



The Net

A monthly publication of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
March 2020 | Vol. 12 | Issue 3

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St. Gregory Palamas

March 15

This divine Father, who was from Asia Minor, was from childhood reared in the royal court of Constantinople, where he was instructed in both religious and secular wisdom. Later, while still a youth, he left the imperial court and struggled in asceticism on Mount Athos, and in the Skete at Beroea. He spent some time in Thessalonica being treated for an illness that came from his harsh manner of life. He was present in Constantinople at the Council that was convened in 1341 against Barlaam of Calabria, and at the Council of 1347 against Acindynus, who was of like mind with Barlaam; Barlaam and Acindynus claimed that the grace of God is created. At both these Councils, the Saint contended courageously for the true dogmas of the Church of Christ, teaching in particular that divine grace is not created, but is the uncreated energies of God which are poured forth throughout creation: otherwise it would be impossible, if grace were created, for man to have genuine communion with the uncreated God. In 1347 he was appointed Metropolitan of Thessalonica. He tended his flock in an apostolic manner for some twelve years, and wrote many books and treatises on the most exalted doctrines of our Faith; and having lived for a total of sixty-three years, he reposed in the Lord in 1359.



His holy relics are kept in the Cathedral of Thessalonica. A full service was composed for his feast day by the Patriarch Philotheus in 1368, when it was established that his feast be celebrated on this day. Since works without right faith avail nothing, we set Orthodoxy of faith as the foundation of all that we accomplish during the Fast, by celebrating the Triumph of Orthodoxy the Sunday before, and the great defender of the teachings of the holy Fathers today.

Apolytikion of Sun. of St. Gregory Palamas in the Eighth Tone
O Gregory the Miracle Worker, light of Orthodoxy, support and teacher of the Church, comeliness of Monastics, invincible defender of theologians, the pride of Thessalonica, and preacher of grace, intercede forever that our souls may be saved.

Kontakion of Sun. of St. Gregory Palamas in the Fourth Tone
Holy and Divine instrument of wisdom, bright and harmonious trumpet of theology, with one voice, we praise you, O Gregory, preacher of God. Since your mind now stands before the First Mind, guide our minds to Him, O Father, that we may cry to You, "Hail Herald of Grace."

March 2020



Practice the True Fast

I've been thinking a lot this year about the themes of the Triodion. That is, the theme of: The Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, The Sunday of the Prodigal, The Sunday of Judgement, and The Sunday of Forgiveness. We must recognize our sinfulness and our dependence on God's grace, just like the publican (a tax collector). But what's more, we can't just stop at recognizing our sinfulness. We must turn back to the Father, just at the Prodigal Son did. On the Sunday of Forgiveness we recognize that there's nothing that keeps us from God's grace if we just turn back to him in repentance, and offer forgiveness to those who wronged us. But the theme of The Sunday of Judgement is most striking to me this year. Christ lays out the standard for how he'll sort the sheep and the goats.

'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.'

Most of the time we associate this passage with helping the poor or the destitute. It'd be easy to think that way; there are loads of statistics that support the correlation between financial well-being and emotional, physical, and social support. I grew up in inner city churches, before going to seminary I worked with profoundly mentally ill. In both I spent a lot of time face-to-face with poverty and brokenness. I also served in Charleston, WV, and saw first hand the ills of the opioid epidemic. But nobody wakes up one morning and decides to get addicted to heroin or painkillers. Nobody wakes up with a strong urge to enter into a physically or mentally abusive relationship. I can say definitively that brokenness knows no economic class, racial group, or vocational stratum. Rich or poor, black or white, any one of us can face brokenness, and need the love and support of another.

