



Summer 2026
Volume 34 | Issue 3

INSIDE

- Father John's Message | 2
- News & Events | 3
- Stewardship Reflections | 6
- The Orthodox Bookshelf | 7
- Homily | 8
- Stewardship Roster | 10
- Lenten and Paschal Donations | 12
- Monastery Summer Feast Days | 15
- Community Life Photo Journal | 16
- 2026 Graduates | 20
- Youth Ministries Kick-Off Picnic | 32
- Blessing of the Animals Service | 33
- Ask the Elders | 34
- Do What You Can | 36

PHOTO SPOTLIGHT



Our 2026 high school graduates are honored with a cake and special evening at the annual GOYA Senior Recognition Dinner. See many more Community Life Journal Photos on pages 16-29.

THE HOLY TRINITY

HERALD

QUARTERLY *Faith. Family. Community*

The Transfiguration of the Lord on Mount Tabor - August 6



You were transfigured on the mountain, O Christ our God, and Your disciples beheld Your glory as far as they could bear. Thus, when they see You crucified, they may understand Your voluntary passion, and proclaim to the world that You are truly the brightness of the Father. (Kontakion Hymn of the Transfiguration)

Icon from Saint Paul Monastery, Mount Athos



Father John Touloumes
Proistamenos

Let love be genuine. Love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor” **Romans 12.10**

My beloved Holy Trinity family,

Sometimes, but seemingly not often enough, the big things are easy. Projects, travels, reports and lots of other demands placed on us by work, life and even church (does the Festival come to mind?). But with a plan, some help and a good attitude, those big things shrink down to a collection of manageable tasks that do not overwhelm us. With God’s help, we can hopefully get through them and look back wondering, “What was I worried about?” He had this!

And then there are the little things. The ones we often don’t give much thought to. They are often repeated, habitual and not given much weight. But that doesn’t mean they don’t have much impact. Because they are most often not assigned by work or school, but are the result of many seemingly small interactions or conversations that involve the people we’re around most: family, friends, spouses, children, co-workers, neighbors and others.

When it comes to how we pay attention to all those little things of life—or how we don’t—Saint Paul does not give us a pass in the quote above. In fact, he challenges us to think about each of them as opportunities. Henri Nouwen lists just some of them to the right. In the age of sterile, emotionless texting and almost thoughtless re-posting, this list should serve as a bit of a checkpoint that asks, “When did I last offer that to someone else?”

This is so contrary to the quick-draw reactions technology and media are training us to use. All those forces have robbed us of the processing time we need to think about things as they come to us, ponder and pray about how to respond, and take into consideration what our choices or actions are doing to others.

We often think about summer as “laying back.” So maybe this summer is a good time to use that lighter schedule to ask ourselves, “When I do this”...or...“When I say that”...“am I choosing love?” “Have I left the room better than when I entered?” “Am I lifting up or tearing down?” “Have others seen the love of God in me?” And if not, “Lord please help me see the little things that are not so little to others that they may know Your love through me.” A blessed summer to all!

How can we choose love? We choose love by taking small steps of love every time there is an opportunity. A smile, a handshake, a word of encouragement, a phone call, a card, an embrace, a kind greeting, a gesture of support, a moment of attention, a helping hand, a present, a financial contribution, a visit. All these are little steps toward love.

Henri Nouwen, *Bread for the Journey*

Paternally yours,

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 Orthodox Christian Faith in its fullness as faithful members of the Body of Christ.

WORSHIP LIFE

Weekday Services - July-September

The following weekday services will be offered this quarter at 8:30am Orthros/9:30am Divine Liturgy unless otherwise indicated. Please visit HolyTrinityPgh.org/calendar for updates. (SG=Saint George Chapel.)

- **Mon., June 29: Ss. Peter and Paul (SG)**
- **Fri., July 17, 5:00pm Great Vespers and Orthros Vigil - Prophet Elias** (*At the Nativity of the Theotokos Monastery, 121 St. Elias Ln., Saxonburg*)
- **Sat., July 18, 9:00am Hours and Divine Liturgy - Prophet Elias** (*Also at the Saxonburg Monastery*)
- **Paraclesis to the Theotokos Services (SG) - 6:30PM**
 - Mon., August 3
 - Fri., August 7
 - Mon., August 10
 - Wed., August 12
- **Wed., August 5, 6:00pm Great Vespers Vigil of the Transfiguration of the Lord** (*At Holy Transfiguration Monastery in Ellwood City*)
- **Thu., August 6, 9:00am Divine Liturgy - The Transfiguration of the Lord** (*Also at Holy Transfiguration Monastery in Ellwood City for their Feast Day*)
- **Fri., August 14, 6:00pm Great Vespers of the Falling Asleep of the Theotokos** (*At Holy Dormition in Oakmont and Koimissis Tis Theotokou in Aliquippa*)
- **Sat., August 15, 8:30a Orthros/9:30a Liturgy - Falling Asleep of the Theotokos (SG)**
- **Sat., August 29, Beheading of Saint John the Baptist (SG)** *Note: This is a strict fast day.*
- **Sun., Sep. 13, 5:00pm - Great Vespers - Exaltation of the Holy Cross** (*Service held at Holy Cross Church, 123 Gilkeson Rd., Mt. Lebanon*)
- **Mon., Sep. 14, 8:30am Orthros/9:30am Divine Liturgy - Exaltation of the Holy Cross** (*At Holy Cross Church, 123 Gilkeson Rd., Mt. Lebanon*)
- **Wed., Sep. 16, 7:00pm - North Hills Orthodoxy Unc-tion Service** (*At St. John the Baptist, 2201 Duncan Ave.*)
- **Thu., Sep. 17: St. Sophia and Her Daughters, Faith, Hope & Love**
- **Wed., Sep. 23 - Conception of St. John the Baptist (SG)**

Our Youth Need Blessings All Year...Summer Too!

Parents, remember: while Church School classes provide an essential way for our children to learn about their faith, as Orthodox Christians we know that living our faith begins with worship - and that continues year-round. Yes, summer is a time many families are traveling and not able to attend services here, but when we are at home base, Divine Liturgy at your children's spiritual home should be part of the weekly family schedule. Please plan for a summer that includes worship. Be Orthodox Christians all year long!

Blessing of the Animals September 12

Attention all pet owners: Bring your pet to Holy Trinity Church on Saturday, September 12 at 12:00pm (promptly please - pets don't usually wait patiently!) for the Blessing of the Animals service. It will be held outside the front of the church in honor of the Feast of St. Mamas, one of the Orthodox patron saints of animals. All kinds are welcome! The service is brief and always full of animal energy, so please be sure to leash dogs and hold all others to help keep the peace! See you and your pets there!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Church School Registration August 9

For all students who did not register in the spring, Church School registration will take place on Sunday, August 9, in the Gallery following Divine Liturgy. Parents, please sign up and update your children's information. It is especially important this year with our growing numbers so we can properly configure the classrooms.

Church School Resumes September 13

Church School will resume the week after the Festival, on Sunday, September 13. This year's theme is "Keeping God's Commandments" from 1 John 5:3: "This is the love of God, that we keep His commandments." We look forward to seeing all the children of this community, age 3 and up, participate.

Church School Starts with Church!

With thanks to our enthusiastic and dedicated staff—all of whom volunteer their time and talents to help you raise your children in the faith—we look forward to another great year of Church School ministry at Holy Trinity Church. Thank you to the parents who place this as a high priority in their children's lives by bringing them on time, discussing what they have learned afterwards and taking the time to thank the teachers and staff for their offerings of love for the children of this community.

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 Divine Liturgy and Church School**. All HOPE, JOY, GOYA and Greek Dance children start by being regular attendees at worship services and Church School as part of the Holy Trinity family, together in Christ. Thanks for your faithful participation and witness.

Church School Class Times - Please note

Attention Church School students and parents: please note the following times and locations for classes:

- **Classroom Locations**
 - Pre-School through Eighth Grade classrooms are located on the upper level of the Education Center
 - Ninth through Twelfth Grade classrooms are located on the main floor of the Education Center
- **Dismissal Times**
 - Important: Please note that all classes—Pre-School through Twelfth Grade—**conclude at 11:30am**. All students will be dismissed to the Church School snack area. Parents, please give the teachers time to finish class every Sunday.
- **Student Pick-up**
 - Pre-School parents should meet their children outside the Pre-School classroom.
 - All other parents are asked to wait on the main floor level to reduce upper level traffic.
- **Church School Snack Area**
 - The Church School snack table is located on the main floor Education Center hallway outside the Fireside Room. Be sure to volunteer to help by signing up to provide the snacks!

