



# The Net

A monthly publication of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church  
June 2020 | Vol. 12 | Issue 6

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## St. Sampson the Innkeeper

June 27

Saint Sampson the Innkeeper was the son of rich and illustrious Roman parents. In his youth he received an excellent education, he studied the medical arts and doctored the sick without charge. After the death of his parents, St. Sampson generously distributed alms and set his slaves free; preparing himself to go into the wilderness.

With this intent in mind, he soon journeyed from Rome to the East. But the Lord directed him onto a different path. That of service to neighbor and so St. Sampson came to Constantinople. Settling into a small house, St. Sampson began to take in the homeless wanderers, the poor and the sick and he attended to them. The Lord blessed the efforts of St. Sampson and he blessed him with the power of wonderworking.

He healed the sick not only through the being a skilled physician, but also as a bearer of the grace of God. (St. Sampson is numbered with the Holy Un-mercenary Saints.) News of St. Sampson spread abroad. The patriarch heard of his great virtue and ordained him to the priesthood. It was revealed to the grievously ill Emperor Justinian (627-666) that he could receive healing only through St. Sampson. In praying the saint put his hand on Emperor Justinian and he was healed. In gratitude the emperor wanted to reward Sampson with silver and gold, but the saint requested him to build a home for the poor and the sick. The emperor readily fulfilled his request.

Saint Sampson devoted the rest of his life to serving his neighbor. He survived the rest of his life into old age and after a short illness departed to be with the Lord. The saint was buried at the Church of the Holy Martyr Mocius, and many healings were effected at his grave. His hospice remained open and the saint did not cease to care for the suffering. He appeared twice to a negligent worker at the hospice and upbraided him for his laziness. At the request of an admirer of Saint Sampson, the hospice was turned into a church and beside it a new edifice was build for the homeless. During the time of a fire in Constantinople, the flames did not touch the hospice of Saint Sampson. Through his intercession, rains quenched the fire.





## Happy Birthday to the Church!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We're now reaching 80 days since the stay-at-home orders came to us who live in Ohio. We can all agree that, compared to whatever else we've been through, this has been one of the hardest times of our lives. Some of the worst things we see are the loss of jobs, the uncertainty in the economy, and what that means for our world. The effects of the Coronavirus also has leaders in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese wondering what they're going to do about festival season; our parishes in America have come to use the festival to replace parish giving instead of augmenting parish giving, and now there is great concern for having a modified festival. On top of all of that our college students don't know if they'll be on campus next year, our high school graduates have been robbed of their final rituals, school sports are still up in the air, and none of us have been able to worship with one another. It's all painful, it's all concerning.

However, we are starting to have some hope; as businesses begin to open again, and we practice the CDC guidelines, we may begin to see something closer to a normal life. Of course, our other concerns and hurts don't magically disappear because we can dine at a restaurant indoors again. It's likely that, even if we ourselves are unaffected, there will still be a lot of wounds needing mended. There will be a lot of hurts that will need soothed. The Church will be called on to put its shoulder to the plow and care for the whole world. It's my deep conviction that Orthodox Christianity itself is best poised to lead the charge.

Some might question why the Faithful would dedicate themselves to looking out for "the other" when our parishes are facing so many troubles. Brethren, the answer lies in a feast in our Church, coming this month, of which we are named. That is the feast of Pentecost, the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, when the Apostles preached the Good News in many languages and then set themselves to transforming a hurting and broken world into Christ's vision of the Kingdom of God. Though it's not a perfect analogy, we can say that Pentecost is the birthday of the Church. And looking at the work of the Orthodox Church in the history of Christianity we see that much work was done. We saw the rise of hospitals, hospices, orphanages, "poor homes", and soup kitchens; all of this was all done by the Church. If the world is cold, the Church is a warm hearth. If the world won't feed the hungry, the Church will. If the world doesn't care about lifting the poor from their station, the Church does. It did, and continues to do, all its work whether the world loves it or not. The Church does its work in the face of ridicule and martyrdom.

The Church does all of these things because the Orthodox Church remains the original Church, and it remembers Christ's words to his disciples, "If you love me, you will keep my com-

mandments. And I will pray the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, to be with you forever...the Holy Spirit... he will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you." (John 14:15, 16, 26). Christ didn't tell the disciples that they would do the work and it would be easy. He never told them that they only need to transform the world if the world is amicable to it. Instead, he told the disciples that if the world persecuted him, how much more likely it would be that the world would persecute them. It did persecute them, and in some places today Christians are still persecuted in their work.

