



THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

SEPTEMBER 2009

VOLUME 17 • ISSUE 8

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QUICK NEWS



Holy Trinity golfers Chris Loomis, George Athanasiou and Jonathan Bonfield share a moment of victory and fun on the links at Diamond Run during the First Annual Holy Trinity Golf Classic on July 6. For photos of this event, which benefitted the Capital Campaign, see the Community Life Photo Journal on pages 8-9.

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH • PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The Cross is the guardian of the Universe; the Cross is the beauty of the Church; the Cross is the might of kings; the Cross is the affirmation of the faithful; the Cross is the glory of angels and a plague to demons.

Exapostilarion Hymn of the Orthros of the Holy Cross · Feast Day: September 14



Our Mission: To proclaim and live the Orthodox Christian Faith in its fullness as faithful members of the Body of Christ

THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

About the Herald

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

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About the Parish

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

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church Parish Administration

Clergy

Rev. Fr. John Touloumes, Proistamenos

Rev. Fr. Radu Bordeianu, Assistant Priest

Parish Council

Chris T. Balouris, President

Anthony Loomis Alex Trivilas

Sondra A. Balouris Yvonne Balouris

George Danis George Dickos

Troy Geanopoulos Joanne Germanos

Robert Marsh Nicholas Sarandou

Vasilios Scoumis Gerri Valliant

Ministries

Philoptochos Kay Balouris, Pres.

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

ChoirJohn Nychis, Director

Over 50 Club.....Stella Athanasiou, Pres.

St. Lydia Study.....Stacy Dickos, Coordinator

Cemetery.....Bill Fiedler, Chairman

Greek School....Effie Kilantonis, Coordinator

Social Hall..... Laura Triantafillos, Coordinator

Bookstore..... Bill and Linda Areheart



So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by letter.

2 Thess. 2.15

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

When we speak of traditions in the Church, it takes on many different meanings on various levels, from local to global, from contemporary to eternal. My travels to Greece this summer with our Ionian Village Summer Camp Ministry provided varied opportunities to experience "traditions" in a multitude of ways:

- **Architectural:** There was truly no end to the continual beauty, splendor and deeply theological and practical message of the Byzantine church architecture throughout Greece. Being in the middle of a building program in our own community certainly heightened my sense of awareness and appreciation of the details and the impact of this central visual component of the Greek Orthodox Faith.
- **Festal:** Whether it was a liturgical calendar feast (such as the celebration of a Saint Paraskevi) or a community feast (such as the final farewell evening with the roast lamb on the "souvla" at the camp at Ionian Village), the tradition of feasts is deep-seated in the celebration of life there and permeates the entire community with joy.
- **Iconographic:** From the inspiring experience of seeing the "Directress" icon at Mega Spilaion, said by history to have been painted by the Apostle and Evangelist Luke, to the amazing Synaxarion with an icon for every day of the year contained in the museum of the Simonopetra Monastery, icons are embraced and a continual reminder of the love of God and His saints for us and His ability to use any means He desires to bless us and awe us.
- **Historical:** As inheritors of a world-changing ancient civilization, the Greeks have a tremendous sense of stewardship and respect for the history which has borne them. The Acropolis Museum, newly opened, is one of the best examples I have ever seen in my life of this respect.
- **Cultural:** This is really an amalgamation of all the facets of Greek life mentioned above, plus many more. Though it varies from the village to the city, from the monasteries to the parishes, from the Peloponnesus to Halkidiki, there is a distinct identity and pride of being Greek, combined (at the best of times) with a desire to share that experience with great hospitality to all whose embrace it.

So, where does that leave us as Greek Orthodox Christians in America? In its best sense it should be neither as curators of an inherited trust never to be touched nor as ungrateful heirs seeking to divest ourselves of the family name. We cannot and should not re-create either Greece or Mount Athos in America. To do so would deny the true call of the Church in this "new land." We must, however, "stand firm and hold to the traditions" while striving to be worthy inheritors who seek to keep the arms and doors of our Church open and reaching out of Christian hospitality to all who seek to embrace the truth, ensuring that the same life-in-breathing Holy Spirit which has kept the Holy Faith alive in Greece for over two thousand years will flourish and grow here until the coming of the Lord.

Yours in Christ,

WORSHIP LIFE

Weekday Liturgies September

Please take note of the following upcoming liturgical dates. Unless otherwise indicated, Orthros starts at 8:30 a.m., followed by Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m..

Sept. 7, 6:00pm: Nativity of Theotokos Vespers & Vigil
Sept. 8, 9:00am: Nativity of Theotokos Divine Liturgy
These services will be held at the Nativity of the Theotokos Monastery in Saxonburg, PA.

Sept. 9, 6:00pm: Monthly Paraclesis Service
Sept. 13, 7:00pm: Exaltation of the Holy Cross Vespers
Sept. 14, 9:00am: Exaltation of the Holy Cross Orthros/Liturgy
These services will be held at the Holy Cross Church in Mount Lebanon.

Sept. 17: Saint Sophia and her Daughters Orthros/Liturgy
Sept. 26, 9:00am: St. John the Theologian Divine Liturgy
Services for St. John will be held at the THEOS School in Carnegie as part of a special "Healing in Christ" retreat.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Church School Begins. September 13

Church School is here again! If you missed advance registration in August, don't worry: there's still time to enroll. Simply take your child to their room and sign them up before class starts. The first day of classes for Church School is Sunday, September 13 at 9:30 with Divine Liturgy and the children's sermon, followed by classes after Holy Communion. See you there!



Adult Study Opportunities September

Please watch the Sunday Bulletin and the Holy Trinity web site (www.HolyTrinityPgh.org) for information on the St. Lydia Women's Study Fellowship, the St. Nikodemos Men's Study Fellowship and the Orthodox Studies Forum to be posted during the month of September.

FESTIVAL NEWS

"Summer Festival" Dates September 3-6

Don't forget to also keep Thursday-Sunday, September 3-6, free to work at, eat at, bring your friends to and enjoy the Holy Trinity Greek Summer Festival. A Festival flyer and fax order form posted on our web site. Please be sure to pass it around to friends, family, co-workers and anyone else you know who might enjoy our great Greek food and hospitality. Thanks for being the best advertising we have!

FUNERALS & MEMORIALS

Thomas Levandos

The servant of God, Thomas Levandos, fell asleep in the Lord on July 8, 2009. The Funeral was held at Holy Trinity Church on July 10, followed by interment at the Holy Trinity

Cemetery. May his memory be eternal!