Blessing of the Backpacks for all HT Youth... Aug. 30

On Sunday, August 30, we ask all Holy Trinity students of all grades to bring their own backpacks to Liturgy for a special back-to-school blessing. Our Orthodox Christian tradition holds education in high regard, and we even have the Three Hierarchs (St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory the Theologian and St. John Chrysostom) as patrons saints of education. So, let's ask the Lord's blessings on our students and their studies by presenting them to Him as they begin the new school year!

Youth Safety Clearances Required for All Parents!

To comply with Archdiocese regulations, Holy Trinity Church is now requiring all parents of all Church School students to obtain their Archdiocese Youth Safety clearances. Information and instructions will be provided at the end of the summer on how to register.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Greek Dance Troupe Practice ScheduleJune-July

Holy Trinity Dance Troupe has started preparation for the Holy Trinity Festival by holding practices in June. Please review the dance practice schedule below and make sure that your dancer attends the correct sessions. As a reminder, the groups are broken up as follows: HOPE (Five Years old - Second Grade), JOY (Third Grade-Sixth Grade), GOYA (Seventh Grade-Twelfth Grade). It is important that

your dancer attends as many of the practices as possible in order to learn the dances. Also, keep in mind that for the first few practices, we will also be trying on our dance costumes so we can get appropriate sizing. Please reach out to Victoria Andromalos-Dale or Eleni Dedousis with any questions. Here is the schedule for June and July:

- Sun. June 28; July 5, 12, 19 & July 26, Hospitality Hour: ALL Groups
- Wed. July 8, 6:00: HOPE
- Tue. July 14, 21 & 28, 6:00: HOPE

GOYA Regional Paraclesis August 7

The Metropolis of Pittsburgh will host the Pittsburgh area Regional Paraclesis Service on Friday, August 7 at the **new Metropolis Center** in Canonsburg. Watch the GOYA communications for information on time and directions.

Backpacks for Needy StudentsAug. 9-23

GOYA is once again teaming up with FOCUS North America in sponsoring "Backpack Drive" for needy children in our public schools. The goal is to provide basic school supplies for those who cannot afford them. As a result of overwhelmingly generous support, GOYA has ordered 120 backpacks. There is a list of requested school supply items you can purchase anywhere you see fit. Simply sign up for as many backpacks as you would like to fill. In addition to purchasing the items to fill the packs, we ask that you donate \$10 for each pack when you them to help cover the cost of providing them. They will be available starting August 9 and must be returned by August 23. (Note: this philanthropic outreach benefits our local area, as they will be donated to the students of Manchester Academic Charter School in our old North Side neighborhood, where our own parishioner, Vas Scoumis, is the CEO and Principal.)

GOYA Parents Meeting August 16

There will be a meeting for the parents of all GOYA teens, continuing and new, in the Conference Room following Divine Liturgy on Sunday, August 16. Please plan on attending to get up to speed on all the GOYA events, including hosting a Metropolis tournament at Holy Trinity Church this year!

Youth Ministries Kickoff Sep. 12

There will be a combined Holy Trinity Youth Ministries Kick-Off Picnic on Saturday, Sep. 12, from 3:00-7:00pm. See the flyer on page 32 for information and to RSVP.

GOYA Meetings Sep. 20

The GOYA teen ministry holds monthly meetings on Sundays in the Conference Room following Church School. All teens are invited to attend. Meetings for 2026/2027 resume on September 20.

Moms and Kids “Playtime and Parea” September

The “Playtime and Parea” ministry is a fun, faith-based playgroup for little ones (ages 0 to 4) and parents (or caregivers) to connect, make new friends, and grow together in Christ. Meets twice a month in the Fireside Room. Fall meetings will resume the week of September 21. Watch for a schedule to be published in August. Contact PlaytimeandParea@HolyTrinityPgh.org for info.

GOYA Officers Elected for 2026/2027

Congratulations and God’s blessings on our new GOYA officers for 2026/2027. They are: President - Anna Dedousis; Vice-President - Ilya Peregoncev; Treasurers - Davia and Gia Gross; Communications - Connor Mackrell; Activities - Alyssa Mackrell; Outreach - Athan Lupnaca.

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Philoptochos Holy Trinity Apparel Sale

Holy Trinity Philoptochos is currently holding an “Holy Trinity Apparel Sale” with a selection of uniquely Holy Trinity items that will run through July 27. All items will be distributed at Holy Trinity Church on August 23, just in time to have them for the Festival! To order securely online, visit waterfrontembroidery.com/product-category/holy-trinity-philoptochos. Questions? Contact call Sandy Schall at 412-585-0035 or email sales@waterfrontembroidery.com.

COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

Hospitality Hour: Please Pitch In!

Hospitality Hour is a vital and valued part of our community life. It about so much more than coffee and snacks. It’s about building community! Sponsor a special date and watch for “Open Table” Sundays, when the day is not sponsored and everyone is asked to bring a plate or bowl to share. Visit the sign-up table in the Gallery or contact hospitality@HolyTrinityPgh.org to reserve your date! Remember, “Let brotherly love continue. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels” (Heb.13:2).

Journey to Fullness Oct. 19, 26, Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23

Father John and Sam Dickson will once again be offering the Fall series of the “Journey to Fullness” classes, an overview of the Orthodox Christian Faith for newcomers interested in joining or life-long members yearning to deepen their understanding. The series features videos and discussion, with plenty of questions and answers. Meetings are at 7pm in the Conference Room.

Greek School Registration for 2026/2027

Holy Trinity Greek School - Registration for the 2026–2027 School Year is Now Open! Classes meet Mondays from

5:30–6:45 PM, September 13, 2026, through May 17, 2027. Open to children ages 4 (Pre-K) through 11 (5th grade), students will learn Greek language, conversation, writing, and culture. Register today through your Realm account at HolyTrinityPgh.org/realm or scan the QR code here. Tuition is \$200 per child for parishioners. For more information, contact us at griekschool@HolyTrinityPgh.org.



Stewardship 2026: Are You Onboard Yet?

Thanks to the dedication and offerings of so many faithful stewards, 2025 was a record year for Holy Trinity Stewardship. Glory to God and many thanks to the faithful stewards who stepped up to the challenge! This year, let’s maintain and grow as our theme for 2026 calls us to be “Grow Our Blessings.” There are two ways to pledge: using a 2026 Stewardship pledge card or by going online to your Holy Trinity Realm account. And there are many ways to give. Thank for your support of our ministries!

Festival Ads Available: Space is Waiting for You!

The Festival Ad Book is back and is looking for your support. Ads start at \$175 for a quarter page and go to \$550 for a full page, with premium color pages available at higher prices! A patron line is available for only \$50. Application Forms were included in the Spring edition of the Herald and can also be found at the church office window. Please be sure to share them with your favorite business establishments and ask them to support our church! For more information, please email FestivalAds@HolyTrinityPgh.org!

Festival Aprons..... Order by August 16

Show your Holy Trinity spirit by wearing a Festival apron while you work! Royal blue aprons, embroidered with our Festival logo, are available in two lengths: regular (31”) is \$18 and extra-long (34”) is \$21. Aprons can be monogrammed with your name for an additional \$4. To receive yours in time for the Festival, your order must be placed by Sunday, Aug. 16. Please contact Paula Valliant at paulavalliant@gmail.com to order.

Holy Trinity 2026 “Taste of Greece” Sep. 3-6

This summer’s Holy Trinity “Taste of Greece” Festival is set for Thu., September 3, through Sun., September 6. The Festival Committee is asking everyone, new members and old hands, young and young at heart, to pledge a donation of their time and talents so that we can continue to grow both the success of the Festival and our community fellowship!! Sign up at the volunteer table church or online at HolyTrinityPgh.org/volunteer. Remember, this is an event for everyone and by everyone. And it is a great way to get involved in the community and meet new friends. ❖

From Welcome to Commitment

Every household strengthens the whole. Every gift matters.

Dear Holy Trinity Stewards,

As we reach the midpoint of the year, it is a good time to pause and reflect on the many ways God continues to bless our congregation. Since the beginning of the year, we have welcomed new members, strengthened existing relationships, expanded ministries, and shared Christ’s love through worship, service, and outreach. We have much to celebrate, and much for which to be grateful.

In our first-quarter stewardship message, we reflected on the theme of being Rooted in Faith and Growing Together, recognizing that God has been adding to our community and nurturing growth in faith, fellowship, and ministry. That growth continues today. Yet every season of growth eventually leads to a deeper question: What does it mean to truly belong?

For many, this church has become more than a place to attend on Sunday. It has become a spiritual home, a place where friendships are formed, prayers are shared, children are nurtured, and faith is strengthened. When a house becomes a home, we naturally begin to care for it, invest in it, and help it flourish. The same is true for the church. The daunting task of growing and

building is not accomplished because a few people carry the burden, but because the entire community commits itself to the mission.