This far from depressing, but rather an inspiration. Because even though they face danger, we can see the beautiful things the Church does for the world. We also see the manifold blessings that grow out of its labor. It gives us a model of what the Church is, and what it stands for. We don't shy away from holiness and serving the world because we are worried about our future; we run towards that service despite our worries. Pentecost always stands as a strong reminder, a slap in the face, for Christians. We are called to humble ourselves, as Christ himself did, and transform the world. That gives me both hope and the strength to face all this uncertainty, even though I'm sad or concerned, with joy in my heart. I pray you will feel the same, and once we're able to be with one another more fully we can all join together to transform the world around us. Please continue to pray for all those who lead us and for the entire world.

*Fr. Matthew*

P.S.—Included in this edition is His Eminence's reflection on the first phase of reopening the parish for public worship, as well as the highlights of that plan.



## THE PRESIDENTS' PAGE

## HAPPY SUMMER

Beloved parishioners of Holy Trinity, welcome to June! Kalo Mena! Xristos Anesti!

As we continue on with the Covid restrictions, a continued thanks to everyone for their patience as we are now able to allow up to 25 people into our church for Divine Liturgy. We are working to make it as fair and safe as it possibly can be for everyone and so far it has gone very well. If Fr. Matthew has not called you, he will be; please be patient. As many as have shown a desire to attend church, many have preferred to stay away for the time being and that's perfectly fine. There's no right or wrong here. It's strictly based on your personal comfort. This arrangement will change as the pandemic changes so our hope is that the numbers stay the same or even drop so that we can further open up from the current restrictions as to who can come to church and how many. Many churches have yet to open so I feel glad that we have chosen to open by following the rules set forth by our local health authorities and our metropolis. Though in the interim, please continue to watch services live every Wednesday and Sunday every Wednesday and Sunday at [www.holytrinity.stb.org/live](http://www.holytrinity.stb.org/live).



Work has been completed with the renovation of the roof and interior of the bell tower and I am pleased to say it has been restored to a pristine condition that will give us many days of protection and life. Also I am thrilled to announce that our bell is once again working and the sound of that special chime brings back many memories for all of us. I am sure Vavula is smiling down upon us all.

The festival planning continues and soon we will be asking for some help in cleaning certain areas of the hall that are now vacant and available for storage after the removal of onsite catering. Please help us in either calling myself, Angela Mastros or Marlane Figurski or Cindy at the office to sign up.

The kitchen donations are continuing to roll in though we have a way to go. Please consider helping this beautiful project that has taken away from our investment account in giving to help replenish our savings.

Online giving is also available and now makes it easier than ever to give to Holy Trinity. Go to our church website at <http://holytrinitystb.org/online-giving/> in order to access online giving and follow the easy directions.

Please continue to pray for the sick who have contracted this horrible disease and for the families of the many who have lost their lives throughout the world and here in our country. I also would like to acknowledge and thank Dean and Shelly Collaros for the beautiful floral arrangements they donated during Pascha for the Anastasi and resurrection icons. They were breathtaking and greatly appreciated. God Bless you both.

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

Much love and blessings

## PHILOPTOCHOS PRESIDENT

Holy Trinity Family

Christos Anesti!

These past three months have been a very difficult and emotional time for all of us who love our church and our church family. There have been so many negative reports in the news and in our lives here in the Ohio Valley. I want to offer a few positive points on which we can all focus.

It is my pleasure to tell you that the Philoptochos Society gave \$100 each to the Salvation Army, the Friendship Room, and to the Urban Mission. Our monetary donations were to be used by these organizations as they felt necessary in their fight against the Corona Virus. The recommended altruistic donations for the month of June are the Jefferson County MRDD and Special Olympics.

The Philoptochos meetings during the past year were held at the Steubenville Country Club and were well attended. Two of the highlighted meetings were the Christmas meeting that was held on December 6, 2019, and the Kitchen Shower meeting that was held on March 6, 2020. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on September 3, 2020. You will continue to be notified two weeks prior to the meeting regarding reservations and menus.

Have a safe summer and I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

Christos Anesti! May the light of our Lord's resurrection be with all of you.