Bessie Sicalias

The servant of God, Bessie Sicalias, fell asleep in the Lord in Houston, TX, on August 2, 2009. The Funeral was held at the Saint George Chapel on August 11, followed by interment at the Holy Trinity Cemetery. May her memory be eternal! A 40-day Memorial is scheduled for September 6.

SACRAMENTAL REGISTRY

Baptism: O'Neill

The servant of God, Alayna (Eleni) O'Neill, daughter of Michael and Kristen O'Neill, was received into the Holy Orthodox Christian Faith through the Holy Mystery of Baptism on August 16, 2009. The Sponsor was Eleni Valliant. May God grant her many years!

Wedding: Elderkin/Vlastos

The servants of God, Bryan Emmanuel Elderkin and Eva Vlastos were united in marriage in the Holy Mystery of Betrothal and Crowning on June 20, 2009. The Sponsors were Joyce and Harry Athanasiou. May God grant them many years!

Wedding: Scopelitis/Dyakos

The servants of God, Steve Scopelitis and Nancy Dyakos, were united in marriage in the Holy Mystery of Betrothal and Crowning on August 23, 2009. The Sponsors was Billy Brennen. May God grant them many years!

Wedding: Liokareas/Nychis

The servants of God, Peter Liokareas and Maria Nychis, were united in marriage in the Holy Mystery of Betrothal and Crowning at Holy Cross Church on August 22, 2009. May God grant them many years!

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Holy Trinity Combined Youth Ministries Kick-Off... Sep.13

Holy Trinity will host a combined Youth and Young Adult Ministries Kick-off event on Sunday, September 13 from 1:00 to 5:00 pm at the Treesdale Community Center. This picnic and fun event will be the first event of the season for HOPE (Kindergarten through 2nd grades), JOY (3rd through 6th grades), GOYA (7th-12 grades) and the Young Adult Ministry (age 18 and over). Combining the event will provide a convenient one-stop destination for families with children in multiple age groups; it will also remind us that even though each group has its own identity and will have its own meeting during the event that day, we worship, live and cooperate as one Holy Trinity family, from the very youngest to the oldest. So parents, please be sure to be there with all your children, from Kindergarteners through Seniors, and Young Adults, please plan on attending and getting involved, too! See you there!



GREEK SCHOOL NEWS

Children's and Adult Classes 2009-2010

Yes! Holy Trinity still has a Greek School. The 2008/2009 school year was very productive and rewarding for our adult class, but we still need children for our children's program. We will have the continued involvement of our current teachers as well as new teachers for the coming year. Holy Trinity has a wealth of materials from pre-school through senior high. In addition, the Greek Government offers additional support and materials to Greek school programs. All we need are your children, from ages 4 through 18 to benefit from this program. Greek school begins the Monday after Labor Day, and runs through out the school year. For more information, call Effie Kilantonis at 412-831-3291) or see the enclosed flyer.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Holy Trinity Church Office Closed for "G20" . . . Sep. 24/25

Due to a number of factors surrounding the upcoming "G20 Summit" in Pittsburgh (including anticipated traffic and security issues), the Holy Trinity Church Office will be closed on September 24 and 25. In the event of an emergency, please call the Church Office phone and select Father John's extension, then choose the emergency contact option.

Sign Up For the Holy Trinity Email & Twitter Lists!

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

REGIONAL NEWS

"A Taste of the Burgh" Benefit Event. September 17

The Three Hierarchs Eastern Orthodox School (THEOS) is hosting a relaxing and casual night out at Primanti Brothers in the heart of Pittsburgh's famous Strip District located at 46 18th street.

The organizers note: It's a great deal for a great meal! Enjoy an endless supply of food, fun and complimentary spirits! Thursday, September 17 from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. The donation is \$50 per person. Reservations must be made by calling 412-278-3333. Checks can be mailed to Three Hierarchs Eastern Orthodox School, 1819 Ellsworth Avenue, Heidelberg, PA 15106. Reservations by credit card can be accepted by phone in advance only.



Spotlight on Music. September 27

The Metropolis of Pittsburgh Philoptochos is once again sponsoring its Spotlight on Music event, this year on September 27. The proceeds from the event, to be held at the Belle-

field Auditorium with a reception at Saint Nicholas Cathedral, benefits the Camp at Mount Tabor. Tickets are available from our Philoptochos at Coffee Hour.

Walk For Missions 2009 October 11

The Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood of Greater Pittsburgh will once again sponsor its annual Walk for Missions on Sunday, October 11 at 2:00 p.m. (Registration at 1:00 p.m.) at the South Park Children's Playground. Proceeds from the Walk will benefit the Orthodox Christian Missions Center (OCMC), which sends missionaries throughout the world. This year the focus will be on Spanish translations of Orthodox catechetical materials for use in Latin America. The Orthodox Christian Mission Center receives many such requests from individual inquirers and independent church groups for instruction into the Orthodox Christian Faith. The registration and sponsor flyer is enclosed in this issue of *The Herald* and should be brought to the Walk. Please notify Holy Cross Church at 412-833-3355 if you plan to participate.

IOCC Wine Tasting Benefit Event. October 15

The Pittsburgh chapter of International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) will host a Wine Tasting and Dinner to benefit its philanthropic and humanitarian work on Thursday, October 15, 2008 at Little Athens Restaurant, 518 Locust Place in Sewickley (412-741-1230). Appetizers will start at 6 p.m., followed by dinner. Tickets are \$60.00 per person. Due to limited seating tickets must be purchased in advance. To purchase tickets go to www.iocc.org/pittsburgh or contact Sophie Farah at 412-341-6869 by Sunday, October 11. Enjoy an evening of fellowship, food and fine wine! See the enclosed flyer for more information.

METROPOLIS & ARCHDIOCESE NEWS

Upcoming Events

Please note the following upcoming Metropolis events. Information and registration can be found at the Metropolis web site: pittsburgh.goarch.org.

- August 29: GOYA Leadership Day (Akron, OH)
- September TBA: GOYA Athletic Seminars
- October TBA: Clergy-Laity Assembly (Camp Hill, PA)
- November 13-15: GOYA Fall Retreat
- January 15-17: Young Adult Retreat

Summer Camp Photos Available Online

Looking for photos from this year's Metropolis of Pittsburgh Summer Camp Ministry? Go to the Metropolis web site at pittsburgh.goarch.org/gallery.

Orthodox Observer Online

Like many publications that have already done so, the Orthodox Observer will offer an online version to readers who request it, in lieu of a hard copy beginning with the September issue. This is part of an overall effort by the Archdiocese to be environmentally aware. There is no cost to subscribe. Just e-mail your name, address, and customer number that appears on the mailing label to: observer@goarch.org Participation is voluntary.