This spirit lives within the church today. Stewardship is not simply about meeting financial needs. It is about participating in the work God has entrusted to us. It is an expression of belonging. Through our prayers, service, generosity, and presence, each of us helps build a stronger congregation and a more effective ministry.

The Apostle Peter reminds us, “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others.” (1 Peter 4:10). Every household contributes something valuable to the life of this church. Some teach, some serve, some encourage, some lead, some pray, and some give financially. Together, these gifts strengthen the whole body of Christ.

To those who have already made a stewardship commitment this year, thank you. Your faithfulness provides stability for our ministries and allows us to continue serving both our congregation and the wider community. Your ongoing support is making a difference every day.

To those who have not yet made a commitment, we invite you to consider taking that next step. If you have any questions, please ask me or one of our other Parish Council members. Stewardship is not reserved for long-time members. It is one of the ways we move from simply being welcomed into a church family to becoming active partners in its mission. Every commitment matters, and every contribution helps us continue the work God has called us to do.

As we look toward the second half of the year, may we continue to grow, not only in numbers, but in commitment. Together, let us rise up and build. Together, let us strengthen this church for today and for future generations. And together, let us answer God’s call to be faithful stewards of the gifts we have received. ❖

Evan Danis
Stewardship Chairman

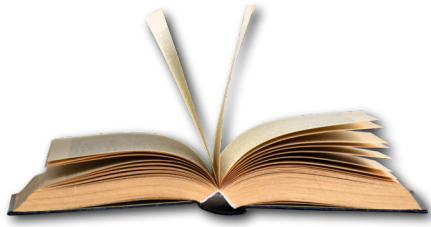
2026 Church Stewardship Progress Goals
(Goal: \$855,000 and 300 Stewards)

Category	Percentage
Stewards Pledged	73%
Dollars Pledged	58%
Dollars Received	33%

Current progress (mid-June):

- Pledged: \$496,094 of \$855,000 58%
- Received: \$283,047 of \$855,000 33%
- Stewards pledged: 218 of 300 72%

QUESTIONS? CONTACT US! WE'RE HERE TO HELP!
Stewardship Questions: stewardship@HolyTrinityPgh.org



“The Orthodox Bookshelf” is a *Holy Trinity Herald* column by Rick Paese focusing on books of Orthodox Christian interest for everyone. Many of the books highlighted will be available for purchase at the Three Hierarchs Bookstore in the Gallery.

As Orthodox Christians, we know the importance of learning about the lives of the saints for spiritual encouragement and to better understand our faith. This is especially true for saints who personally knew and directly succeeded the Apostles. St. Ignatius of Antioch is one of those saints. In “Bearing God: The Life and Works of St. Ignatius of Antioch the God-Bearer,” Fr. Andrew Damick summarizes St. Ignatius’ heroic life and gives a commentary on his writings.

Who Was St. Ignatius?

St. Ignatius was a disciple of St. John the Evangelist (the Gospel writer). Tradition says he was the child who sat on Jesus’ lap as He told His disciples about becoming childlike. He eventually became the second bishop of Antioch, an important city for early Christianity. While bishop of Antioch, the Roman emperor Trajan demanded that St. Ignatius sacrifice to the pagan gods. When he refused, the emperor ordered him killed in the Roman Colosseum. Along the journey to his death from Antioch to Rome, he wrote several letters to surrounding churches and to St. Polycarp. St. Ignatius was ultimately torn apart in the Colosseum.

His letters are among the earliest ex-

tra-biblical witnesses to Jesus and the Church, containing a wealth of information on martyrdom, salvation, Church hierarchy and unity, and the Eucharist. Fr. Andrew walks readers through these letters and provides commentary on each of these themes.

Martyrdom

Martyrdom is the heart of the Christian Gospel and the ultimate witness to Christ. It joins us most intimately with Christ’s suffering. Even if we are not all called to be martyrs, it is essential that we have the martyr’s spirit, sacrificing our passions to this world in order to be united to Christ.

St. Ignatius puts his own martyrdom this way: “Let me be food for the wild beasts, through which I can attain God. I am the wheat of God and I am ground by the teeth of wild beasts so that I may be found the pure bread of Christ.”

Salvation

For St. Ignatius, it is only within the Church that union with Christ is possible. He says, “...unless a man is within the sanctuary, he lacks the bread of God.” The power of Satan is destroyed when we come together for worship and are united in doctrine. Salvation is not about having the right

Bearing God

“Bearing God” is a quick read and a great way to begin reading and understanding the early Church Fathers

“status” with God, but about bearing God within ourselves. If we are temples where God dwells, everything we are and do is spiritual. When we are God-bearers there can be no “secular life.”

Church Hierarchy and Unity

Already in the first generation after the Apostles, St. Ignatius teaches that the Church was hierarchical, with the bishop as the center of the Church and God’s representative on earth. As St. Ignatius puts it, “Wherever the bishop appears, the whole congregation is to be present.” Elsewhere he says, “apart from the bishop no one is to do anything pertaining to the church.” Without the bishop and other clergy, there is no Church. This structure is essential to preserve unity and ensure correct doctrine.

The Eucharist

St. Ignatius insists on the reality of the fleshly humanity of Jesus Christ. He forcefully opposed a heresy known as docetism, which taught that Jesus only appeared to be a man. The union between flesh and spirit is critical for St. Ignatius. He uses the phrase “flesh and spirit” many times throughout his letters to describe how we are united to Christ and each other physically and spiritually. Given this, he also affirmed the reality of the Eucharist. The bread and wine truly become the Body and Blood of Christ.

Fr. Andrew’s “Bearing God” is a quick read and a great way to begin reading and understanding the early Church Fathers. ❖

Rick Paese

CALLED TO SERVE

“He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left their boat and their father, and followed him” (Matt. 4.21). In the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

I grew up my entire life in the Greek Orthodox faith. I was baptized, went to Sunday School, served as an acolyte, went to Greek School and have many fond childhood memories of church picnics, dances and more. But at some point after high school I started getting busy with activities and college and let the proportion of my life dedicated to the church decline. I think I thought no one noticed, including God Himself.

Invitation #1: One day, wrapped up in my own interests, I was asked by our new priest to get involved as a Sunday School teacher. When I think about it now, I realize it was the Lord’s merciful way of calling me back. Not by being chastised, brow-beaten or guilt-tripped. But by simply being invited. So I accepted. I can’t say everything turned around from there, but it was a start, because it let me know that God noticed me pulling away and used others to bring me back.

Like some of the amazing and dedicated Church School teachers we have in this community, that story could have ended there with a lifetime of dedicated service to the Lord



and His Church as a religious educator, and what an essential role that is in raising future generations of faith. It would have been enough of an example of responding to the Lord’s call to follow Him and God bless those of us who do!

Instead, I started to explore how else the

Lord might be calling me to serve. I had been an Ionian Village camper at 12 years old and knew how transformative and valuable that ministry was, so in my pride I thought, “I can do that,” and I applied to be a counselor. They said no. I was, to say the least, not happy.

Invitation #2: Certain that it was unfairness and bias in the selection process, and not God’s will, I went to our new Bishop, named Maximos, during the Consecration of our Cathedral, and complained about it. Instead of brushing me off, he, like

the priest who got me to teach Sunday School, offered me an invitation.

“Come and be a counselor at our Diocese of Pittsburgh summer camp!”

It turned out to be one of the most consequential moments of my life, as that summer at



camp helped me truly understand what an active, adult relationship with Jesus Christ and His Holy Church really meant. I was on fire with zeal, but I wasn’t really sure how that fire got lit and why. Like the Sunday School teacher scenario, there were plenty of people who took time out of their lives to be camp counselors and helpers, some for many years. So I thought that might be where this was all heading. And that would have been enough. Except for...

Invitation #3: During that summer at camp, I met a new kind of creature I had never known before – seminarians! The camp program invited them to be counselors, directors, coordinators and more. And by the end of the summer I had become good friends with many of them. As they shared their stories about God calling them to the priesthood, I started to think about following them back to Boston. When I approached Bishop Maximos about this, he affirmed it, blessed it and sent me off to the seminary.

As you can see from my story, this wasn’t a one-step process. It was a series of invitations, each in a context that was clear to see if I was willing to open my eyes to it. And each letting me know that God has plans for me. It is an often-mistaken notion that this idea of being called by



God applies only to priests. After years of ministry and seeing countless faithful souls accept the invitation to serve the Lord and His Holy Church, I cannot tell you how far from the truth that is. His calling is broad and wide.

So today as we consider the Gospel reading on the Second Sunday of Matthew, with the calling of the first Apostles, please allow me to clarify a few things concerning the invitations that the Lord has for each of us as we hear Him say, "Follow me."