Angie Mahfood, Philoptochos President

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

Constantine Kotsanis	6-01	Irene Mitchell	6-11
Sophia Riley	6-01	Doris Tabrosky	6-14
Pete Caleodis	6-02	Constantine Caras	6-20
Peter Parikakis	6-03	Beatrice Moore	6-20
George Caleodis	6-05	Anastasia Crisante	6-21
Alijah Demitras	6-08	Chad Fuller	6-23
Dr. Paul Mastro	6-11	Nicholas Zorne	6-23

## NEW FESTIVAL DATES

The festival committee would like to announce the new dates for the festival: October 7-9. More details to follow. We would also like to thank the people that have sent in ads for the festival and we are still accepting ads for the book, placemat and banners. We would appreciate your support. Please send ads and money to the church.

## 2020 GRADUATES

### Carmen Alexander



Carmen Spyridon Alexander, son of Spiro and Carla Alexander. Carmen is the grandson of Captain Spyro and Flora Alexander-Lekatsas and JoAnne Calfa. Carmen graduated from Wheeling Central Catholic High School in Wheeling, WV, with high honors.

He will be attending Franciscan University of Steubenville in the fall. Carmen will be studying engineering.

### Alex Kamarados



Alex Z. Kamarados is the son of John A. and Connie Kamarados. Grandparents are Marie and the late Alex J. Kamarados and the late Geneva and Denzel Lamp. Alex graduated from Weir High School. He plans to attend West Virginia

Northern Community College and major in Criminal Justice.

### Maria Kamarados



Maria Nikole Kamarados is the daughter of Nik and Stephanie Kamarados. Grandparents are Marie and the late Alex Kamarados and George and Diane Kohelis. Maria graduated from Brooke High School. She plans to attend Duquesne University

School of Nursing and hopes to become a pediatric nurse practitioner.

### Yiannis Kellis

Yiannis is the son of George and Marie Kellis, the grandson of John Kellis. He is graduating from Ohio State University this year with a double major in Finance and Modern Greek. In September he will attend the University of London for a Master's in Finance and Shipping.

### Irene Kellis

Irene is the daughter of George and Marie Kellis, the granddaughter of John Kellis. She is graduating from Laurel High School in Cleveland, OH. She plans to attend Ohio State University for a double major in Modern Greek and Business.

### Lucas Zorne



Lucas Zorne is the son of Paul and Nicole Zorne. His grandfather is Nicholas Maragos. Lucas graduated from Steubenville Big Red High School. He plans to join the Steubenville Electrical Union after graduation.

**Congratulations, Grads! Καλή Αρχή, Good Strength in Your Work!**



## GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

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### OFFICE OF THE METROPOLITAN

May 17, 2020

*Sunday of the Samaritan Woman*

**For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us... because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. (Romans 8:18,21)**

Beloved Fathers and Presvyteres, reverend Monastics, esteemed Metropolis, Philoptochos, and Parish Council members, dedicated Parish Secretaries, and devout faithful of the Holy and God-Protected Metropolis of Pittsburgh,

**Christ is Risen! Χριστός Ανέστη!**

I address you today with longing and hope: longing for the day when we can gather together once again in thanksgiving around the Lord's Holy Altar and celebrate with joy the gift of our unity in Christ; and hoping that day will dawn soon! Until then, however – until we are assured by the governing authorities that the dangers created by the current pandemic have decreased sufficiently – our gatherings will be limited in accordance with the following directives.

Before any parish can move forward with services and functions under what civil authorities have called “Yellow Phase” conditions, the priest and lay leadership will need to attest to the parish's full compliance with these policies. Only with my explicit written permission, conveyed by letter, fax, or scanned & emailed document, can the Church be opened beyond its current level, that is, no more than 5 persons including the priest.

This is not the end of the road, but a station along the way to a restoration of our fuller communion. Now is not the time to move with undue haste, as that would endanger the weakest among us. Let us instead go forward with the fear of God, with faith in Him, and love for one another, praying for God's enlightenment and guidance each step of the way. Let our prayer be that of the Psalmist: Show us the way in which we should walk, O Lord, for we lift up our souls to you.

With Archpastoral blessings and love in the risen Lord,

+ SAVAS

Metropolitan of Pittsburgh

### WHAT TO EXPECT

How your church experience will be temporarily modified in this phase.

**1**

#### LIMITED ATTENDANCE

State and local regulations on gatherings will affect how many people can attend a service. Parishes will seek to maximize worship opportunities for everyone through advance reservations, additional services and other parish-specific solutions.