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



Father John Androutopoulos

The "HolyDays" of September

Rejoice, beloved brothers and Sisters in Christ. Rejoice in the Lord always!

September 1: The Indiction

September 1st marks the beginning of the Indiction or the Ecclesiastical New Year. We pray that during this New Year of our Church, with the Blessings of our Heavenly Father, we will all be

spiritually regenerated and become faithful and fruitful servants and good stewards in the vineyard of our Lord Jesus Christ!

September 8: The Nativity of the Theotokos

On Tuesday September 8, our Church honors the birth of the Theotokos, the Virgin Mary. This is one of the 12 Major Feasts of the Church. The Theotokos was the chosen vessel of God. She was destined to bear the Savior of the World. There are many beautiful hymns written to honor the Theotokos. At every Church service there is a hymn to honor Her.

The Troparion of The Feast:

Thy Nativity O Theotokos, hath proclaimed joy to the whole universe; for from thee did shine forth the Sun of justice, Christ our God, annulling the curse, and bestowing the blessing, abolishing death and granting us life everlasting.

September 14: The Elevation of the Holy Cross

On Monday, September 14, our Church celebrates the Feast of the Elevation of the Precious Cross of the Lord. This is also one of the twelve major feasts of the Church. This feast day, is equal to the Holy and Great Friday (It is also a strict fast day).

To the Christian the Cross is a sacred symbol of his faith in Jesus Christ. We Orthodox Christians honor the Cross of Christ during the Great Feast of the Elevation of the Cross. It is through the Cross of Christ—the formerly hated and ignominious instrument of a cruel death—that we are saved. He who was slain on the Cross for our iniquities brought to life us who are not worthy. He has made us worthy of God's great mercy for He is good and compassionate. We on the Feast Day of the Elevation of the Cross rejoice and exalt His

Holy Name.

Our Holy Church emphasizes the greatness of the Cross with these words: "The Cross is the guardian of the Universe; the Cross is the "beauty of the Church; the Cross is the might of kings; the Cross is the affirmation of the faithful; the Cross is the glory of angels and a plague to demons."

Another hymn from the Feast: "Thy Cross, our Master, we adore, and thy Holy Resurrection do we glorify."

Blessings Through Stewardship

Some think of their income whether large or small should be used to gratify their own desires. This is a selfish point of view.

The early Christians had little; yet they sold what they had and gave it to the Church. And they did it with grateful hearts because they knew—as some of us refuse to know—that our worldly possessions and our money is simply lent to us by our Creator and it is to be used not selfishly, but to promote His Kingdom on earth. We should accept this challenge of bringing our tithes and offerings into the storehouse. Then we too can be assured that God will carry out His promise to open the windows of heaven and pour out His blessings upon us.

If we look up the word steward in the dictionary we will find that it means a person who takes care of things for someone else. Are we being good stewards of what God has entrusted to us? Do the ways we use our talents and possessions please Him? It is important that we do His will and try to please

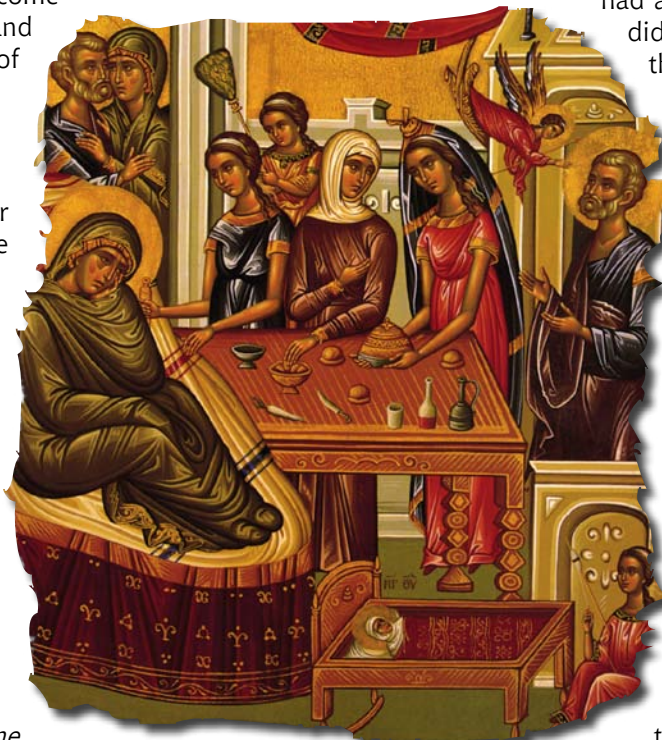
Him. The sacrificial gift is one most precious in God's sight. This type of steward will be the one of whom the Lord says. "Well done, good and faithful servant; thou has been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of the Lord." Our God given talents or gifts must be used. If we never use them, they will not develop and may disappear altogether.

It is through faithful stewardship of those who are devoted to Christ, that our Churches came into being. It is through stewardship that they continue to grow. Each one of us must give of our money, our time, and our talents so that we joyfully fulfill our responsibilities as Christians who are worthy in our stewardship.

Remember what the Holy Bible says: "It is more pleasant to give than to receive" and "God loves a cheerful giver."

With His love,

Rev. Fr. John K. Androutopoulos



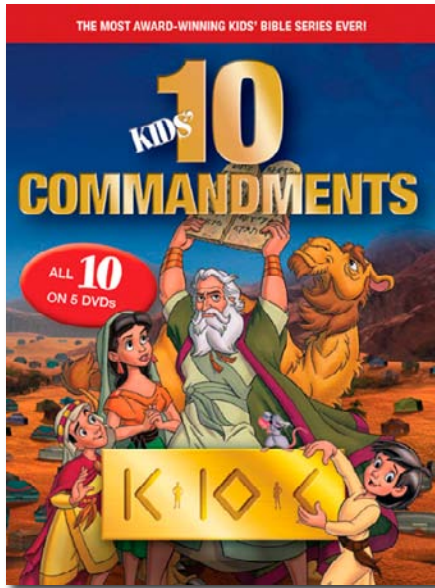
Hello, my precious children!

Welcome back to another great year of learning and growing in your Faith at the Holy Trinity Church School! I am so..o..o excited to have you here!

I really learned a lot this summer, travelling to Greece with Father John and his family to the Ionian Village Summer Camp. They have the most ama-a-azing things there! Monasteries, churches, ancient ruins ... and even saints! It really makes you want to learn a lot more about the Jesus and His Holy Church, so let's get started right away!