This is what I took away from Judgement Sunday this year. We must be a compassionate people. We have to be slow to anger, quick to assume best-intentions, loving, and understanding. We can't just say that we care about those who are hurting, but we must take care of them. It's going to look different depending on the circumstance. Sometimes it will be hard to do, even scary. And yet, Christ calls us to it, because *'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.'*

St. John Chrysostom, when talking about fasting, says it's not enough to forego fasting from meat, but that we fast from all sorts of evil that we do willingly, by what we see, hear, and say. He writes *'Show me your fast with your works. Which works? If you see someone who is poor, show him mercy. If you see an enemy, reconcile with him. If you see a friend who is becoming successful, do not be jealous of him!'*

It's important that we fast from meat as much as we're able. It's much more important that we show the world our fast, through good works and charity, through patience and mercy.

Brothers and sisters: this Lent work to show mercy to those who are poor, hurting, or broken. There is a lot of pain, here in the Ohio Valley and elsewhere, in need of Christ's love. Be that example of love this Lent.

Practice the true fast this Lent.

In Christ,

The Presidents' Page March 2020

PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Beloved Parishioners of Holy Trinity, Kalo Mena!

Welcome to March and the start of Great Lent! As we prepare personally for this sacred time make a concerted effort to become more committed and involved in the happenings of our church. A large poster in the hallway in addition to schedules in the net and the online calendar will show and remind you of service dates and times.

As always, thank you to all of our volunteers as we prepare once again for our Festival. Without all of you, this extraordinary fundraising event could not occur. If you have any questions regarding the festival please contact myself or Angela Mastro and we will be glad to assist you in the best manner possible.

A big thank you to Angie Mahfood and our Philoptochos ladies and gentlemen for yet another successful Gyro season. Your dedication has created a tradition in our community that looks forward to those special Tuesday's during those months. God Bless each and everyone of you!

I am also very appreciative of Stella Parakakis for leading this year's March 25th Independence Day Celebration. This year both adults and children will participate and even yours truly is looking forward in reciting a poem. For any additional info and if you would like to help and or participate please contact Stella Parakakis or Erma Rangos.

Our 75th Anniversary is soon coming as we are planning a celebration including a dinner and dance here at Holy Trinity on October 3rd. For more information or to volunteer for this event, please contact the chairs Rana Levendaris and Tara Dzvonic.

Work will soon begin on the bell tower as we will be resurfacing the roof above. It has deteriorated over the years and has caused some damage. Once the weather breaks, contractors will begin this process. If you would like to donate to this improvement please see myself or Nick Riley.

I also want to acknowledge and congratulate our St. Photios award winners for this year, Kaliope Diniaco and Steve Markis! Both have been extraordinary stewards for our beloved Holy Trinity for many many years. In growing up here, both have greatly influenced me as a youngster and I am extremely appreciative of them both. May God grant them continued health and happiness.

Our Kitchen Fundraiser is in full gear, and your donations have been greatly appreciated but we still have a way to go. Please, any amount will do in helping to pay for this fabulous renovation. Without this we would not have been able to continue with our festival, so any amount will be helpful.

Committees are building and we want you! If you have not volunteered for a committee please see myself or Fr. Matthew to sign up. Be a part of the solution and volunteer, we are all in this together and we need everyone!

Please remind family and friends from a far who cannot come to church and especially as we near Holy Week that services can be viewed live from anywhere around the globe at: www.holytrinitystb.org/live

As always thank you for all that you do in making Holy Trinity great! It takes a village and each and everyone of you makes an enormous difference.

Much love and continued blessings +
Tony Mougianis

PHILOPTOCHOS PRESIDENT

Our service project for February was the Random Act of Kindness project and it was a huge success. A total of 30 boxes of food was donated by our generous Holy Trinity ladies. The boxes of food were distributed to Cancer Dietary, Urban Mission, Friendship Room, and the Salvation Army. As the Philoptochos president, I and the other officers and members would like to extend a sincere thank you to Tony, Tara and the Apollo team for distributing the food boxes. Pictured below is Chris Elliott from the Apollo Team delivering boxes from Random Act of Kindness to the Salvation Army.