**2**

#### SOCIAL DISTANCING

Your parish will designate seating areas that abide by current social distancing guidelines, which require at least six feet between households. You may not be able to sit in your regular area. Everyone will be asked to depart immediately following worship.

**3**

#### WORSHIP ADJUSTMENTS

Your experience during services will feel different than before the start of the pandemic. There will be smaller crowds. Attendees will be required to wear face masks. You are asked to reverence sacred objects and greet one another by bowing instead of kissing. These temporary measures help ensure the safety and comfort of all.

**4**

#### HOLY COMMUNION

Our Orthodox Christian faith and worship remain unchanged at their core, including our belief that the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ do not transmit disease. However, with pastoral sensitivity toward all parishioners during this unique time we will distribute Holy Communion by asking you to receive with an open mouth and head tilted back, as is common practice in many Orthodox traditions. The Communion cloth will be held by the altar attendants. Please do not touch or dab your lips on it.

**5**

#### COMMUNITY EFFORT/MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING

His Eminence Metropolitan Savas has been praying for and working with his clergy and communities for the salvation of the souls and well-being of the bodies of all our faithful. These temporary adjustments will be modified as things progress. In the meantime they require extra dedication and labor from our clergy and community leaders. Thank you for supporting them and moving forward together in a spirit of love.



### WORSHIP GUIDELINES:

#### BEFORE SERVICES

What you are asked to do and understand before and as you arrive.



#### WHERE YOU SHOULD ATTEND

The faithful will attend their local parish and not seek other church communities in places where restrictions differ from their own. This will allow each parish to fully accommodate the needs of its flock.

#### WHO MAY NOT ATTEND

Those with any signs or symptoms of any acute illness (whether it is COVID or not) **MUST** stay home, as should those who have come into contact with COVID-positive persons within the last 2 weeks. Those who are at high risk for severe illness from COVID-19 (65 years or older, live in a long-term care facility, underlying medical conditions) should not enter the church building and should participate in services online. Questions should be directed to your healthcare provider.

#### ADVANCE REQUEST TO ATTEND MAY BE REQUIRED

For regions where the previous restrictions have been loosened, worship services may resume with up to 25 persons (including the priest) in any single gathering space. Larger parishes may be able to offer a simulcast in multiple rooms with up to 25 people in each. In order to facilitate all this, your parish will establish procedures to ensure all parishioners have opportunities to attend. That may mean advance reservations are required. It will most likely mean you will not be able to attend every service during this phase. After being absent from church for so long, you may desire in your heart to attend every one, so your understanding and support of your parish leadership and your respect for the needs of your brothers and sisters in Christ will be greatly appreciated in this difficult task.

#### WHAT YOU AGREE TO BY ATTENDING

By voluntarily entering this church facility, you affirm that you are not currently ill or experiencing COVID-19 symptoms; you acknowledge that while safety measures are being taken by the church, it cannot guarantee the safety of every person present; you agree to abide by the social distancing and safety guidelines being practiced in this church; you consent to hold the church harmless against any damages or claims regarding your voluntary presence. If you are not able to agree to and affirm the above statements, you may not participate in this worship service in person and may choose to join online.

#### PREPARE FOR OFFERINGS IN ADVANCE

To minimize the handling and exchanging of currency in the church, please consider either making your offerings to your church through electronic giving or by preparing your offering in an envelope to be brought to church and deposited in the Narthex. Trays will not be passed during the service.



### WORSHIP GUIDELINES: DURING SERVICES

What you are asked to do as you enter and attend worship services.



#### ON-TIME ARRIVAL

Because your parish leadership will need to provide for your arrival and guide you to a seating area, it will be most helpful and appreciated for you to arrive before the worship service begins.

#### MASKS REQUIRED

All attendees will be required to wear protective face masks. Exceptions are allowed for those with valid medical exceptions, special needs and for children age 10 and under. (Children over 2 and under 10 encouraged but not required.) If you do not have a mask one will be provided.

#### FOLLOW THE SIGNS

Please follow posted entry points, aisles and designated seating areas. These have been prepared in advance to provide safe social distancing and need to be respected for everyone's well-being.

#### YOUR SEATING AREA

Designated seating areas will provide for spacing between individuals and family sections. Members of the same household may be seated in the same section without social distance between them. Everyone is required to remain in their seating area throughout the service except for receiving Holy Communion and for restroom needs.