In the video series, "Kid's Ten Commandments," Episode 2 is titled, "The Best is



Yet to Come." Eleven-year-old Seth and his family are at the foot of the mountain, where Moses has been called by God to find direction for God's people as they waited in the desert. Seth is anxious to get going and head out again on the path for the Promised Land soon, because his mother keeps assigning him chores to do! He is curious, though, because he wants to know why it is still thundering on the mountain. What he doesn't know is that a very important thing is happening: God is giving Moses a list of His commandments for His people, written with His own hand!

In those commandments, Seth learns how to answer his mother, because God wants him to honor and respect her. He also learns how to watch his tongue, especially when he is angry, because the the Third Commandment says, "Do not misuse the name of the Lord your God." And learns about honoring God by giving Him a day on which we don't work: "Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days a week work is set aside for your daily duty, but the seventh is set aside to worship the Lord your God."

Well, even so, while Seth's mother is away, he gets stuck working for Jeshanah, a greedy old man who breaks all these commandments in his quest for riches. Jeshanah takes Seth and his pet donkey to collect manna for two days. Remember, manna was the flacky white food God had provided to the Jews in the desert every day except the Sabbath, because He didn't want them to work and collect it on that holy day. Also, if they gathered more than they needed, ot would spoil. But Jeshanah wanted to collect as much as he could and try to make money selling it. When Seth complained to him that he had too much work, he quickly and rudely answered by swearing that it was ok with God to "work the system." Seth responded that Jeshanah better be telling the truth, since he swore by the name of God that it was ok. "You can fool me, but you can't fool God when you take His name in vain," Seth reminds him.

Does the food spoil? Does Jeshanah learn his lesson? What happens when he tries to convince Seth to work on the Sabbath? Come on down and visit me in my new home this year and check out this and other exciting books, videos and DVD's. I'll be waiting for you!

Love in Christ,
Spero

Capital Campaign Pledges Received | Holy Trinity Capital Campaign

The Holy Trinity Capital Campaign is fully engaged and would like every member of the Holy Trinity community to participate in this crucial and historic program. Presentations have been made to various General Assembly meetings; Capital Campaign Newsletters have been provided to the community mailing list; the all-new Holy Trinity web site now features New Church plans and Capital Campaign information; the Capital Campaign Ambassadors have contacted every member of the Holy Trinity community. Thank you to the Holy Trinity Capital Campaign supporters who have submitted signed pledge cards as of this mailing. Please join them on the next list!

Father John & Presvytera Becky Touloumes
Father Radu & Presvtera Loredana Bordeianu

Anonymous

Mark & Teddi Adamczyk
Chysanthia Andromalos
Harry & Joyce Athanasiou
Alvin & Tammy Backeris
Anthony & Helen Balouris
Chris & Chrysoula Balouris
Christ & Kathy Balouris
Constantine & Diane Balouris
James T. & Yvonne Balouris
Katherine Balouris
George Beckas
Christopher Bonfield
Johnathan Bonfield
Reggie & Marianne Bonfield
Dennis & Penny Bossick
Sophia Bridoux
Clifford & Sondra Brubaker

Cynthia Criss
Evan & Kelly Danis
Eudoxia Danis
George & Sophia Danis
Dean Dickos
George & Stacy Dickos
Bill & Katrina Fiedler
Brian & Angela Fitzpatrick
Tom and Georgianna Fraley
Troy & Annika Geanopoulos
Leo & Elizabeth Gensante
Gus & Penny Georgiadis
Mark & Karen Georgiadis
Tom & Joanne Germanos
Gus & Stella Kalaris
Charles Siebott and Irene Karavolos
George & Scarlet Karpakis
Marios Kritiotis
Michael & Julie Kritiotis
George & Canella Lalikos
Anthony Loomis

Chris & Sarah Loomis
Lous & Lucy Loomis
Stanley & Helen Morris
Maria Nychis
William & Cheryl Pagonis
Peter & Mary Panos
Orestes & Arlene Paras
Charles & Jan Petrides
Rania Pontikos
Evan & Teri Rigas
Nicholas & Jane Sarandou
Vasilios Scoomis
Archie & Mary Selevos
James Statheas
Kirk & Fran Stephen
Jim & Lori Thomas
Eric & Poluxeni Tomalski
Gerri & Paula Valliant
Katherine Warren-Romanias
Antonios & Susan Zikos

Signing up matters!



(Don't be left out)

What does it take to stake your place in the future and your claim to a vision? In 1776, it took 56 signatures.

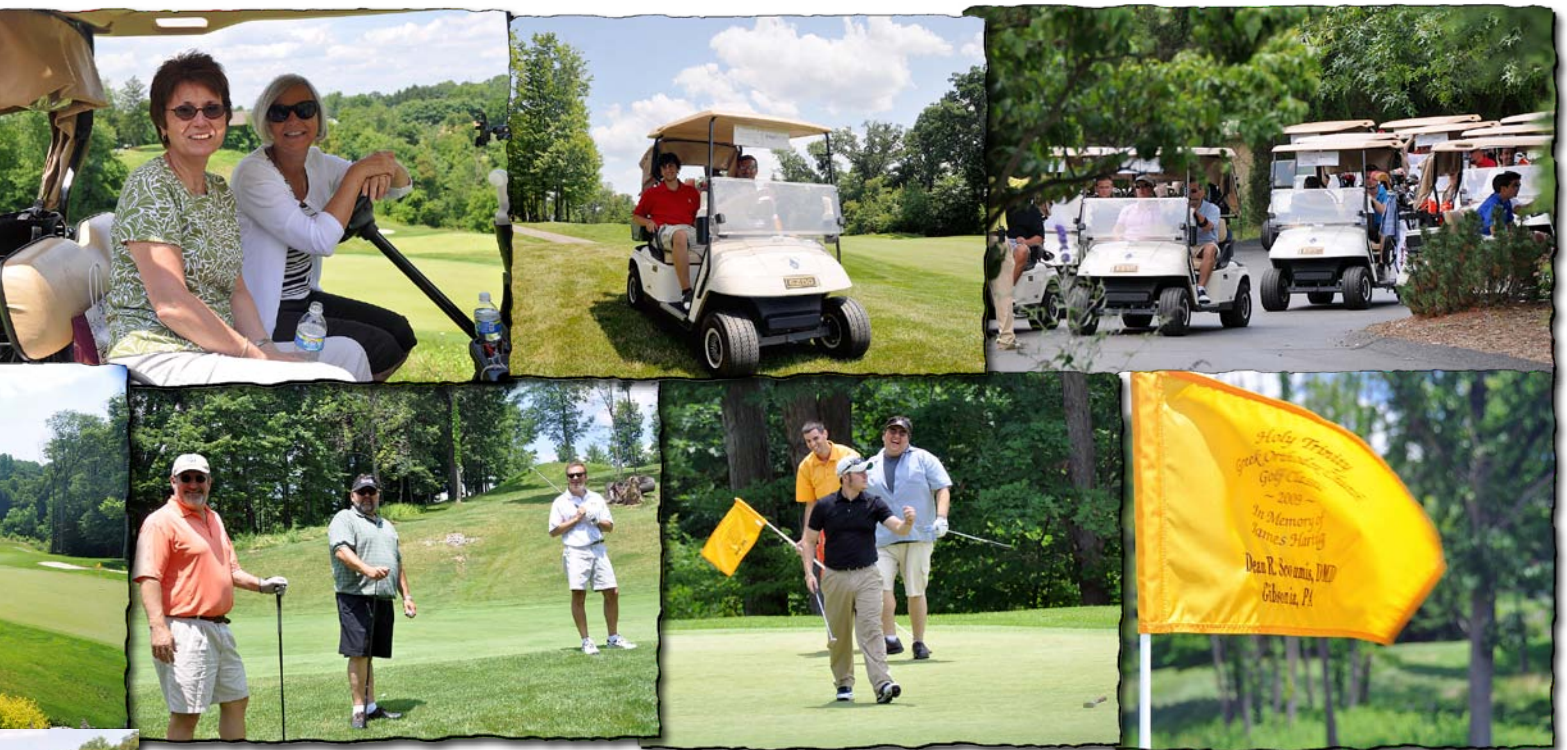
In 2009, Holy Trinity Church needs yours.