First, please note that I said "invitations" and not "invitation." You heard in my story that it was not a single instance but a series of invitations at places in my life's story when I was prepared to receive them. If you received an invitation to a wedding from someone you or your spouse didn't know, you would think it strange and out of place. But when it is from someone you are connected to, you are quite likely to accept. Being connected to God always is an important part of receiving the invitations in your life that have been hand-written by the Lord.

Second, just because your invitation is not to the priesthood does not mean it is not from God. Sometimes the invitation is to serve in areas you are needed to make the life of the church possible. I have mentioned Sunday School teachers and camp counselors. There are so many more ways, from parish leadership to ministries of every kind. This is why in Matthew

9.37-38 Jesus says, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Pray the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Third, in the case of the Apostles today, Jesus invited them with, "Follow me," and "Immediately they left their boat and their father, and followed him." It was a dramatic change of life. Not every invitation of God in our life does that. Many times we can answer the call right from where we are. And that is so much more natural for us to accept when we are aware of our God-given talents and know in our hearts He has provided them in advance so we can be ready to say, like the Prophet Isaiah, "Here I am, Lord, send me" (Isaiah 6.8).

So what does all this look like in your life and in the life of Holy Trinity Church? I mentioned in a sermon recently that we have 24 active ministries in this parish. That's not about the numbers, dear friends. It's about how we as a community respond to the Lord's invitations. Invitations to lead. Invitations to support. Invitations to sacrifice. Invitations to be there. Invitations to get up, not leave it to everyone else and know the Lord has invited you to be part of it all. But forgive me for saying this, with all love, many of us are indeed leaving it to everyone else, and it's time for us all to step up.

It is now mid-year, and some of us have still not responded to the invitation to keep this church alive. Think of it this way. Our GOYA hosted a day at Kennywood last week. I'm not sure when you were there last, but the walk-up price of admission (without discounts) is \$74.99. Wouldn't you love to save that money and get in free? Well, sorry, I can't tell you how. But imagine if everyone got in free? How long would Kennywood be around? Likewise, although there is no "admission fee" to attend and worship at Holy Trinity Church, what if one-by-one, we all said, "This place will be just fine without my pledge. They won't miss it." Dear ones, you now know that story ends. And right now, we are about 50% through the year and have only 219 pledges. That means at least 100 of us are leaving it to everyone else. Are you one of them? Sorry, that pace is just not enough to sustain what you come here for and love about the life of this church. We were all recently thrilled to be able to share philanthropic outreach of the "Agape Challenge" to help so many people in need, but that and so much else is only possible when we take care of the needs of the church. So please dear brothers and sisters, let's get that pledge level to 325 or 350 this week. Let it show your love. It's your RSVP to the Lord's invitation. I never like speaking about money from the solea, so please understand, it's not about money. It's about the calling. It's about our response. It's about love.

Returning to the larger theme of being called to serve, there is no one sitting in this church today that has not received some kind of invitation. If you think you haven't, look again. The Lord knows your address. He knows your heart. He has prepared you. You don't need to be an Apostle, prophet or priest. Just love God enough to answer. Amen. ❖

Delivered June 14, 2026

Stewardship 2026 Roster

Rev. Fr. John & Presvytera Becky
Touloumes
Rev. Fr. Radu & Presvytera Loredana
Bordeianu
Rev. Fr. George & Presvytera Evangelia
Daskalakis
Dn. Matthew & Diakonissa Nina
Palamara
Dn. Theodore & Diakonissa Mary Ellen
Stewart

Dr. Andrew & Mrs. Anna Abboud
Fayez & Maria Abboud
Eleni & Joseph Abdalah
Mark & Teddi Adamczyk
Mr. Sotiris & Mrs. Amy Aggelou
Victoria & Justin Ambrose
Mr & Mrs Victor Amurgis
Georgiana Anargyros
Christy Andromalos
Mr. Michael Andromalos-Dale
Alexander & Katherine Anetakis
Ms. Tiffany Ann
Mrs. Lynda Areheart
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Armanious
Mr & Mrs Harry Athanasiou
Desi Austin
Mr & Mrs Alvin Backeris
Mr & Mrs Van Backeris
Enoch (Nick) Bailey & Rebecca Pfeiffer
Mr. Douglas & Mrs. Jessica Baker
Anthony & Alexandra Balouris
Chris & Chrysoula Balouris
Chris & Kathy Balouris
Dr. & Mrs. Constantine Balouris
Eleni Balouris
Jim & Yvonne Balouris
Mrs. Katherine Balouris
Ms. Polyxeni Balouris
Lynn & Ethel Barker
Anastasia & Joseph Barron
Olga Beckas
Ephraim & Daniela Berexa
Mr. Michael Bober
Mrs. Athena Bober
Mr. Todd Bogdanovich
Ms. Pamela Bolkovac

Dr & Mrs Reggie Bonfield
Dennis Bossick & Penny Fakles-Bossick
Mike & Maria Bounos
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Bournias
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Brewer
David Brittain
Alexandra & Anthony Cameron
Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Caromano
Mr. Peter Castellano
Mr & Mrs Charles Chapas
Mr & Mrs James Chapas
Mr. Thomas J. Chapas
Mr Louis Cherpes
Ms. Sherry Clayton
Steven & Jill Cole
Mr. & Mrs. Ryan Copeland
Ms. Cynthia Morris Criss
Demetrios Danis
Evan & Kelly Danis
George & Sophia Danis
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Dedousis
Helen DeMoss
George & Stacy Dickos
Samuel Dickson
William & Jennifer Dickson
Mr. & Mrs. Michael B. Dodd
Mr. & Mrs. Nikolas Doris
Theodore & Jennifer Drapas
Mike & Casey Erdeljac
Mr & Mrs Frank Erdeljac
Mr & Mrs Christian Farmakis
Bill & Tina Fiedler
Carol Fiffas
Mr. Brian & Mrs. Angie Fitzpatrick
Tommaso Folino
Andreas and Valori Fournaridis
Mr. Andrew Fournaridis & Ms. Anna Mamo
Mr. & Mrs. John Franciscus
Constance Fries
Diana Fries
John Fries
Dimitri & Maria Gagianas
Dr & Mrs Peter Gagianas
James & Erica Gambieris
Mr & Mrs Markos Gambieris
Stacy Gambieris
Joan Gatsiopoulos

Mr & Mrs Thomas Geanopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. George Geanopoulos
Effie Geanous
Fabiola Georgallis
George & Arnette Georges
Elaine Georgiades
Dr. and Mrs. Mark Georgiadis
Mr & Mrs Steven Georgiadis
Alex & Marina Giallonardo
Mr & Mrs Peter Giannoutsos
Mr. & Mrs. Jason Gidas
Eugenia Graser
George Gregorich
George & Anna Halkias
Paul Hareras
Pennie Hareras
George & Amanda Hulse
Mr & Mrs Carlo Iasella
Dr. Kristina Johnson
Mr & Mrs James Johnson
Betty Kakavis
Andreas Kamouyerou
Mr & Mrs Evangelo Kaparakos
Dr. & Mrs. Gregory Karabin
Irene Karavolos
Mr. & Mrs. George Karpakis
Bettina Kermes
Dr Imad Alizray and Ms Zelfa Khalil
Mr. & Mrs. James Kolovos
Fanny Kostos
Mr. Steve Kostos
Dr & Mrs Dimitris Kraniou
Mr. & Mrs. Dean Kraniou
Marios & Julia Kritiotis
Mike & Julie Kritiotis
Paul & Ashley Kukunas
Stephen Kukunas
James Lakes
Mr. & Mrs. Philip LeDuc
Nektarios & Jill Leontiadis
Mary Lolis
Anthony & Amy Loomis
Mr. and Mrs. Chris Loomis
Nicholas Loomis
John Lowman
Brett and Eleni Lucido
Doug Lupnacca & Vaia Kolovos-Lupnacca

Thank you to the following faithful stewards who have submitted a **2026 Stewardship Pledge**. If you are not on this list, it's easy to complete your pledge today by card, by using Realm online or in the Realm app! Or click simply the QR code below. Thank you for making the ministries of Holy Trinity possible!

