanksgiving Turkey Bowl on the main lawn of the church following Divine Liturgy on Thanksgiving Sunday. Younger ones were invited to join the flag football fun, too!

(Below): December 1: HOPE and JOY parents dropped their young ones off for a few hours of holiday shopping and dining during the GOYA-hosted "Drop-N-Shop" evening. The young ones enjoyed dinner, games, crafts and movies.







# WE CAN DO THIS!

## 2024 IS THE YEAR FOR STEWARDSHIP INDEPENDENCE!

CLIMBING HT  
STEWARDSHIP  
INDEPENDENCE  
MOUNTAIN!  
WE CAN DO THIS!

\$715,000  
2024  
BUDGET

2024  
ADDITIONAL  
DONATIONS

Don't let the clouds  
of doubt cast their shadow:  
**WE CAN DO THIS!**

**WE CAN  
DO THIS IN 2024!**

IF WE MAKE OUR 2024 STEWARDSHIP  
A TOTAL PARTICIPATION YEAR!

**OUR 2023 COMPLETION &  
CONSECRATION - WE DID THIS TOO!**

WE CAN MAKE IT IF WE ADD THIS TO OUR 2023 STEWARDSHIP  
WHEN WE MAKE OUR 2024 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE

**OUR 2023 STEWARDSHIP - BASE CAMP  
WE DID THIS TOGETHER!  
NOW LET'S GO FOR THE TOP!  
[HOLYTRINITYPGH.ORG/PLEDGE](https://holytrinitypgh.org/pledge)**



**HERE'S HOW WE DO IT...IF EVERYONE JOINS THE CLIMB!  
WHAT NUMBER ARE YOU?**

**1**

I **DID** MAKE A COMPLETION  
AND CONSECRATION PLEDGE  
LAST YEAR

PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A 2024  
"STEWARDSHIP INDEPENDENCE" PLEDGE:

MY 2023 STEWARDSHIP **PLUS** MY 2023  
CONSECRATION & COMPLETION GIVING =  
MY 2024 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE

**2**

I **DID NOT** MAKE A COMPLETION  
AND CONSECRATION PLEDGE  
LAST YEAR

PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A 2024  
"STEWARDSHIP INDEPENDENCE" PLEDGE:  
MY 2023 STEWARDSHIP **PLUS** A 20% INCREASE =  
MY 2024 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE

**3**

I AM **NOT** CURRENTLY A  
PLEDGING MEMBER OF  
HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

PLEASE BECOME AN ACTIVE MEMBER AND  
SUBMIT A "STEWARDSHIP  
INDEPENDENCE" PLEDGE:

OF 3% AS DESCRIBED ON THE 2024 PLEDGE  
CARD AS MY 2024 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE



The only-begotten Son is seen as a mortal, lying in a spare manger; and He, the Lord of glory, is wrapped in swaddling clothes.

Christmas Eve Service  
of the Royal Hours

A traditional religious painting of the Nativity scene. It depicts the Virgin Mary reclining on the left, holding the infant Jesus in a manger. The infant is wrapped in swaddling clothes. Other figures include Joseph, angels, and shepherds. The scene is set in a cave with a star visible in the sky.

# 2023 Nativity Poinsettias

Thank you to the many parishioners and friends who offered donations to adorn the Church with beautiful poinsettias for the celebration of the Nativity of Christ. May those you have honored be blessed and remembered always!