If you have received a Capital Campaign Pledge Card, please take the time to sign and return it today. If you have not yet received a card, please contact the Capital Campaign Chairman Jim Balouris at 724-316-2846 and request one.

It's time to make history at Holy Trinity Church. Make it yours. Stake your claim. Please sign it today!





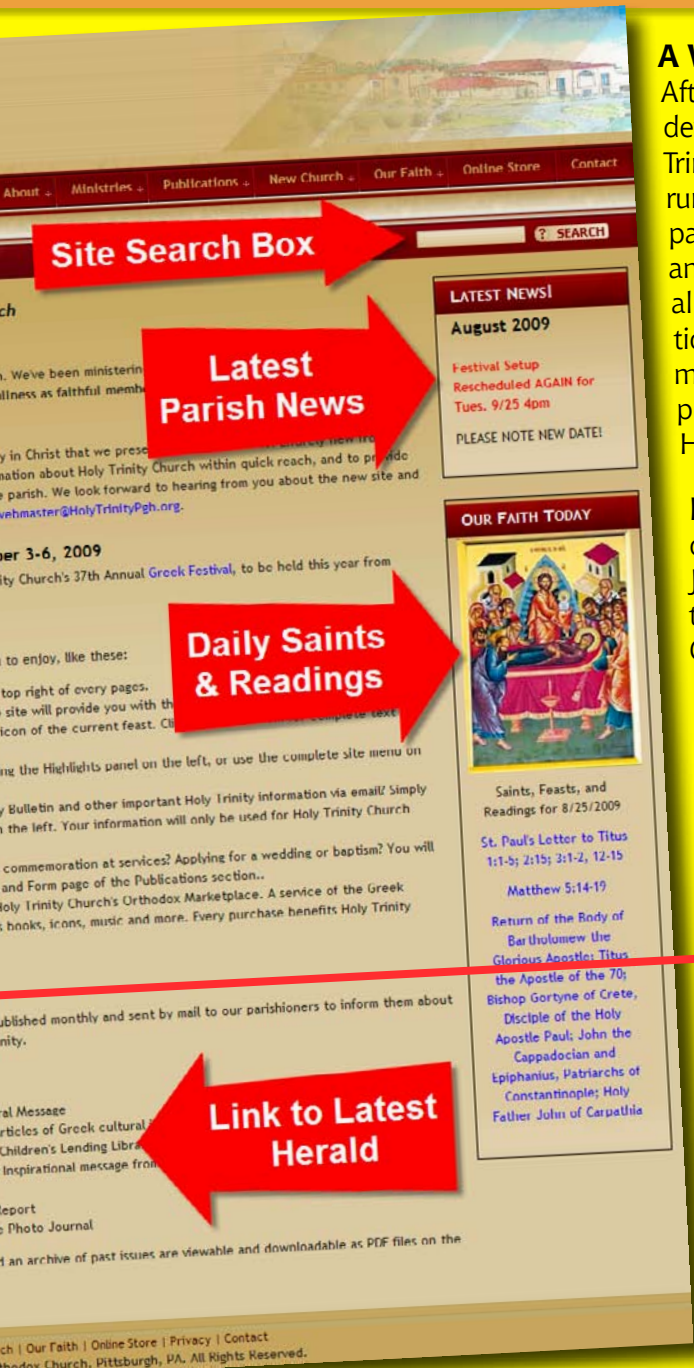


July 6, 2009: Holy Trinity Church sponsored its First Annual Golf Classic, this year dedicated to the memory of Jimmy Hartig. The event was blessed with great weather, a beautiful course at the Diamond Run Golf Club in Sewickley and lots of enthusiastic participants. Proceeds from the event benefitted the Holy Trinity Capital Campaign. For more information on this successful inaugural event, see the forthcoming Capital Campaign Newsletter.



This way, please: A complete menu system helps visitors navigate the site quickly. Every ministry, organization and activity of Holy Trinity Church now has its own section on the web site, though some are still under development. Information includes schedules, contacts and how to participate. Also, all news and publications can be found here.

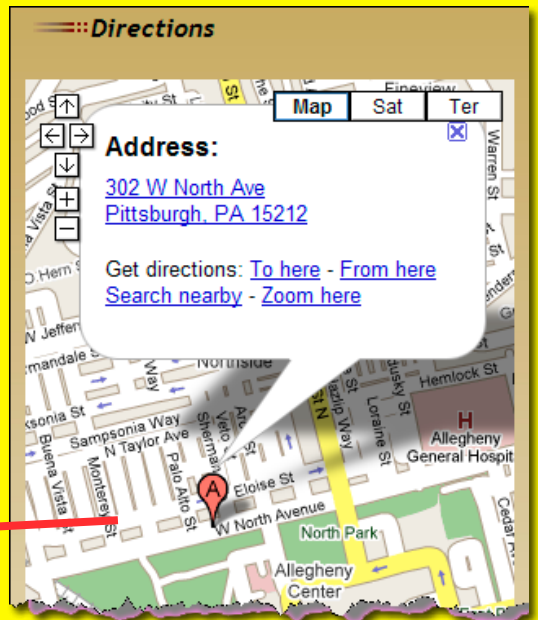
Looking for something?
A search box on every page will find anything anywhere on the site!