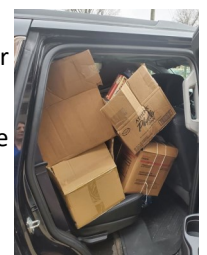
The Philoptochos gyro fundraisers are over until September. A big thank you to all those dedicated people who helped coordinate the set up and sales.

An update from February donations allows the Philoptochos Society to say that they proudly donated \$100 for Health Kits in February. The altruistic donation for the month of March is Valley Hospice.

Finally, the next meeting date for Philoptochos is Thursday, March 5 at noon at Holy Trinity Church. The theme is a Kitchen Shower. All church members are invited to attend.

Blessings

Angie Mahfood, Philoptochos President



HOLY TRINITY

EASTER FLOWERS

AZALEAS \$15.00

LILIES \$10.00



If you would like to order an Azalea or Lily, please complete this form and return it with payment to the church office by Sunday, April 5, 2020.

Quantity ordering:

Azaleas \$15.00 _____

Lilies \$10.00 _____

Check Enclosed \$ _____

Purchased by: _____

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

The following people will be celebrating their birthdays in the month of March:

March

GeorgiAnn Diniaco	3-01	Gregory Matzorkis	3-20
Scott Caleodis	3-01	Joanne McCraley	3-20
Despina Vounousakis	3-02	Michael Petrides	3-24
Ralph Zende	3-04	Christian Kirsch	3-24
Angela Mastros	3-06	Marco Maragos	3-26
Aimee Carroll	3-07	George Panagis	3-27
Melissa Vostatek	3-12	Andrew Matzorkis	3-28
Pana Mastros	3-14	James Balouris	3-29
Maria Terezis	3-19	Jerome Pappas	3-29
Marcus Markakis	3-20		

FRANCISCAN COLLEGE STUDENTS



GOYA BASKETBALL IN CANTON, OHIO



FESTIVAL MONETARY DONATIONS

As many of you are aware, we rely heavily on the festival to sustain the operations of our parish. We are asking our membership to cover some of our expenses by sponsoring items purchased thus far:

Walnuts \$ 780.00
Registers \$2,000.00

Any donation is appreciated and will allow us to help keep our treasury positive! Please list how you would like your contribution to be spent. Looking for two parishioners to be responsible for Soft Drink Station inside the hall and outside under the tent. Please make the commitment to the festival and our church. Please call Angela Mastros at 740-632-9555.

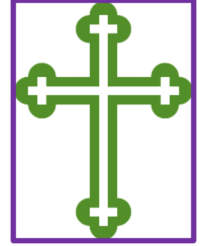
Festival Co-Chairs Tony Mougianis and Angela Mastros.