- Victor Amurgis & Family ..... In memory of Harriet & William Amurgis (3 plants)
- Mark & Amy Armanious.....In memory of Adel Armanious and Rich Balash
- Art & Christina Avlon.....In memory of Stella Kalaris
- Art & Christina Avlon..... In memory of Gus & Panagiota Bistolas
- Art & Christina Avlon..... In memory of George & Pauline Kalaris
- Dean, Diane & Demetrios Balouris ..... In memory of Anthony & Helen Balouris
- Dean, Diane & Demetrios Balouris ..... In memory of Alexandra Balouris
- Dean & Lisa Balouris ..... In memory of John & Helen Balouris and Paul & Sandy Balouris
- Constance Bistolas Walters ..... In memory of James & Mary Ann Bistolas
- Constance Bistolas Walters ..... In memory of William & Helen Georgiakakos
- Constance Bistolas Walters ..... For the health of the Constance Bistolas-Walters Family
- Pamela Bolkovac ..... In memory of her parents Nick & Mary Bolkovac (3 plants)
- Reggie & Marianne Bonfield ..... In memory of John & Helen Chapas
- Reggie & Marianne Bonfield .....In memory of John & Mary Bonfield
- Reggie & Marianne Bonfield ..... For the health of family & friends
- The Bonfield & Chapas Families .....In memory of Frank & Anne Chapas (3 plants)
- Renée & Jonathan Caromano .....For the health of the Caromano Family
- Renée & Jonathan Caromano .....In memory of Athena & Peter Mamakos
- Bill & Sophea Chapas..... In memory of John & Helen Chapas
- Jim & Bobbie Chapas ..... In memory of John & Helen Chapas
- Amanda Copeland .....For the health of all Holy Trinity Parishioners
- Cynthia Morris Criss ..... For the health of the Morris Family (7 plants)
- George & Sophia Danis ..... In memory of Demetrios & Evdoxia Danis
- George & Sophia Danis .....In memory of George V. Gatsiopoulos & Vasiliki Gatsiopoulos

George & Sophia Danis .....	In memory of John & Sophia Regas
Helen DeMoss .....	In memory of John DeMoss and Steve & Anthoula Pefanis
Helen DeMoss .....	For the health of the DeMoss, Gross and Stum Families
Christine Dickos .....	In memory of her husband Dinos Dickos
Josh & Margo Elliott .....	In memory of Joy Loomis
Josh & Margo Elliott .....	In memory of Mary Kokoros
Josh & Margo Elliott .....	In memory of Sasha & Trixie
Frank & Katina Erdeljac .....	In memory of Mike Alexiades
Frank & Katina Erdeljac .....	In memory of Theologia Alexiades
Frank & Katina Erdeljac .....	In memory of Mary Alexiades
Frank & Katina Erdeljac .....	In memory of Alex Alexiades
Nannette & Thomas Farmar .....	In memory of Peter & Fannie Zafferopoulos (3 plants)
Nannette & Thomas Farmar .....	In memory of James & Joyce Farmar (2 plants)
Fiedler & Parikakis Family .....	In memory of Sophie, William, Josephine, Danielle, and family & friends
Fiedler & Parikakis Family .....	For the health of Eleftherios and family & friends
John & Georgia Franciscus and Family .....	In memory of George & Betty Beckas
John & Georgia Franciscus and Family .....	In memory of John Beckas and Vasiliki Petropoulos
John & Georgia Franciscus and Family .....	In memory of Demetra Kastanis and Peter Katsafanas
Tessie Frankos .....	In memory of her beloved husband James and daughter Jenny Frankos
Connie Fries .....	For the health of family & friends
Connie Fries .....	In memory of Georgiann Bounos
Connie Fries .....	In memory of Joyce Countouris
Connie Fries .....	In memory of John & Toulia Giannoutsos
Connie Fries .....	In memory of Mary & Peter Panos
Connie Fries .....	In memory of Alex Trilivas
Diana Fries .....	In memory of Olga Regakis (2 plants)
Diana Fries .....	In memory of Marian Pantelas (2 plants)
Diana Fries .....	In memory of Mary Panos (2 plants)
Diana Fries .....	In memory of Peter Panos (2 plants)
George & Phyllis Geanopulos .....	In memory of Harry & Helen Geanopulos
George & Phyllis Geanopulos .....	In memory of John & Erma Haas
Efthalia Geanous & George Gregorich .....	In memory of Anna & Byron Geanous
Constantine Georgiades .....	In memory of Theodore & Irene Georgiades
Gus & Penny Georgiadis .....	In memory of George & Mary Kalodikis
Gus & Penny Georgiadis .....	In memory of Peter & Mary Georgiadis
Dr. & Mrs. Mark Georgiadis .....	In memory of their parents
Tom & Joanne Germanos .....	For the health of their family and for Peace on Earth



