



Spring 2026
Volume 34 | Issue 2

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PHOTO SPOTLIGHT



Some very enthusiastic Holy Trinity Church School children hold icons of their saints high in the Sunday of Orthodoxy procession. See many more Community Life Journal Photos on pages 14-25.

THE HOLY TRINITY

HERALD

QUARTERLY *Faith. Family. Community*

Saints Constantine and Helen, Equals to the Apostles - May 21



The Maker of the sun and all creation was led once to the Cross. And now to himself He leads you, the shining star, by stars from heaven. And to you first He bestowed imperial power. Therefore, O most pious emperor Constantine, we extol you and your mother, Helen, the godly-minded.

Icon from the wall of Holy Trinity Church. Iconographer: Dr. George Kordis



Father John Touloumes
Proistamenos

“All of you, enter into the joy of our Lord!”

The Paschal Homily of St. John Chrysostom

My beloved Holy Trinity family,

This second volume of the new “Holy Trinity Herald Quarterly” bears the title of “Spring,” covering the months of April, May and June. Since the start of the “Herald” in its previous monthly form, 33 years ago, this column has highlighted something either seasonal or significant in the life of the Church and the parish. Most times when the month being produced contained the Great and Holy Feast of Pascha (usually the April or May editions), it wasn’t really much of a debate: nothing during that month took greater precedence than the Resurrection.

Well, now with this issue covering three months, the question arose: out of those three months, what feast or special focus during this three months should take precedence. It didn’t really take long to find an answer: even over a three month period—any three month period for that matter—nothing ranks above the Resurrection. After all, according to Archimandrite Zacharias of Essex, “This is the great mystery and experience of the Holy and Apostolic Church. God unites with us, defeats our death and imparts to us the experience of His Resurrection and life. The universe changes in an instant. Heaven and earth become indistinguishable. Such is the joy and glory of this day.”

Importantly, the “day” he refers to is not a period of 24 hours on the calendar that comes and goes, but an eternal day on which we as believers in the Risen Christ anchor our lives and our hope. It is what makes everything in life worth living, knowing that our lives here do not end in chaos and darkness but in the light and life of the Resurrection. We are indeed a faith that walks the path of repentance and the sorrow of the Cross, but above all we are the Church of the Resurrection. Perhaps this is why so many who had walked through the doors of our parish in recent times have often said they feel like they experience holiness, life, hope and joy here. Those are signs of a Church that does not celebrate the victory of Jesus only one day a year, but every Sunday liturgically and every day theologically and spiritually. The tell-tale sign of it all is...true joy.

As we head into the coming months there will be many services, events and activities in and around our Holy Trinity home: worship services, Church School classes and graduation, Greek School lessons, ministry meetings, weddings, baptisms and, of course, festival cooking and lots more! I am constantly amazed, thankful and frankly sometimes overwhelmed at the level of dedication and love with which so many people offer so freely of themselves to make everything that happens around Holy Trinity Church possible. Whether you are a ministry leader, event organizer or simply a supporter or attendee at any of those, I pray God may bless you and bring you fulfillment and joy in the knowledge that you have accepted the Lord’s invitation to become one of the laborers of His Holy Vineyard. This parish would not be the same without you.

May we go forth in the coming months with the bright summer sun shining from above (wishful thinking in Pittsburgh, I know!) and the unwaning light of the Resurrection glowing from without our faithful hearts. Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

Now in our 103rd year!
1923-2026

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.

THE SERVICES OF HOLY WEEK:

PALM SUNDAY

Palm Sunday is the commemoration of the Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem following His glorious miracle of raising Lazarus from the dead. It is one of one of the most joyous feasts of the year. Having anticipated His arrival and having heard of the miracle, the people went out to meet the Lord and welcomed Him with displays of honor and shouts of praise. On this day, we receive and worship Christ in this same manner, acknowledging Him as our King and Lord in



HOLY MON., TUE. & WED.

Beginning on the evening of Palm Sunday and continuing through the evening of Holy Wednesday, the Church offers the beautiful Bridegroom Services, with Gospels relating the biblical events of Holy Week. They are actually the Orthros services of the following day (e.g. the service held on Palm Sunday evening is the Orthros service for Holy Monday). The name of the service is from the figure of the Bridegroom in the Parable of the Ten Virgins found in Matthew 25:1-13.



HOLY WEDNESDAY UNCTION

On the afternoon of Great and Holy Wednesday, the Sacrament or Mystery of Holy Unction is offered. This sacred blessing is for the healing of soul and body and for the forgiveness of sins. At the end of the service, the Orthodox faithful come forward to be anointed with the sacramental oil, and the grace of God, which heals infirmities of soul and body, is called down upon each person. For those who are non-Orthodox, an anointing of another holy oil is offered as a blessing for all.