Mr. & Mrs. Bryan Mackrell
 Curtis Magnuson
 Athena & Yiannis Mallios
 Mr. & Mrs. Louis Manesiotes, Jr.
 Gregory & Karen Manis
 Nick & Sarah Manis
 George Manolangas
 John & Agnes Markanich
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Marsh
 Maria Mason
 Mr & Mrs John McCann
 Marc McMullen and Alexandra Valliant
 George & Veronica Mellis
 Mr & Mrs Jeff Mercadante
 Mary Mermigas
 Mr. & Mrs. James Mermigas
 Mrs. Arlene Metropulos
 Herb Miller & Georgia Beckas Miller
 Mr & Mrs Meno Mitaras
 Milton Moratis
 Greg Morris
 Mr & Mrs George Nakis
 Alexis & Chad Nikola
 Mr & Mrs Mark Opacic
 Gen. & Mrs. William Pagonis
 Michael Pagonis
 Mr & Mrs William Pagonis
 Nicholas Paluselli
 Nicole & Denis Paluselli
 Constantine Panagulias
 Mr. & Mrs. George Pandelios
 Mr & Mrs Paul Pantelas
 Ronald Pantelas
 Loukia Papatheodorou
 Chris & Rita Pappas
 Anthony Pappis
 Michael Pappis
 Orestes & Arlene Paras
 Dean & Ann Passodelis
 Michael & Julie Passodelis
 Mr. & Mrs. George Pastor
 Mr. Chris Patsilevas
 Christian Petredis
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles W. Petredis
 Mr. & Mrs. John Petropoulos
 Mr. & Mrs. Joseph P. Phaturos
 Elizabeth Pickios

Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Pickios
 Rania Pontikos
 Tim Putnam & Jackie Boord
 Katina and Salvatore Re
 Matthew Reed & Amy Brock-Reed
 Ms. Julianne Rogozewicz
 Mr & Mrs Stephen Roman
 Afaf Saikaly
 Eleni & Bennett Salvatora
 Nick & Jane Sarandou
 Athanasios & Beth Sarris
 Christopher and Sandra Schall
 Kristi & Michael Schmitt
 Dr. & Mrs. Dean Scoumis
 Mr. & Mrs. Stephen E. Sedor and Valentina
 Stephanie Sedor
 Mr. & Mrs. Nick Sfamenos
 Manny & Joanna Sideris
 Gea & Jeff Spires
 Theone Stateson
 Robert & Marianne Stearns
 Christine Metropulos and Dave Steiner
 Mr. & Mrs. Craig Steiner
 Dr & Mrs Samuel Stepanow
 Mr. & Mrs. Daniel C. Stephenson
 Jon & Judith Stipanovich
 Brian Tabb & Elaine Balouris Tabb
 Nicholas & Maria Terezis
 Mr. & Mrs. James Thomas
 Alex Tomalski
 Luke Tomalski
 Georgia Touloumes
 Mr & Mrs Gerri Valliant
 Chad & Alecia Vomer
 Maria & Alex Voukounas
 Joseph and Christina Waters
 Joanne Watson
 Sonia & Christopher Welch
 Eric White
 Daniel & Jeanne Willow
 Bradley & Nickey Zafiris
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Zagnacky
 Mr & Mrs George Zappas
 Anna Zissis
 John Zotis

Stewardship is not simply about meeting financial needs. It is about participating in the work God has entrusted to us. It is an expression of belonging. Through our prayers, service, generosity, and presence, each of us helps build a stronger congregation and a more effective ministry.

Evan Danis
 Stewardship Chair



PLEDGE NOW!

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!



2026 Lenten and Paschal Flowers

Thank you to the many parishioners and friends who offered donations for Lent and Holy Week. May those who have given and those whom they have honored be blessed always!

Salutations to the Theotokos Icon

- Fayez & Maria Abboud for the health of their family
- Helen N. Bonaros in memory of Nicholas Bonaros
- Irene Karavolos in loving memory of Steve and Kelly Karavolos
- Deacon Matthew & Diakonissa Nina Palamara for the health of their children
- Elizabeth Pickios in memory of her beloved husband Anthony

Lent, Holy Week and Resurrection Services

- Annunciation Icon Flowers Bill & Tina Fiedler, in memory of Eleftherios, Makryna, William, Josephine, Danielle, family & friends
- Processional Flowers for the Veneration of the Holy Cross Fran Stephen, for the health of family & friends
- Saturday of Lazarus Icon Flowers James S. Johnson and Kristina Johnson, in memory of their parents Homer J. & Stella Johnson
- Palm Sunday Icon Flowers Cynthia Morris Criss
- Palm branches for Palm Sunday Andreas & Valori Fournaridis, for the health of their family
- Christ the Bridegroom (Nymphios) Icon Flowers Irene Karavolos, in loving memory of Steve and Kelly Karavolos
- Burial Shroud Sheet for Epitaphion Arlene Metropulos, in memory of her beloved husband Dean Metropulos
- Holy Friday Rosewater Chris T. Balouris & family in memory of his father Themistocles C. Balouris
- Holy Friday Icon Flowers Sonia Welch, for the health of Viorica Lawson

Epitaphion Flowers

- Flowers for the Epitaphion Holy Trinity Offering Envelopes, plus the following:
- Efthalia & Lynn Barker in memory of the Kalogeras & Geanous families
- Helen N. Bonaros in memory of Nicholas Bonaros
- Sherry Clayton for the health and well-being of her Holy Trinity family
- Cynthia Morris Criss in memory of Tom and Dora Morris
- Frank & Katina Erdeljac in memory of the Alexiades Family
- Mike & Casey Erdeljac in memory of Mary Alexiades, Alex Alexiades and John Alexiades
- Bill & Tina Fiedler in memory of Eleftherios, Makryna, William, Josephine, Danielle, family & friends
- Penny & Gus Georgiadis for the health of their family
- Eugenia Graser in memory of her husband Robert Graser and parents Michael & Maria Patsalos
- Eugenia Graser for World Peace
- Pennie Hareras in memory of Gus & Voula Hareras
- George & Scarlet Karpakis in memory of Christopher Karpakis, Pat Karpakis, John Karpakis, & Greta Tramel
- Vasiliki & Elenie Kourouklis in memory of Georgios Kourouklis
- Vasiliki & Elenie Kourouklis in memory of Achille Kourouklis
- Vasiliki & Elenie Kourouklis in memory of Dimitris & Stavroula Repana
- Mike & Julie Kritiotis for the health of their family
- John & Tasy McCann for the health of John Henry and Cora McCann
- Meno & Jean Mitaras in memory of the dearly departed members of the Mitaras & Condos families
- William & Janice Pagonis for the health of their family
- James F. Sicalias in memory of Bessie Cocheres Sicalias
- Joanna Sideris in memory of Mary Constantino, Olga Litsakis and Sophie Sideris
- The Zissis Family In memory of Anthony & Aspasia Zissis

Pascha & Paschal Season Flowers & Items

- Decoration of the Epitaphion Joyce Athanasiou, Holy Trinity Philoptochos, Women & Youth of the parish

LENTEN AND PASCHAL FLOWERS & DONATIONS

Myrrh Bearing Women Icon Flowers.....	Vaia Kolovos-Lupnacca
Bay Leaves for Holy Saturday	Pamela Bolkovac, in memory of her parents Nick & Mary Bolkovac (3 large baskets)
Rose Petals for Holy Saturday ..	Helen DeMoss, in memory of John DeMoss, Steve & Anthoula Pefanis and for the health of their families
Resurrection Icon Flowers.....	Irene Karavolos, in loving memory of Steve and Kelly Karavolos
Resurrection Banner Ribbons.....	The family of Chrissie Georgiadis in her memory
Dying and Preparation of Red Resurrection Eggs.....	Holy Trinity Philoptochos
Clergy's Resurrection Candle	A faithful parishioner, for the health of her children
Clergy's Resurrection Candle	A faithful parishioner, for the health of her grandchildren
Clergy's Resurrection Candle	Reggie & Marianne Bonfield, for the health of family & friends
Clergy's Resurrection Candle	William and Jennifer Dickson, for the health of family & friends