IOCC HYGIENE KITS





LENTEN SCHEDULE



Monday, March 2 Lent Begins

Wednesday, March 4

5:30 P.M. Presanctified Liturgy

Friday, March 6

6:00 P.M. 1st Salutations

Saturday, March 7 Saturday of Souls

9:00A.M. Orthros and Liturgy

Sunday, March 8 Sunday of Orthodoxy

4:00 P.M. Lenten Vespers Holy Trinity, Steubenville, OH

Friday, March 13

6:00 P.M. 2nd Salutations

Sunday, March 15 Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas

5:00 P.M. Lenten Vespers Holy Resurrection, Steubenville, OH

Wednesday, March 18

5:30 P.M. Presanctified Liturgy

Friday, March 20

7:00 P.M. 3rd Salutations – At All Saints, Weirton

Sunday, March 22 Sunday of the Holy Cross

4:00 P.M. Lenten Vespers St. Nicholas, Barton, OH

Wednesday, March 25 Annunciation

9:00 A.M. Orthros and Divine Liturgy

Friday, March 27

6:00 P.M. 4th Salutations

Sunday, March 29 Sunday of St. John Climacus

4:00 P.M. Lenten Vespers All Saints, Weirton, WV

Wednesday, April 1

5:30 P.M. Presanctified Liturgy

Friday, April 3

6:00 P.M. Akathist Hymn

Sunday, April 5 Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt

5:00 P.M. Lenten Vespers St. Nicholas, Weirton, WV



**Tuesday, June 9th
 Wednesday, June 10th
 Thursday, June 11th
 Friday, June 12th**

On behalf of the Festival Committee, we would like to thank everyone who has participated in the baking days thus far. We have completed 60 trays of Baklava and the 1,784 Kourambiethes and working towards completing the Dolmathes. We are in need of everyone to pitch in and help... there is something for everyone! If the life of the church is important to you, please come down and give a few hours to help preserve the legacy of Holy Trinity.

Dates for the 2020 Festival are June 9-12th. Please get the word out so your family and friends from afar can join us again this year and a reminder that we will be hosting one week earlier than previous years.

We have been meeting with each department of our festival in hopes of preparing for changes and building infrastructure to an event that has tripled in size over the last few years. Thank you again for your dedication to our parish and pride in hosting the biggest event in the Ohio Valley!

We have provided a schedule for baking days so that everyone can plan accordingly.... we need YOU!

COOKING AND BAKING DAYS	
March 3	Souzoukakia
March 10	Galatobouriko
March 17, 19, 24	Koulourakia
April 6,7,8	Easter Bread
April 23	Keftedes (start time @ 4:00pm to accomodate those who work)
April 30	Noodles for Pastitsio
May 1	Meat for Pastistio
May 2	Crema and Assembly of Pastitsio
May 12	Cook Raisins
May 14	Make Raisin/Cherry Squares- Make Syrup
June 1, 2, 3	Make Syrup
June 4, 5, 6, 8	Bake Baklava
June 5, 6	Rice Pudding

“Love Thy Neighbor” Focuses on Homelessness



NEW YORK – On February 12, 2020, the Department of Inter-Orthodox, Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, in partnership with the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, held their first public event at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. The event titled, “Love Thy Neighbor,” focused on homelessness and featured a panel of high-level experts on this issue.

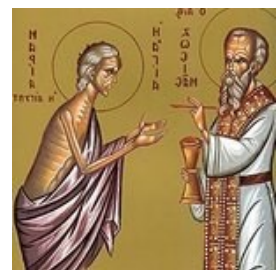
His Grace Bishop Apostolos of Medeia, representing Archbishop Elpidophoros of America offered remarks at the top of the event. His Grace insisted on the spiritual meaning of home, as a safe space and the internal homelessness of the heart in our Christian journey towards Christ. “These new initiatives [of the Archdiocese] on homelessness challenge each of us to look internally at our own hearts, while also serving our neighbors, who may be vulnerable to homelessness or have lost their homes.”

Dr. Sam Tsemberis, the Founder and CEO of *Pathways Housing First*, shared the simple approach of providing housing units to chronically homeless people, without any preconditions. James Carras, Adjunct Lecturer of Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School, passionately spoke about the importance of government investment for affordable housing in national policy. Maria Logus, Esq., the President of the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society shared the incredible work of over 400 Philoptochos chapters across the U.S. in serving the poor, and reminded everyone to look someone in the eyes when serving them and thus to recognize their inherent dignity.