HOLY THURSDAY

On Thursday of Holy Week, many events are commemorated: the washing of the Disciples' feet; the Mystical Supper Liturgy; the agony and great prayer in the garden of Gethsemane; and the betrayal of Christ by Judas. These culminate in the Crucifixion of Lord on the Cross, which is observed by anticipation on Thursday evening as liturgical time is moved ahead during Holy Week to accommodate the midnight Pascha Liturgy.



A DAY-BY-DAY EXPLANATION

HOLY FRIDAY

With the Crucifixion of the Lord having been observed the night before, on Great and Holy Friday the Church commemorates taking down from the Cross and burial of the Lord Jesus during the afternoon Vespers service. Then on Friday evening the Church gathers around the Tomb of Christ and sings the "Hymns of Praise" ("Engomia"), which both mourn His sacrifice and call on Him to rise as victor. A special feature Friday evening is a procession with the tomb ("Kouvouklion") around the Church with hymns.



HOLY SATURDAY

Great and Holy Saturday is the day between the Crucifixion of our Lord and His glorious Resurrection. With the Orthros of Holy Saturday having been offered already on Friday evening, Holy Saturday morning features a Vespertal Liturgy with a type of "preview" of the Resurrection that will be celebrated later that night. The priests emerge from the Altar chanting "Arise, O God, and judge the earth," while sprinkling leaves and flowers representing life bursting forth from the tomb.



PASCHA: THE RESURRECTION

On the Great and Holy Pascha, the Orthodox Faith celebrates the life-giving Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The priest takes a flame from the vigil light and gives it to the faithful, chanting "Come and receive light from the unwaning light, and glorify Christ, who has risen from the dead." All the people hold their Paschal candles as a symbol of their deep faith in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Church is filled with joy and the victory hymn, "Christ is risen from the dead by death trampling down upon death."



PASCHA: AGAPE VESPERS

On Pascha the faithful gather once more at mid-day for the "Agape Vespers" ("Vespers of Love") service with lighted candles and singing the hymn, "Christ is risen from the dead." This service has a special feature during which the Resurrection Gospel is read in many languages, symbolizing that the Good News of the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ is universal news and salvation for all who believe and proclaim it. After the Vespers, the children participate in a Paschal candy hunt on the church lawn.





(January 4) Over 60 ministries and ministry leaders were honored at the annual Vasilopita Celebration following Divine Liturgy. Each Church School class was also provided with their own Vasilopita bread to celebrate it in their classroom with their teacher.





Triumph of Orthodoxy Icon





Procession - March 1, 2026

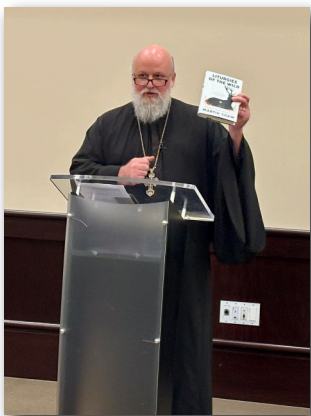




(Top: February 8) Members of Holy Trinity Philoptochos and others wore red for "Go Red Sunday" to raise awareness of women's heart health.

(Above: March 8) Holy Trinity Philoptochos and GOYA teamed up for the Metropolis Day of Service project. Philoptochos representatives Pam Bolkovac & Sandy Schall and GOYA representatives Sofia Steiner & Luci Steiner did an amazing job coordinating the event, which assembled and delivered 60 personal care bags in support of North Hills Community Outreach's Spring Sharing Project.

(Left: March 1) His Eminence Metropolitan Savas joined Holy Trinity Philoptochos members for a photo during the Metropolis Philoptochos Retreat. L-R: Sandy Schall, Lynda Areheart, Connee Bistolos, Metropolis President Joyce Spanakis, Sherry Clayton, Marianne Stearns, Athena Bober and Penny Balouris.



(March 11) Faithful members of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Saint Alexander Nevsky OCA Cathedral and Saint John the Baptist Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Church gathered at Holy Trinity Church for the second annual "North Hills Orthodoxy" Pre-Sanctified Liturgy, with over 170 people attended the evening. Following the Liturgy, Holy Trinity Church hosted a lenten dinner, during which Father John Mikita, Dean of Saint Alexander Nevsky Cathedral spoke. Many thanks to all who hosted, attended and joined together as a North Hills Orthodox family!





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THE FESTIVAL IS COMING...AND THE COOKING IS HERE!
 MARK THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR — TELL YOUR FRIENDS — EVERYONE IS WELCOME!