Paschal Lillies

Mark & Amy Armanious.....	in memory of Adel Armanious
Art & Christina Avlon.....	in memory of Gus and Stella Kalaris
Art & Christina Avlon.....	in memory of Alexander and Helen Avlon
Art & Christina Avlon.....	in memory of Gus and Panagiota Bistolas
Art & Christina Avlon.....	in memory of George and Pauline Kalaris
Dean & Lisa Balouris.....	in memory of John & Helen Balouris
Pamela Bolkovac	in memory of her parents Nick & Mary Bolkovac (3 plants)
Helen N. Bonaros	in memory of Nicholas Bonaros
Helen N. Bonaros	in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Emanuel Tsivitis
Reggie & Marianne Bonfield	in memory of John & Mary Bonfield
Reggie & Marianne Bonfield	in memory of John & Helen Chapas
Reggie & Marianne Bonfield	for the health of family & friends
The Bonfield & Chapas Families	in memory of Frank & Anne Chapas (4 plants)
The Boyaci Family.....	In honor of Mrs. Mary Lolis (3 plants)
Bill & Sophea Chapas.....	in memory of John & Helen Chapas
Sherry Clayton.....	for the health and happiness of her Holy Trinity family
Cynthia Morris Criss	in memory of Tom & Dora Morris
Cynthia Morris Criss	in memory of George & Penny Morris
Cynthia Morris Criss	in memory of Mike & Angela Morris
Cynthia Morris Criss	in memory of Stephen & Mary Morris Yerazunis
Cynthia Morris Criss	in memory of Chris & Pauline Morris
Cynthia Morris Criss	in memory of Steve & Helen Morris
William & Jennifer Dickson.....	for the health of family & friends (2 plants)
Frank & Katina Erdeljac.....	in memory of Mike & Theologia Alexiades (2 plants)
Frank & Katina Erdeljac.....	in memory of Mary Alexiades
Frank & Katina Erdeljac.....	in memory of Alex Alexiades
Frank & Katina Erdeljac.....	in memory of John Alexiades
Mike & Casey Erdeljac	in memory of Mary Alexiades
Mike & Casey Erdeljac	in memory of Alex Alexiades
Mike & Casey Erdeljac	in memory of John Alexiades
Bill & Tina Fiedler.....	for the health of their family & friends
Bill & Tina Fiedler.....	in memory of Eleftherios, Makryna, William, Josephine, Danielle and all their departed family & friends
John & Georgia Franciscus	in memory of John Beckas and Vasiliki Petropoulos
John & Georgia Franciscus	in memory of Peter Katsafanas and Demetra Kastanis
Connie Fries.....	for the health of family & friends
Connie Fries.....	in memory of Peter & Mary Panos
Connie Fries.....	in memory of Lou & Marge Parikakis
Connie Fries.....	in memory of Alex Trilivas
Connie Fries.....	in memory of James Statheas
Connie Fries.....	in memory of Georgiann Bounas
Diana Fries.....	in memory of Olga Regakis
Diana Fries.....	in memory of Marian Pantelas
Diana Fries.....	in memory of Peter Panos
Diana Fries.....	in memory of Mary Panos
Diana Fries.....	in memory of Milita Mellis
Gus & Penny Georgiadis	in memory of George & Mary Kalodikis
Gus & Penny Georgiadis	in memory of Peter & Mary Georgiadis
Eugenia Graser.....	in memory of her husband Robert Graser
Pennie Hareras.....	in memory of Gus & Voula Hareras

LENTEN AND PASCHAL FLOWERS & DONATIONS

Pennie Hareras	in memory of Angelo & Athena Hareras
Pennie Hareras	in memory of Jim Statheas & Eleftheria Koutsouflakis
Barbara Harlas	in honor of Fr. John and Presbytera Becky
Barbara Harlas	for the health of Mary Lolis
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
Irene Karavolos	in loving memory of Steve and Kelly Karavolos
Irene Karavolos	in memory of her beloved husband Charles Siebott
George & Scarlet Karpakis.....	in memory of John Karpakis
George & Scarlet Karpakis.....	in memory of Pat Karpakis
George & Scarlet Karpakis.....	in memory of Chris Karpakis
George & Scarlet Karpakis.....	in memory of Greta Tramel
George & Scarlet Karpakis.....	in memory of JC Tramel
Vasiliki & Elenie Kourouklis	in memory of Dimitrios Repana
Vasiliki & Elenie Kourouklis	in memory of Stavroula Repana
Mike & Julie Kritiotis	for the health of their family
Mike & Julie Kritiotis	in memory of their loved ones
Maria Mason	in memory of her beloved husband Jeff
John & Tasy McCann	for the health of Connor and Alyssa Mackrell (2 plants)
Christine Metropulos & Dave Steiner	for the health of Dave & Christine Steiner
Christine Metropulos & Dave Steiner	in memory of Dena Murray Finnegan
Meno & Jean Mitaras and Family	in memory of the dearly departed members of the Mitaras & Condos families
Deacon Matthew & Diakonissa Nina Palamara	for the health of the Anh & Palamara Families
Orestes & Arlene Paras	in memory of John & Maria Paras
Orestes & Arlene Paras	in memory of Albert, Rose & Arthur Russell
Doug & Ramona Patterson.....	in honor of their grandchildren, Mauro, Maeve and Siera
Elizabeth Pickios	in memory of her beloved husband Anthony Pickios
Elizabeth Pickios	in honor of her sister Sophia Koroli
Afaf Saikaly	in honor of her Holy Trinity family (2 plants)
James F. Sicalias	in memory of his mother Bessie Cocheres Sicalias
Joanna Sideris	in memory of Mary Constantino
Fran Stephen	in memory of Peter Podimatis
Fran Stephen	in memory of Viola Stephen
Fran Stephen	in memory of Steve Stephen
Fran Stephen	in memory of Mario Sokolic
Sonia Welch.....	in memory of Floarea Dan
Sonia Welch.....	in memory of Florea Dan
The Zissis Family	in memory of their parents
The Zissis Family	in memory of their grandparents
The Zissis Family	in memory of their aunts & uncles
The Zissis Family	in memory of their cousins

Other Offerings and Donations

Prosforon (Offering Bread).....	Joyce Athanasiou, Presvytera Evangelia Daskalakis, Stacy Dickos, Mike & Julie Kritiotis, Maria Mason and Diakonissa Nina Palamara
Sacramental Wine used for the preparation of Holy Communion	Reggie & Marianne Bonfield, for the health of family & friends
Candy/Paschal treats Agape Vespers service	Cynthia Morris Criss, in memory of Tom and Dora Morris
Candy/Paschal treats Agape Vespers service.....	Penny & Gus Georgiadis, for the health of their family
Candy/Paschal treats Agape Vespers service	Pennie Hareras, in memory of Gus & Voula Hareras
Candy/Paschal treats Agape Vespers service.....	Meno & Jean Mitaras, in memory of the departed members of the Mitaras & Condos families
Candy/Paschal treats Agape Vespers service.....	Sonia Welch, for the health of Viorica Lawson
St. George Feast Day Icon Flowers	John & Georgia Franciscus, in memory of George & Betty Beckas
Pentecost Icon Flowers	Jon & Judy Stipanovich

**Many thanks to all for their generosity!
Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!**

*Gerontissa Theophano and the Sisters warmly welcome you to the
Nativity of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Monastery
2026 Summer Feast Days*

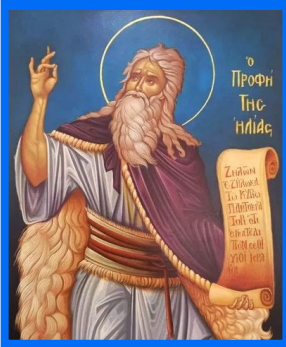
32nd Memorial Commemoration for Gerontissa Taxiarchia

August 1st - Saturday

9:00 am: Hours, Divine Liturgy, Memorial Service - Lunch Follows

*In 2014, on the 20th Anniversary of the repose of Gerontissa Taxiarchia,
we launched the capital campaign to build the new Monastery, something Gerontissa Taxiarchia greatly desired.
Since then, all proceeds commemorating our Holy Gerontissa have gone to the new Church & Monastery.*

*We invite you to come and honor her by attending the
Memorial Commemoration and donating in her memory.*



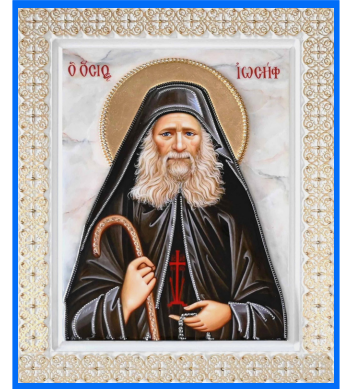
Prophet Elias

July 17th - Friday 5:00 pm:
Great Vespers, Orthros

July 18th - Saturday 9:00 am:
Hours, Divine Liturgy
Lunch Follows



**PLEASE LOOK FOR A SPECIAL FLYER FOR
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH
NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS FEAST DAY**



**Saint Joseph
The Hesychast**

August 15th - Saturday 5:00 pm:
Great Vespers
August 16th - Sunday
7:00 am: Orthros, Divine Liturgy
Lunch Follows



Come to the Monastery with your family

**Donate to defray the cost of the Church for the Glory of God & the intercessions of
His Holy Mother, The Theotokos.**

*Visitors should be modestly dressed for all visits to the Monastery.
Women are asked to wear long skirts and long sleeves. Men to wear long pants and long sleeves.
Socks with sandals & shoes*

Please RSVP so that the Monastery has adequate hospitality:

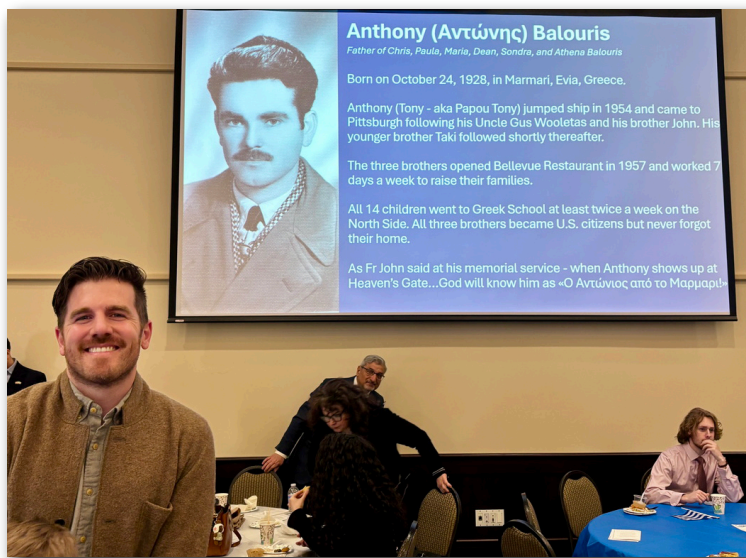
Email us: info@NativityoftheTheotokosMonastery.org OR Call us: (724) 352 - 3999

Visit our web site & browse our Online Gift Shop & place preliminary orders:

www.NativityoftheTheotokosMonastery.org



(March 29) The new Holy Trinity Greek School organized and hosted a wonderful celebration of Greek Independence Day in the Grand Room. They honored the language, culture, music and faith which helped Greece shed the yoke of 400 years of Ottoman occupation. They also displayed screens of photos and stories of the Greek forebears from the history of Holy Trinity Church. Bravo!



Anthony (Αντώνης) Balouris

Father of Chris, Paula, Maria, Dean, Sonira, and Athena Balouris

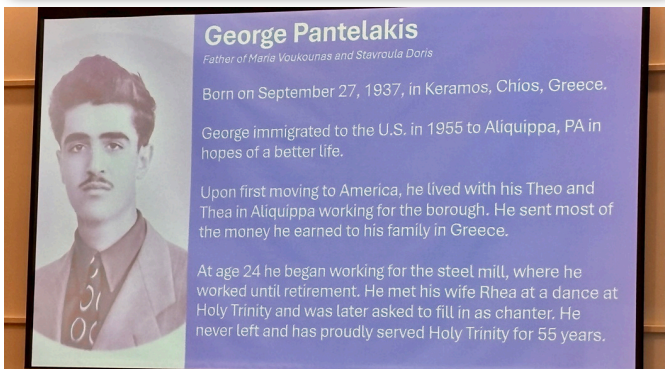
Born on October 24, 1928, in Marmari, Evia, Greece.

Anthony (Tony - aka Papou Tony) jumped ship in 1954 and came to Pittsburgh following his Uncle Gus Wooletas and his brother John. His younger brother Taki followed shortly thereafter.

The three brothers opened Bellevue Restaurant in 1957 and worked 7 days a week to raise their families.

All 14 children went to Greek School at least twice a week on the North Side. All three brothers became U.S. citizens but never forgot their home.

As Fr John said at his memorial service - when Anthony shows up at Heaven's Gate... God will know him as «Ο Αντώνιος από το Μαρμαρί».



George Pantelakis

Father of Maria Voukounas and Stavroula Doris

Born on September 27, 1937, in Keramos, Chios, Greece.

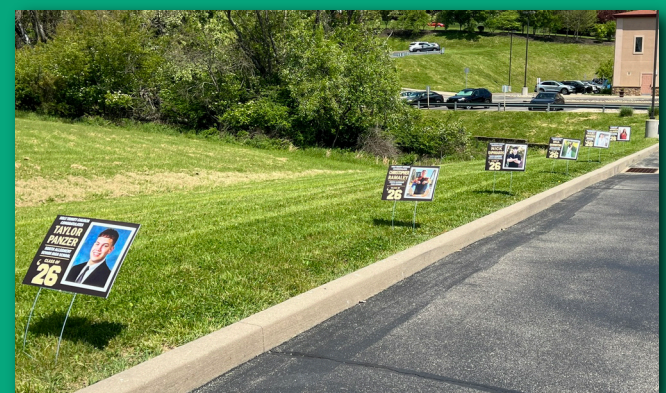
George immigrated to the U.S. in 1955 to Aliquippa, PA in hopes of a better life.

Upon first moving to America, he lived with his Theo and Thea in Aliquippa working for the borough. He sent most of the money he earned to his family in Greece.

At age 24 he began working for the steel mill, where he worked until retirement. He met his wife Rhea at a dance at Holy Trinity and was later asked to fill in as chanter. He never left and has proudly served Holy Trinity for 55 years.

















Above: Holy Trinity parishioners and friends filled the Cinemark theater for a special showing of the movie “Kapodistrias” following a dinner and special presentation in the Holy Trinity Grand Room. Below: Holy Trinity GOYAnS visited Cumberland Crossing on May 2 for a Mother’s Day Tea as part of the GOYA outreach ministry. Opposite top right: GOYAnS participated in the Metropolis Regional Volleyball Tournament in Ambridge. Opposite middle: The teens and their families gathered to celebrate and honor the graduating seniors at the GOYA Senior Dinner. Opposite bottom: A small group of GOYAnS enjoy a day of rides and fun at Kennywood Park.







Top: Father John takes the students on a “road trip” during the children’s homily to visit St. Mary of Egypt, illuminated by the sun. Deacon Ted receives warm thanks and congratulations on the first anniversary of his ordination to the Diaconate. Middle: The Agape Fund Committee presents “The Agape Challenge” to the community, distributing \$10,000 in \$100 bills to be used for charity. Bottom: left Members of the Welch family are received into the Orthodox Church on May 3. Right: Pentecost Kneeling Vespers.

Top three rows: The Ladies Philoptochos Society hosted a special meeting with mimosas and delectables on May 17. They also gathered on June 14 to prepare 1,000 koulourakia for the Archdiocese Clergy-Laity Congress, which is being hosted by our Metropolis in Cleveland. Bottom: Daniel Smith is received into Holy Orthodoxy on Pentecost. Area clergy gather for our Feast Day Liturgy.





THE HOLY TRINITY GOLF

MANY THANKS TO COMMITTEE, THE PLAYERS AND SPONSORS



F CLASSIC - JUNE 8, 2026

SORS WHO HELPED MAKE THIS EVENT A GREAT SUCCESS!

HOLY TRINITY 2026 GRADUATES



Evangelia Balouris | North Allegheny Senior High School

Evangelia is graduating as a member of the National Honor Society and the National French Honors Society. She has been an active participant in Church School, GOYA, GOYA Basketball, the Greek Dance Troupe, the Cretan Dance Troupe and the Holy Trinity Festival since she can remember! She has served as GOYA Events and Communications Coordinator and President during her senior year. She has lettered for three years in basketball and was named to the First Team in All-Section Varsity Basketball. Her future college plans include studying political science at Pennsylvania State University.

Hari Bouzos | South Park High School

Hari is graduating as an Honor Roll Student. He has been very active at South Park football, where he lettered and served as the Football Captain his senior year. His team also won the 2A WPIAL Championship. Hari also lettered in track and field and is a recipient of the Tul Melman Scholarship. He has participated at Saint Nicholas Cathedral and Holy Trinity Church in Church School, GOYA, GOYA Basketball and the Greek Dance Troupe. He plans to attend Slippery Rock University in the fall to major in Health and Physical Education.



Mia Giannoutsos | North Allegheny Senior High School

Mia is graduating as a member of the National Honor Society. She lettered in North Allegheny Varsity Volleyball for two years and was on the 2024 State and WPIAL Championship team. She was also a coach at Pittsburgh's Renaissance Volleyball Club. Mia focused on helping other girls through the "Girls Only" Leadership Development Facilitator and a "Just for Girls" camp counselor. She has attended Church School at Holy Trinity and participated in GOYA events, basketball and volleyball. She plans to attend the University of Pittsburgh and major in Data Science.



Nicholas Kaparakos | North Allegheny Senior High School

Nicholas is graduating as an Honor Student. A life-long athlete, he has been playing baseball since age 6 and has played NA flag football and NABA basketball. Nick has been actively involved in every area of life at Holy Trinity Church, from Church School to serving as an Acolyte since age 8 to working and dancing at the Greek Festival. He has been a GOYA member and officer and has often volunteered for charity events, such as the North Hills Community Outreach Santa Luncheon and TRY Prom for Special Needs Students. He plans to attend Pennsylvania State University Main Campus in the fall.