A Whole New Look!:

After many months of development, the new Holy Trinity Web Site is up and running, ready to provide parishioners, visitors and anyone with Internet access all the news and information they need about the many ministries, services, programs and activities of Holy Trinity Church.

Directions: Need to give directions to the church? Just click on this link on the Directions page and Google will map it for you!



Do You Twitter?:

Holy Trinity Church does! When important or last-minute news is posted to our Latest News section, get automatically notified via email or

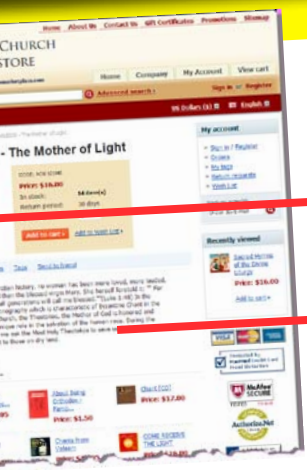


text messaging by using Twitter, the hottest new service in social networking and real-time messaging! Just setup a free account at www.Twitter.com, choose where you want your updates sent (e-mail, cell phone), then look for "HolyTrinityPgh" in the "Find People" section and select "Follow." It's that easy, and it's free!

Bulletins and Bargains: In addition to our own offerings, we have partnered with the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America to offer additional content and services that are of benefit to the parishioners and which support the ministries of Holy Trinity Church.

On-line Bulletin: Each week, the Weekly Bulletin is available not only in printed form in the church, but also in electronic form both on our web site and in the e-mail box of everyone signed up for the Holy Trinity electronic mailing list.

On-line Store: Powered by the Orthodox Marketplace, the Holy Trinity Church Online Store features Orthodox Christian books, music, DVD's and many types of gifts. Best of all, every purchase through the online store benefits Holy Trinity Church! Looking for a gift for a baptism or wedding? Looking for an inspiring book to read? Want to learn more about the Faith? The Holy Trinity Online Store is the place for Holy Trinity parishioners to go. Tell your friends, too!



It is said that the best form of advertising is word-of-mouth, because we trust the people we know. Likewise, we also take matters of faith closer to heart when they come from people we know and trust. In this new series of articles from our Stewardship Committee, you will hear about the importance of supporting the Holy Church through Stewardship directly from friends and members of the Holy Trinity Church family. Please join them in your offerings of time, talents and treasures ... and don't forget to submit a card every year!



This month's featured Stewards: Anthony C. Balouris, 81, retired from many years in the restaurant business, and Helen C. Balouris, 82, full-time mother (never retired!)

How long you have been members at Holy Trinity what is the history behind your deciding to come, participate and worship here?

We have been members of Holy Trinity Church for 52 years. It was convenient and close to both home and work. My brother John and I we were working at the restaurant and Father Pitses would visit us from time to time. Our family also donated the icon of Christ in the Temple.

In which ministries, organizations or community functions are you involved and why?

We participate in the "Over 50" Club, the Philoptochos and, of course, the Greek Festivals. We enjoy the fellowship and we feel it is our responsibility to support the church.

Please tell us why Holy Trinity Church is important to you and your family.

Anthony: "Just like a captain needs a compass to find his way, a person needs a church to take the right path." (Anthony recalls that his father was in the Greek Navy and then on a boat for 78 days after World War II. He arrived in this country with only 12 dollars in his pocket.)

Does Holy Trinity play a substantial role in your life and in the lives of others'?

Yes. My children have attended Greek School, Sunday School, dances, camps and many other programs and events. Holy Trinity Church has provided both ethics ("ethee") and traditions ("ethema").

What comes to mind when you hear the words, "good and faithful steward?"

It means to keep up the traditions. It means a lot of things. It means a way of life; building up a community; having a responsibility.

What do you think about Stewardship at Holy Trinity,

and the level of participation and general giving by our parishioners?

I sense that a lot of people think it is someone else's responsibility.

Please identify some of the needs you see of the Holy Trinity community and how you and others can help with meeting them.

Simple: We need to come together as a community.

What is Holy Trinity's most valuable asset? Please explain.. How do we nurture it and safeguard it?

Orthodoxy. Our family. Our community. Grow the community. Get more people to join.

When was the most memorable or fun time you've had at Holy Trinity Church?

There have been many memorable events, but one that stands out was when George Vlahakis broke the ground at the new church (the current location at 302 W. North Avenue).

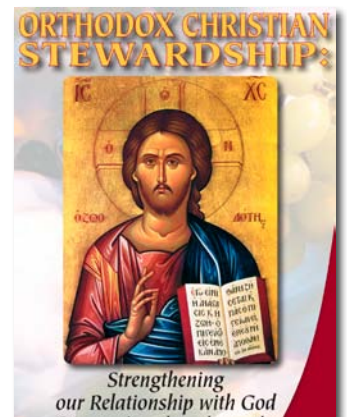
Please tell us why you give your time, talents and financial resources to Holy Trinity Church?

Because we try to keep the family together and to keep the traditions. We also pledged to the Capital Campaign because it is important to us—for the future.

Do you have any other stories or lessons to share with the members of the community?

Helen: "During World War II, we dressed in Greek costumes in the two movie theaters in Braddock. It was called the Greek War Relief. The movie was always interrupted so we could collect money for this war relief. We passed a tray and usually collected \$80. (Mom was 12 years old at the time.) We received coupons for sugar, and flour. Nylon stockings could not be purchased because it was needed for parachutes. Dad took nylon stockings back to Greece while he was in the Navy, around 1950. He sold enough – \$5,000 to pay for Papou's eye surgery.

Editor's note: Many thanks to Anthony and Helen for their fervant support of Holy Trinity Church and their willingness to encourage others to do so!



Philoptochos Report: September 2009

In a few weeks summer will be over and school will begin. I hope that everyone had a great summer.

A Great Big Thank You

To all the ladies who came every Tuesday and Wednesday to help make Spanakopeta, Tiropeta, and Pastisio for the Festival. With the exception of a few, the rest were senior citizens. May God bless them all!

Philoptochos Elections

Elections were held in May and the following members were elected to the Board:

President: Kay Balouris

Vice President: Esther Ladakos

Second Vice President: Angie Roman

Secretary: Sondra Balouris

Treasurer: Joyce Countouris

Second Treasurer: Alice Kapnisis

Corresponding Secretary: Georgia Brennen

Other Board Members: Connie Chapas, Helen Chapas, Tina Fiedler, Joanne Germanos, Areta Kalageres, Penelope Kominos, Canella Lalikos, Persephone Zozos. Congratulations and may god bless them in their ministry!