#### HOW TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION

Our Orthodox Christian faith and worship remain unchanged at their core, including our belief that the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ do not transmit disease. However, with pastoral sensitivity toward all parishioners during this unique time, we will distribute Holy Communion in the following manner:

- Please remove your face mask prior to arriving at the Holy Chalice.
- When receiving, open your mouth fully and tilt your head back so the priest may place the Communion spoon in your mouth and turn it over to allow the Holy Gifts to drop in your mouth. Please do not close your lips on the spoon.
- Please do not touch the Communion cloth or dab your lips on it. There is no need, since your lips have not touched the Holy Gifts. It will be held by the altar attendants to protect against spills.
- After receiving Holy Communion but before replacing your mask, proceed to the Antidoron tray to take a piece of bread and consume it before wearing your mask again. This keeps the Holy Gifts from being expelled on to the mask. Then, please wear the mask for the remainder of the service.



### WORSHIP GUIDELINES:

#### AFTER SERVICES

What you are asked to do and understand after worship services.



#### MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCE ON EXITING

Please follow the directions provided by the priest and the guidance of any ushers regarding exiting with social distance.

#### ANTIDORON IS AVAILABLE ON EXIT

Antidoron will be available for you to take from a tray located at the exit point from the service.

#### MEMORIAL WHEAT SHOULD BE PRE-BAGGED

If you have offered a Memorial Service, rather than having the "Kollyva" Memorial Wheat as a large amount on a tray, please prepare it in individual bags and place all the bags on the tray for the priest to bless during the service. After the service, that tray will be made available at the exit point.

#### PLEASE DEPART IMMEDIATELY

Much as this goes against our common practice following services, please do not congregate in the Narthex or other areas of the church building. All attendees are asked to directly depart following the service.

#### COFFEE HOURS—NOT YET!

Coffee hours, lunches and other social gatherings are not to be held during this phase. Please understand they will return as soon as possible when restrictions are loosened.

## THANK YOU!

His Eminence Metropolitan Savas, your clergy and the leadership of our Holy Metropolis and your Church thank you for your understanding, support and cooperation during these temporary measures.

Watch for more announcements from the Metropolis and your parish soon!



# NET-MINDERS

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

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Anthony N. Mougianis

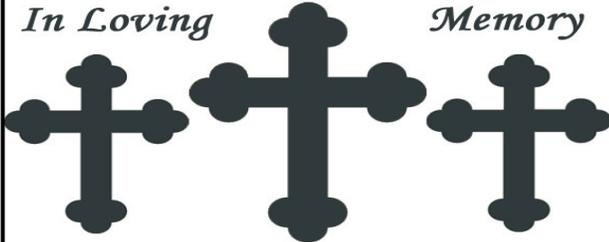
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Philoptochos Society  
"Friends of the Poor"

Women and Men Invited

See Angie Mahfood or Joanne McCraley to Join

# June 2020

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Paraklesis Begins again <b>Wednesdays</b> 6pm	1	2	3	4	5	6 <b>Saturday of Souls</b> Divine Liturgy 10:00AM
7 <b>Holy Pentecost</b>	8 <b>Day of the Holy Spirit</b> Divine Liturgy 10:00AM	9 Parish Council 7:00PM	10	11	12	13
14 <b>All Saints</b>	15 <b>Apostles Fast Begins</b>	16	17	18	19	20
21 <b>2nd Sunday of Matthew</b> <b>Fathers Day</b>	22	23	24 <b>Nativity of John the Baptist</b> Liturgy 10:00am	25	26	27
28 <b>3rd Sunday of Matthew</b>	29 <b>Apostles Peter and Paul</b> Liturgy 10am	30 <b>Synaxis of the Twelve Apostles</b>	July 1	July 2	July 3 <b>Independence Day Observed</b> Office Closed	July 4 <b>Independence Day</b>

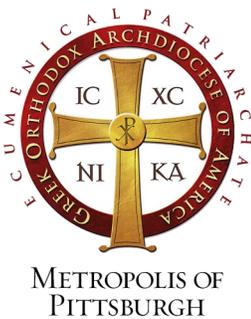


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**Submissions for THE NET are to be submitted by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month**

## Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church



Holy Trinity Church is a parish of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh ([pittsburgh.goarch.org](http://pittsburgh.goarch.org)) and Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America ([goarch.org](http://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.