## NAVITY FLOWER DONATIONS

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Eugenia Graser .....In memory of her husband Robert Graser and parents Michael & Maria Patsalos  
Barbara Harlas ..... In honor of Presvytera Becky  
James S. Johnson and Kristina Johnson.....In memory of their parents Homer J. & Stella Johnson  
James S. Johnson and Kristina Johnson..... In memory of their grandparents George & Augustina Makris  
Gus G. Kalaris.....In memory of Stella Kalaris  
Gus G. Kalaris..... In memory of George & Pauline Kalaris  
Gus G. Kalaris..... In memory of Gus & Panagiota Bistolas  
Irene Karavolos .....For the health of her family  
George & Scarlet Karpakis..... In memory of John Karpakis  
George & Scarlet Karpakis..... In memory of Christopher Karpakis  
George & Scarlet Karpakis..... In memory of Greta Tramel  
George & Scarlet Karpakis..... For the health of Pat Karpakis  
George & Scarlet Karpakis..... For the health of JC Tramel  
Dr. & Mrs. James Kermes..... For the health of family & friends  
Vaso & Elenie Kourouklis.....In memory of Achille Kourouklis  
Vaso & Elenie Kourouklis.....In memory of Georgios Kourouklis  
Vaso & Elenie Kourouklis..... In memory of Stavroula Repana  
Vaso & Elenie Kourouklis..... In memory of Dimitris Repana  
Nicholas T. Loomis .....In memory of his beloved wife Joy  
George & Anita Maier.....For the health of Betty Rossi  
George & Anita Maier..... In memory of George & Katherine Malames  
George & Anita Maier..... In memory of Richard Maier  
Maria Mason ..... In memory of her beloved husband Jeff  
John & Tasy McCann .....For the health of Connor, Alyssa, Henry & Cora  
Milita Mellis ..... In memory of Michael G. Mellis  
Milita Mellis ..... In memory of Constantine Metropulos  
Jeff & Penny Mercadante ..... In memory of George & Elaine Christ (2 plants)  
Arlene Metropulos ..... In memory of her beloved husband Dean  
Arlene Metropulos .....For the health of her dear and precious Milita  
Arlene Metropulos .....For the health and happiness of all her dear friends  
Christine Metropulos ..... For the health of the Metropulos & Steiner families  
Meno & Jean Mitaras..... In memory of the Mitaras & Condos families  
William J. Pagonis .....In memory of James & Mary Pagonis (2 plants)  
Deacon Matthew & Diakonissa Nina Palamara ..... For the health of the Palamara family & the Anh family  
George Pantelakis..... in memory of his beloved wife Rhea  
Orestes & Arlene Paras.....In memory of John & Maria Paras and Michael & Diana Paras  
Orestes & Arlene Paras.....In memory of Albert & Rose Russell and Arthur Russell

Sal & Katina Re .....	For the health of their families
Steve & Electra Roman .....	In memory of parents George & Metaxia Roman and Bill & Harriet Amurgis
Steve & Electra Roman .....	In memory of all those we have loved
Tresa Roman .....	In memory of Paul & Efthemia Makris (3 plants)
Tresa Roman .....	In memory of George & Metaxia Roman (2 plants)
Afaf Saikaly .....	For Peace in Palestine
James F. Sicalias .....	In memory of his mother Bessie Cocheres-Sicalias
Joanna Sideris .....	In memory of Mary Constantino, Olga Litsakis & Eftihia Litsakis
Ted & Mary Ellen Stewart .....	In memory of George & Loula Manias
Ted & Mary Ellen Stewart .....	In memory of Ted & Marian Stewart
Joanne Ladakos Watson .....	For the health of her mother Despina Ladakos (5 plants)
George Zappas .....	In memory of Paul & Agnes Zappas and William Zappas
Antonios & Susan Zikos .....	For the health of their family
Zissis Children & Grandchildren .....	In memory of Anthony & Aspasia Zissis
Zissis Children & Grandchildren .....	In memory of Frank & Anna Zissis
The Zissis Children & Grandchildren .....	In memory of George & Bessie Christodoulos
Julie & Lou Zozos .....	In memory of Eileen Hoffmann, Helen Sfakianos and Phonie & George Zozos







The Holy Trinity GOYA & Philoptochos will be filling boxes for

# The Jared Box Project

to help lift the spirits of children in the hospital

Jared Boxes are plastic shoeboxes filled with small gifts, games, books & other fun activities that are given to children in the hospital to provide a fun diversion.

The boxes will be assembled as a service project during the Holy Trinity hosted GOYA basketball tournament February 16-18, 2024.