PASTITSIO
DONE!

TIROPITA
DONE!

KOULOURAKIA/
 FINIKIA
DONE!

SPANAKOPITA
DONE!

FINIKIA DIPPING &
 KOURAMBIETHES
DONE!

GALAKTOBOUREKO
 Wed., Apr. 22 9am-9pm

BAKLAVA &
 CHOC. BAKLAVA
 Tue., May 5 9am-9pm

Note these changes to previous dates
 Tue Apr 21 moved to Wed Apr 22
 Tue May 19 canceled
 Wed June 10 moved to Wed June 3

APRICOT ROLLS
 Tue., May 26 9am-9pm

APRICOT ROLLS 2
 /PORTOKALOPITA
 Wed., June 3 9am-9pm

DIPLES
 Tue, June 23 9am-9pm

SOUZOUKAKIA
 Wed., Aug. 12 9am-9pm

YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOUR HELP! BE THERE! BRING A FRIEND!

OUR GOAL IS TO GET AT LEAST 30 PEOPLE EACH DAY SO THAT WE MAY FINISH ON TIME!

Can YOU give at least a few hours of time for YOUR community's festival? Look over the dates and times listed here.

You'll see both evening and daytime hours, during the week and on the weekends. Everyone's help is needed!

No experience needed...we train on the job! Think of it as free cooking lessons. Questions? Contact Joyce Athanasiou (jcbathanasiou@aim.com or 412-292-4206) or Paula Valliant (paulavalliant@gmail.com or 412-445-4119).



SPREAD THE WORD! TELL YOUR FRIENDS! DON'T MISS IT!
THE 2026 "TASTE OF GREECE" - THU. SEP. 3-SUN. SEP. 6

Giving Fund 2026: \$65,000 in Gifts of Love!

**North Hills
Community
Outreach
\$5,000**

Addresses needs of people in crisis, hardship and poverty in North Allegheny County

Of the \$65,000 designated by the General Assembly for 2026, during the January 8, 2026 meeting the Giving Committee approved the following donations, for a total of \$40,000. The goal is to allocate all remaining funds before the fourth quarter of the calendar year.

**North Side Christian
Health Center
\$5,000**

Local comprehensive primary healthcare center serves all patients without regard for their ability to pay

**The Woodland
Foundation
\$5,000**

Based in the North Hills of Pittsburgh, it enriches the lives of children and adults with disability and chronic illness

**International Orthodox
Christian Charities
\$5,000**

Offers emergency relief and development programs to those in need worldwide, without discrimination

**The Neighborhood
Resilience Project
\$5,000**

Ministers to trauma affected communities through providing food, clothing, health care and spiritual care and more

**Off The Floor
Pittsburgh
\$3,000**

Supports people transitioning from homelessness, shelters and refugees, helping them furnish their homes.

**Pittsburgh
Bereavement
Dulas
\$3,000**

Provides free support to grieving families following the loss of a pregnancy or an infant

**Isaiah 117
House
\$3,000**

National organization with a Butler County branch. Addresses the needs of children entering foster care

**Mrs. Claus Club
\$3,000**

Pittsburgh North Chapter, dedicated to bringing comfort to local women and men undergoing cancer treatment

**Giving Ministry
Gifts To Date:
\$124,000**

2025: \$59,000

2026: \$65,000

**Northside Common
Ministries
\$3,000**

A local humanitarian agency whose services include the Pleasant Valley men's shelter and food bank

**CELEBRATE THE
VICTORY OF
CHRIST!**



**THE HOLY
TRINITY
ANNUAL
ANASTASI
DINNER**

Saturday Evening

April 11, 2026

**Following the 11:00pm
Resurrection Divine Liturgy**

**Hosted by the
Holy Trinity Parish Council**

**Come and celebrate the glorious
and life-bestowing Resurrection
with your Holy Trinity family!**

**Please sign up in the Narthex
during Holy Week if you will attend.
Free-will offerings accepted.**

**CHRIST IS RISEN!
CHRISTOS ANESTI!**





*Metropolis of Pittsburgh
Ladies Philoptochos Society*

Virtual Daffodil Fundraiser

March 15, 2026 ~ April 18, 2026

Proceeds to benefit:

*Metropolis Social Service Fund
&
Our Seminarians Our Future Fund*

*Join us in almsgiving this Lenten Season and help make this year's
Virtual Daffodil Fundraiser a true blessing to others!*

*Donations can be made
by scanning this QR code:*



*Or by check payable to:
The Metropolis of Pittsburgh Philoptochos
c/o Paula Yakoumas
220 Littell Road
Aliquippa, PA 15001*