HOLY TRINITY 2026 GRADUATES



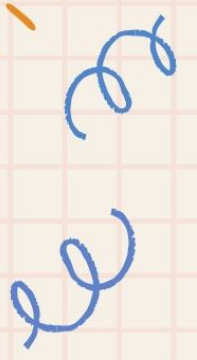
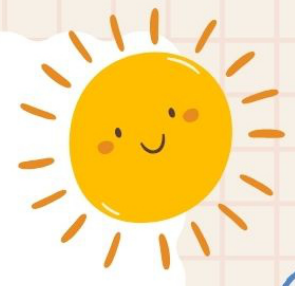
Taylor Panzer | North Allegheny Senior High School

Taylor is graduating from North Allegheny Senior High School, where he has been active in sports and lettered in basketball. As a newcomer to Holy Trinity Church during his senior year, he embraced life here through participation in worship, Church School and the GOYA teen ministry, where he also played basketball and attended the Metropolis tournaments. He will be attending the Community College of Allegheny County in the fall to major in Actuarial Sciences.

Christopher Ramaley | North Catholic High School

Christopher is a member of the National Honor Society, the Latin Honors Society, is on the Dean's List and has received Special Distinction in the National Debate and Speech Association. He played varsity soccer and volleyball, is an Eagle Scout and has received the Alpha Omega Scout Award. Chris has been involved in Church School, GOYA, Acolytes and the Greek Festival at two Holy Trinity Churches - Ambridge and Pittsburgh. He has attended Metropolis summer camp and participated in the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival. He will attend Clemson University and major in Engineering.





HOLY TRINITY YOUTH MINISTRIES



KICK-OFF PICNIC

2026/2027 Theme:
"Keeping God's Commandments"
 "This is the love of God, that we keep
 His commandments." (1 John 5.3)

SEPTEMBER 12, 2026
3:00-7:00PM

SESQUI PAVILION AT NORTH PARK

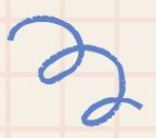


What To Bring

- HOPE- Desserts
 - JOY- Drinks
 - GOYA- Appetizers
- Main course will be provided

RSVP by Sep. 10

Vicki Ambrose 412-720-5094 or vambrose817@gmail.com





HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

985 PROVIDENCE BLVD,
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TO THE ANNUAL



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS SERVICE



SATURDAY, SEP 12, 12:00PM

IN FRONT OF HOLY TRINITY CHURCH MAIN ENTRANCE



A BRIEF PRAYER SERVICE IN HONOR OF SAINT
MAMAS, PATRON SAINT OF ANIMALS, WILL BE
OFFERED. ALL PARISHIONERS ARE WELCOME
TO BRING THEIR FAMILY PETS.
PLEASE BE PROMPT! ANIMALS DON'T WAIT!



Freedom Through Forgiveness

What kind of prayer can we offer without a free heart? It is forgiveness that helps us acquire freedom of heart. In order to be forgiven, the only condition God requires of us is that we forgive one another from the heart.

Q: Geronda, why does our lack of forgiveness create so many problems?

If we harbour resentment or enmity toward our fellows, it is a sign that we have fallen from communion with the God of Love. If we entertain thoughts of malice, judgment or hatred, we cut ourselves off and estrange our soul from the perfect and incorruptible love of God, which alone has the power to save us and clothe us with immortality. Therefore, if we wish to work together with God in His divine plan for us, we must set our heart free by forgiving all those who have offended us.

Q: Why is forgiveness so important to our salvation?

Without a free heart, we cannot call upon the Lord in a way that brings salvation. We need a free heart to cooperate with God in the struggle to uproot the law of sin from within us, and to establish in our heart and in our members the law of His will, the law of His grace. We forgive in order to liberate our heart, for only a free heart can run behind Him and follow in His footsteps. He created us in His own image, to be free; without this freedom, we can neither receive the divine word nor unveil the hidden evil within, to enable His life to shine forth in our darkened soul.

Q: Does that mean that spiritual progress is not possible unless we forgive from the heart?

That is correct. When the heart becomes free by forgiving every offence, whatever we do, whatever we

say and whatever we think contributes to our spiritual progress, to our growth in the spirit. Without this spiritual freedom, we cannot work on our heart with God so that we may love the Risen Lord and all our fellows.

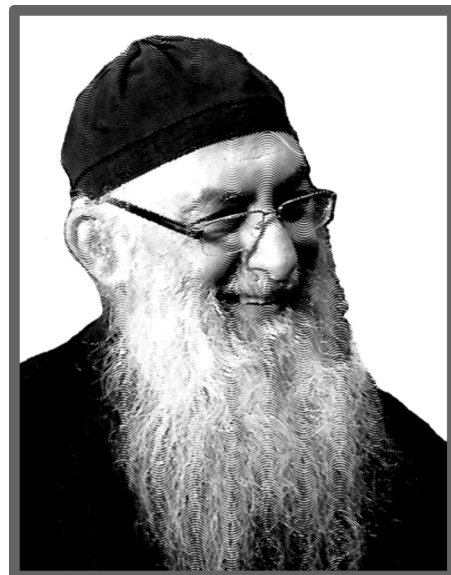
If we keep resentment against anyone, it means that our heart is not present but has been stolen by the enemy; and in such a state we can do nothing pleasing to God. What kind of prayer can we offer without a free heart?

Q: Geronda, is forgiving others enough for salvation?

Forgiving the offences of others is not enough. Man must also seek forgiveness for his own wrongdoings, both voluntary and involuntary. He must also co-work with the Lord and become an instrument of His Providence, so that grace may be extended to all those with whom he comes into contact. In this way, the act of asking forgiveness becomes a means of imparting grace.

This is especially true when we ask forgiveness from a brother who feels hurt by us, even though we have done him no wrong: the humility of such a gesture can move the heart of the other, setting off a process of renewal in his life. When we humble ourselves and ask for forgiveness, we become co-workers with God in the regeneration of our brother. Seeking and offering forgiveness prepares man's to receive from God the grace of remission of sins.

Forgiveness not only opens the heart,



Archimandrite Zacharias of Essex

but also prepares it to become the wondrous dwelling place of God; thus strengthened by the love of Christ, man brings all mankind before God in his prayer of intercession.

Q: Forgiveness is hard. It sometimes seems humanly impossible.

Certainly, forgiving the sins of others surpasses man's fallen nature. The disposition to forgive appears to our narrow human reason as weakness, even folly. But divine justice is not like human justice: it is as far removed from it as light is from darkness. The justice of God is His humble, blameless love to the end, which forgives all things. By forgiving and asking forgiveness, the Christian receives strength to renounce the values and patterns of this world and to humble himself. The source of this strength is the example of the Lord Himself Who, in the hour of His extreme humiliation and utter self-emptying, prayed on the Cross: "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." Had He not uttered this word, the path of repentance would have remained closed to man and his reconciliation with God would have been impossible. ❖

Excerpted from
"The Ineffable Folly of Divine Love"

THE HOLY TRINITY
HERALD
Faith. Family. Community

About the Herald

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

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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
 Deacons: Dn. Matthew Palamara, Dn. Theodore Stewart

2026 Parish Council

Anthony Balouris, President (pcpresident@HolyTrinityPgh.org)
 Alexander Anetakis Evan Danis Christopher Loomis
 Eleni Balouris Eleni Dedousis George Mellis
 Penny Balouris George Dickos Dean Passodelis
 Michael Bounos Michael Erdeljac Dan 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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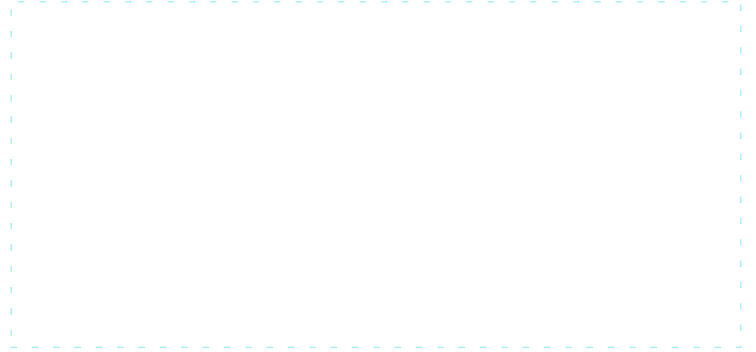
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DO WHAT YOU CAN

GOD IS NOT WAITING FOR US TO WORK MIRACLES. WE SHOULD DO WHAT IS HUMANLY POSSIBLE WITH ALL OUR HEARTS AND IN THIS WAY IT IS SHOWN THAT WE REALLY BELIEVE IN AND REALLY LOVE HIM, THAT WE REALLY HOPE IN HIM AND THANK HIM FOR ALL THAT HE DOES FOR US. YES, LET US DO WHAT IS HUMAN AND WAIT FOR HIM TO OPEN AND CONTINUE TO OPEN ROADS, AND HE WILL ADVANCE US.

Excerpted from "Timeless Truths"
by Elder Symeon Kragiopoulos, Panorama, Thessaloniki