Coffee Hour Sponsors

We are still looking for sponsors for the coffee hour. If you have someone who is celebrating a Birthday, Anniversary, or you would like to honor someone special, won't you please consider sponsoring a coffee hour in their honor?

Get Well Cards

We like to send a get well card to anyone who is in the hospital or ill at home. If you know someone that we may send a card to, please call the office so that Josie will get in touch with Esther and give her their name and address. Thank you.

Cookbooks, Cookbooks!

Our cookbooks are still available. If you have not bought one for yourself, a relative or friend now is the time to do so. There are many very good recipes in it.

Membership

If you are a member of the Philoptochos are your Stewardship dues paid? If not, why not? Membership to the Philoptochos is always open. Won't you please join,

Spotlight On Music

On Sunday, September 27, 2009 the Philoptochos Societies are sponsoring a night of outstanding musical talent and art work. The special guest will be world-renowned opera singer Ann Panagulias. It will be held at the Bellefield Auditorium with a reception at Saint Nicholas Cathedral and proceeds will benefit the Camp at Mt. Tabor Tickets are \$20.00 in advance and \$25.00 at the door, or \$15.00 for students. Advance tickets are available at Holy Trinity Coffee Hour.

Submitted respectfully,
Esther Ladakos
Philoptochos Vice-President



Voula Hareras | The Cultural Side | Η Πολιτιστική Πλευρά



Voula Hareras

Η Κοιμηση της Παναγίας

Ο Αύγουστος για την Έλληνική ὀρθοδοξία είναι ὁ εὐλογημένος μήνας τῆς Μητέρας τοῦ κυρίου μας.

Ἀπό ὅλες τίς γωνιές τῆς Ἑλληνικῆς γῆς τόν Δεκαπενταύγουστο, ὑψώνονται εὐλαβικά τὰ χέρια, πού τήν ἱκετεύουν, καί ὕμνοι δοξαστικοί στή χάρη τῆς συνθεμένοι ἀπό καρδιές πού τιμοῦν Ἐκείνη πού στάθηκε μέσα στοὺς αἰῶνες ἡ Παναγία, καί γιὰ τούτο ἀξιώθηκε νά

γίνει Μητέρα τῆς Ζωῆς, τοῦ Υἱοῦ τοῦ Θεοῦ, ὅπως ἐκεῖνος τό θέλησε γιὰ τήν σωτηρία τοῦ κόσμου.

Ἀνάμεσα στοὺς ὕμνους καί δοξολογίες ταιριασμένες γιὰ Ἐκείνη ἀπό ψυχῆς νεανικῆς πού εἶναι ἐκ' φύσεως εὐαίσθητες στό θεῖο καί στό ἀχραντό.

Οἱ νέοι ἀγάπησαν τήν Παρθένο, τήν Θεομήτορα καί τήν ἔμνησαν καί τήν ἔνωσαν δική τους Μητέρα. Κί' Ἐκείνη προστατεύει τή [νεολαία τῆς] ὅπως λέει ἕνα τροπάριο τῆς, δηλαδή τόν νέο λαό τοῦ Θεοῦ, τοὺς πιστοὺς τοῦ Υἱοῦ τῆς κι ἀνάμεσά τους ξεχωριστά τὰ παιδιά καί τοὺς νέους γιατί ὄντας Μητέρα τοῦ Θεοῦ εἶναι διπλά καί Μητέρα τοῦ ἀνθρώπου.

Ἐκείνη ξέρει ἀπό παιδιά καί τὰ παιδιά ξέρουν ἀπό μητέρα. Ἐτσι τήν βλέπει κι ὁ ποιητής στοὺς θόλους τῶν

ξωκκλησιῶν, πού τὰ στολίζουν τὰ στερνά αὐγουσιάτικα ἀγριολούλοθδα, νά στέκεται μ' ἀνοιχτή τήν ἀχραντὴ ἀγκαλιά καί νά προσμένει.

[Ἐδῶ εἶμαι ἐγὼ τῶν Οὐρανῶν Πλατυτέρα, γιὰ ὅλους Μητέρα.]

Ναί, ἡ Κυρία Θεοτόκος μέ τὰ τόσα ὀνόματα, τίς τόσες χάρες, τὰ τόσα θαύματα νοιάζεται γιὰ ὅλους ἀλλά καί γιὰ τό κάθε παιδί τῆς ξεχωριστά μέ τήν ἀνησυχία γλυκιάς Μητέρας.

Τά ξέρει ὅλα καί τὰ νιώθει ὅλα, καί ἱκετεύει τόν Λυτρωτὴ μας Υἱό τῆς γιὰ κάθε τι, πού τῆς ἀναθέτουμε, καί φέρνει τήν χάρη τοῦ στίς καρδιές μας. Καί φωτίζονται τότε ἀπὸ ἕνα ἄλλο φῶς, καί δέν τίς ξεγελοῦν τὰ τόσσα φῶτα, πού δέν εἶναι τό φῶς, τὰ τόσα στολίδια, πού δέν εἶναι παρά ψεύτικοι κράχτες μιάς χαράς ἐφήμερης καί συχνά ἐξουθενωτικῆς.

Ἡ Παναγία μας, Ἄς τήν ἐμπιστευόμαστε, κί' Ἐκείνη δέ θά μάς ἀφήνει ποτέ ἀνυπεράσπιστους καί ἀπεριφρούρητους. Ἀπὸ τοὺς Οὐρανοὺς ἐρχεται πάλι κοντά μας. Μαζί τῆς ὑπάρχει πάντα ἕνα φῶς καί μιά ἐλπίδα ἀκατανίκητη....

Σεπτέβριος..

Ἡ ξεγνοιασιά τοῦ καλοκαιριοῦ τελείωσε, τώρα ἄς γυρίσουν ὅλοι στὰ καθήκοντά τους μέ νέες δυνάμεις.

Τά σχολεῖα ἀνοίγουν καί εὐχομαί σέ ὅλους καλὴ πρόοδο. Στούς ἐργαζόμενους ὑγεία καί καλὸ χειμῶνα. Καί τό κυριότερον ἄς εὐχηθούμε ὅλοι μας γιὰ εἰρήνην στόν κόσμο.

Βούλα Χαρερά



Elder Paisios

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

Question: Gheronda, does God always provide for us?

God is kind by nature and always provides for our good and, when we ask Him for something, He will provide it, as long as it is for our good. Whatever is necessary for the salvation of our soul and for the maintenance of our physical existence, God will provide it in abundance, and we'll have His blessing.