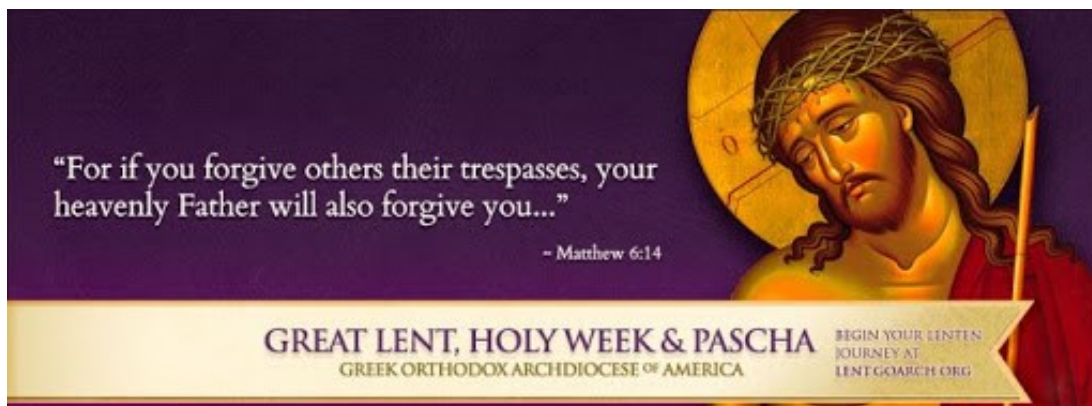
The “Love Thy Neighbor” event was the first event of its kind on homelessness as part of the Archdiocese’s new initiatives to respond to this crisis. The event offered a brief education and understanding of homelessness, while giving Orthodox Christian faithful the opportunity to respond to the call to serve by engaging with volunteer opportunities in their communities.

Sixteen organizations from the New York Metro Area, both faith-based and secular, participated in the Service Opportunity Fair and offered various volunteer opportunities to the 200 people in attendance.

Good Strength This Lent!



Καλή Σαρακοστή



Find lots of texts, prayers, and other resources this Lent at Lent.Goarch.Org

NET-MINDERS

The Parish of Holy Trinity would like to thank the following benefactors for making this Monthly Newsletter possible:

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of Nicholas
Mougianis**

**In Loving Memory
Of
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Philoptochos Society
"Friends of the Poor"

Women and Men Invited

See Angie Mahfood or Joanne McCraley to Join

MARCH 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Forgiveness/Cheesefare	2 Clean Monday- Lent Begins Choir Rehearsal 5:00PM	3 Souzoukakia 8:00AM	4 Presanctified Liturgy 5:30PM	5 Philoptochos Meeting 12:00PM Kitchen Shower at the church	6 1st Salutations to the Theotokos 6:00PM	7 Saturday of Souls <i>Orthros and Divine Liturgy 9:00AM</i>
8 Sunday of Orthodoxy Lenten Vespers 4:00PM Holy Trinity, Steubenville	9 Parish Council Meeting 7:00PM	Clergy Family Retreat			<< Young Adult Spring Retreat 5:00PM>>	
15 St. Gregory Palamas 5 Year Memorial Nick Terezis Vespers 5:00PM Holy Resurrection, Steubenville	16	17 Koulourakia 8:00AM AHEPA Meeting 5:30PM	18 Presanctified Liturgy 5:30PM	19 Koulourakia 8:00AM	GOYA Lenten Retreat: Camp Nazareth	
22 GOYA Retreat Sunday of the Holy Cross Vespers 4:00PM -St. Nicholas, Barton, OH	23	24 Koulourakia 8:00AM	25 Annunciation Orthros & Liturgy 9:00AM	26	27 Salutations to the Theotokos 6:00PM	28
29 Sunday of St. John Climacas Greek Independence 1:30PM Vespers 5:00PM All Saints, Weirton	30	31	Apr 1 Presanctified Liturgy 5:30PM	2 Philoptochos Meeting 6:30PM	3 Akathist Hymn 6:00PM	4 Regional Oratorical Festival 8:00AM

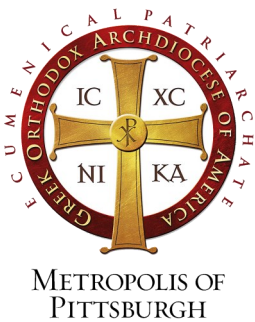


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Submissions for THE NET are to be submitted by the 20th of each month

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church



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

The mission of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church of Steubenville, Ohio, is to be disciples of Jesus Christ by sharing the joy of the Orthodox faith through love, compassion and charity for all.