We are collecting items for tween & teen boys & girls (8 years old and up):

Crayons, markers, colored pencils, pens, coloring books, word searches, doodle pads, writing journals, Silly Putty, stuffed animals, card games, LEGO kits, puzzles, brain games, books, magazines, lip balm, lotion, fun socks, colorful pillowcases, jewelry making kits, craft kits, paint sets, reusable water bottles.

Other items that are labeled as suggested for teens. Items don't need to be expensive. The dollar store has lots of great options!

**IMPORTANT:** All items must be new. No food items. No tiny items due to choking hazards. No snow globes or glass items that can break. No pencil sharpeners. No bubbles. No holiday items.

Keep in mind, toys need to fit into a plastic shoe box

## YOU CAN HELP!

- ✓ Learn more at: <https://thejaredbox.org>
- ✓ Purchase dollar store items & drop off in the Gallery between Jan 7 - Feb 11, 2024, or
- ✓ Purchase items from our Amazon Gift Registry "Holy Trinity Pittsburgh GOYA" or by using the QR code



Contact Nicole Steiner 412-352-0289 for more info





HOLY TRINITY PHILOPTOCHOS

# *Loukoumades*

## FUNDRAISER

Sunday January 21, 2024 after Divine Liturgy

6 for \$3 / 12 for \$6

No Pre-orders

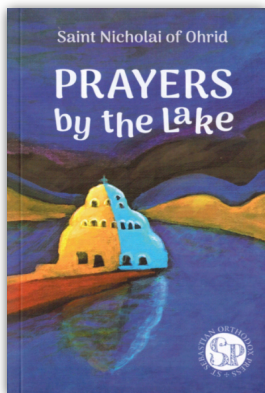




# Descending Deep Into the Heart

A beautiful prayer of confession of the soul and connection of the heart to God by Saint Nikolai of Ohrid

I am descending deep into my heart, to see who is dwelling in it besides me and You, Eternal God. And I am filled with fear as find legions of strangers fighting over portions of my heart. I found as many of them in my heart as time contains human and inhuman souls from the fall of Adam.



And then I understood why my heart has become weary, and cannot receive either You or me into its chambers, but instead shoves us to the

outer perimeter—pushing the proprietors out to the edge of their property. Even before I came out of the womb of my mother, the world with its desires was dwelling within me.

I used to pay dearly and too dearly for every flattery of the world. I would always break off a piece of my heart and give it as payment, until eventually I gave my whole heart to the world and the flatteries began to become boresome to me.

Old men complain to me about their years, saying: “Our heart has grown old under the weight of many years.”

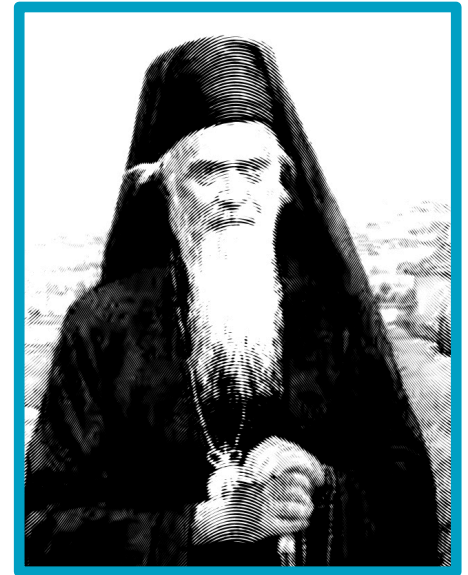
In truth, old men, your heart has not grown old beneath the weight of many years but beneath the weight of many desires.

And so, when alone I advise my heart: break away from yesterday’s day, because it has already broken away from you. All those objects, to which desire bound you yesterday, do not exist today. Some of them have changed, others disease has disfigured, still others have died. Nor do the objects of your desires of tomorrow exist. With its whip, time flogs its flock, and its flock sweats and bleeds beneath the blows. But the objects of today’s day are throwing into you, my heart—already brimming with shadows of the dead—new desires, which tomorrow will be even more of the same shadows of the dead.

Do not revive memories of the past, my heart, for these memories will bind you to the pillar of time as many times as you revive them, And you will be a slave to time; you will grow old and will die before death.