Whatever He deprives us of, either to test us or to protect us, we accept with joy as well as with thoughtfulness, as it is for our benefit. God knows when and how to provide for His creation. He helps in His own way at the right time. However, often His weak creation is anxiously impatient because the moment we ask for something, we want to receive it, like a little child who wants the cookie from its mother even before it is baked.

Question: Do we always know how far we can act without God's help?

To begin with, this is obvious. But even if someone has the good will to do what he is capable of doing and doesn't do it because of some obstacle, God will help him at a difficult moment. But if he lacks the will, while having the strength, God will not intervene to help. For example, they tell you to lock the door at night, and you neglect to do it, because you are too lazy to walk over to the door, and you think to yourself, “God will protect us, after all.” This is not a case where you don't lock up because you trust God, but because you are lazy. How then can you expect God to help? You want Him to help a lazy person? When I tell someone to lock up and he doesn't, his disobedience alone calls for punishment.

Whatever someone can do within his human ability, he should do, and whatever he can't do, he should leave to God. And if he should do a little more than he is able, not out of pride but out of *philotimo* (generosity), believing that he has not exhausted what is humanly possible, again, God will be moved by this. In order for God to help, He expects to see us make an effort. You see, Noah struggled for one hundred years to build the ark. They had to cut the lumber with wooden saws. They used the really hard wood to make saws for the softer wood. Couldn't God have done something to expedite the building of the ark? God instructed them how to build it and then gave them the power to do it. This is why we should do what we can, so that God may do whatever we cannot.

Up to a certain point man must act in a human manner and only after that rely on God. It is egotistical to try to help in something that cannot be done by human means. In many cases where someone insists on helping, I see that it is a matter of temptation to render him useless. When I see that a situation cannot be helped any more by human means—perceiving more or less to what extent man can help and at what point he must then leave it to God—I raise my hands to God, light two candles, and leave the problem to God, Who takes care of it immediately. God knows that I do not do this out of laziness.

Question: When do the Saints help?

Whenever it is necessary to help and not when we think it is time to help. In other words, they help when it will be beneficial for us. Do you understand? A child, for example, asks his father for a motorcycle, but the father doesn't buy it. The child then says, “I want the motorcycle because I get tired walking to school, to work.” Still the father doesn't buy it because he is afraid of the dangers involved. “I will buy you a car later when you grow up,” he tells his son. So they put the money in the bank and when enough money has been saved and the boy is more mature, they'll buy him a car. In the same way, the Saints know when they should help us.

Question: Since God knows our needs, why must we ask for His help?

Because there is freedom. And especially when we have compassion for our neighbor and ask God to help him, God is deeply moved and will then intervene without infringing upon man's free will. God has every good intention to help people who are suffering. But to help them, someone must ask Him. For if God helps someone, without anyone having made the request, then the devil will complain and say, “Why do you help him and infringe upon his free will? He is a sinner, he belongs to me.” Here one can see the great and spiritual nobility of God, Who does not allow even the devil the right to complain. For God wants us to ask Him to intervene—and He wants to intervene directly if it is for our good—and to help His creatures according to their needs. God acts separately and specifically for each person, as is best for each.

For God and the Saints to help someone, he himself must want it and ask for it, otherwise they do not intervene. Christ asked the paralytic, “Do you want to be made whole?” If man does not want it, God respects that. If someone doesn't want to go to Paradise, God doesn't take him, unless he was wronged out of ignorance, in which case he is entitled to divine assistance. Otherwise, God does not want to interfere. Someone asks for help and God and the Saints offer it. In the blink of an eye, they have already offered their help. Sometimes you don't even have the chance to blink; so quick is God to stand beside you.

“Ask, and it shall be given you,” the Sacred Scripture says. If we do not ask for help from God, we will fall flat on our face. Whereas, when we do ask for divine help, Christ will bind us with a rope to His Grace and will uphold us. The wind may blow fiercely from all directions, but, because we are bound fast, we are not in danger. But when man does not realize that it is Christ who upholds him, he may unbind himself, in which case he will be buffeted left and right and tormented. The only thing man has is his will, and God helps him according to this will. This is why I say that all the good things we may have are gifts from God.

Excerpted from “Elder Paisios of Mount Athos, The Spiritual Counsels, Volume II: Spiritual Awakening”

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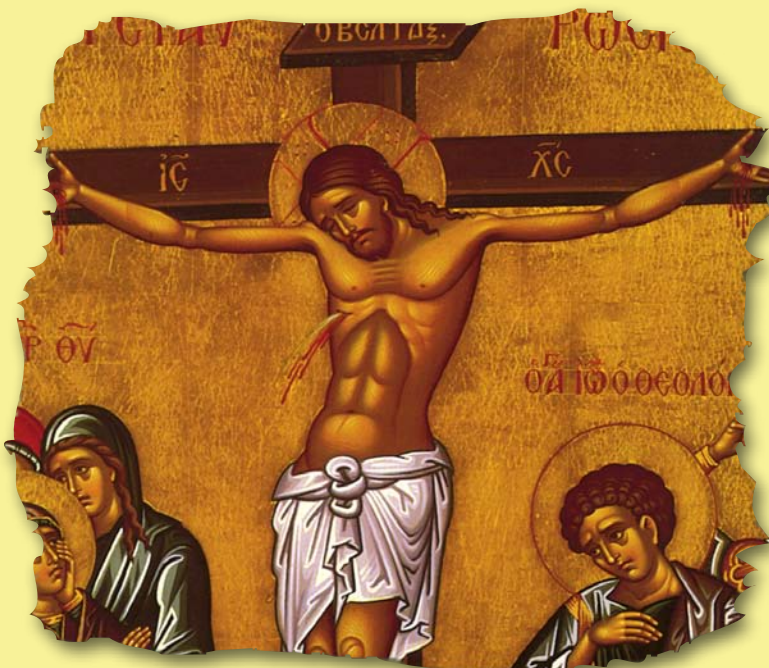


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As a result of His death on the Cross, Jesus Christ was glorified through His Resurrection, His Ascension into Heaven and His sitting at the right hand of the Father. He was exalted in His human nature, receiving authority and power in Heaven and on earth as the intercessor before God (1 Jn. 2.1f). Jesus opened to redeemed humanity, the means of salvation in and through the Church, by which we receive the fruits of His redeeming work. The Incarnation of the Son of God and the descent of the Holy Spirit into the world reveal the will and love of God the Father for us.

Christ and the Church (Gregory Afonsky, SVS Press 2001)

Scripture of the Month: “Far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Galatians 6.14)