As quickly as possible break the knots of the passions, which have become entangled by desires and emotions combining and frequently recurring. It is easier to break the individual threads of desires and the individual threads of emotions than the knots of passions. Nevertheless you must break them even if it causes you to bleed, if you want a new childhood, a new youth, more beautiful and eternal than your former youth.

Cast the world out of yourself, my heart, and then observe how feeble it is. And then observe yourself, and you



Saint Nikolai of Ohrid

will feel unheard-of power. The world seems powerful to us only when we serve it as its slave.

You will be as vast as eternity, and eternity itself will come to dwell within you.

O Triune God, You have a heart that is devoid of darkness and free of the world. Clear out from my heart the uninvited strangers, who have sullied my heart with darkness. Let my heart be radiant; let darkness hover around my heart, but let it never occupy it.

Let my heart be the heart of a son and a Lord and not the heart of a hireling and a thief.

Grant me the heart of Jesus, around which darkness waited in vain to enter, but never could.

Queen of heavenly beauty, embrace my heart with motherly caring.

O Holy and Almighty Spirit, make my heart fruitful with heavenly love—so that everything that is born and grows within it may not be of flesh and blood but of You, my Holy Spirit and Lord.

Excerpted from *Prayers by the Lake*, Bishop Maxim Vasoljevic, ed.)❖



## THE HOLY TRINITY

**HERALD***Faith. Family. Community***About the Herald**

The Herald is the Monthly Newsmagazine of  
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

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**About the Parish**

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Web site: HolyTrinityPgh.org | Email: office@HolyTrinityPgh.org

Holy Trinity Church is a parish of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh (pittsburgh.goarch.org) and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America (goarch.org) under the Spiritual Jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

**Parish Administration  
Clergy**

Rev. Fr. John Touloumes, Proistamenos  
Rev. Fr. Radu Bordeianu, Assistant Priest

**2023 Parish Council**

George Dickos, President (pcpresident@HolyTrinityPgh.org)

Alexander Anetakis	George Danis	Dean Passodelis
Anthony Balouris	Evan Danis	Michael Passodelis
Andrew Fournaridis	Tom Germanos	Chris Sarandou
Ashley Bournias	George Mellis	Jeanne Willow

**Ministries**

Please visit the Holy Trinity website at HolyTrinityPgh.org for descriptions and contact information on Holy Trinity Church's ministries, including spiritual life, education, youth, senior, family and cultural opportunities. There is something for everyone, so please get involved today! Everyone is welcome!

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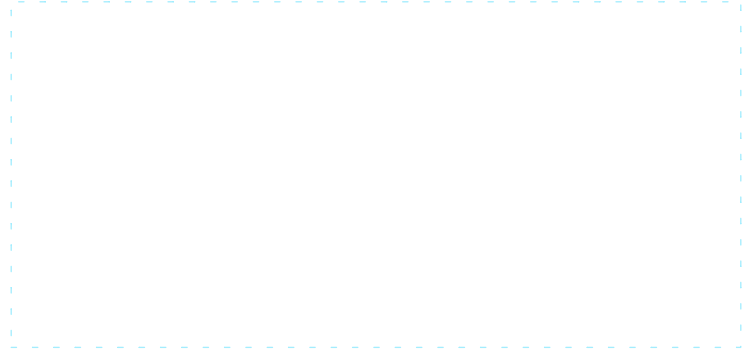
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## THEOPHANY: GOD REVEALED

The Baptism of the Lord is called Theophany [revelation of God] because in it the one true God, worshiped in Trinity, revealed Himself so palpably:

God the Father—through the voice from heaven,

God the Son incarnate—through His baptism, and

God the Holy Spirit—through the descent upon the Baptized One.

Here the mystery of the relationship between the persons of the Most Holy Trinity is also revealed. God the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and rests in the Son, but does not proceed from the Son.

Here also is revealed the fact that the incarnate Divine economy of our salvation is accomplished by God the Son incarnate, coexisting with the Holy Spirit and God the Father. And it is revealed that the salvation of each person can be accomplished no way other than in the Lord Jesus Christ, through the grace of the Holy Spirit, according to the good will of the Father.

All the Christian Mysteries shine here with their divine light and enlighten the minds and hearts of those who with faith celebrate this great festival.

St. Theophan the Recluse (19th c.)

