METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

December 15, 2024

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Office Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
(Closed noon-1pm for lunch)

Sunday Services
Orthros 8:30 AM
Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM

Orthros Liturgy

Epistle
II Timothy 1:8-18

Gospel
Luke 14:16-24

Attendance
12/8/24
180

Today's Prosfora & Communion Wine

Given by Melanie McCauley
In Loving Memory of Sophie Pergins

Given by Afro Karasarides
In Loving Memory of Christos Karasarides & Pete Karasarides

Upcoming Memorials

January 12, 2025
3-Yr. Trisagion - Aris Kaplanis

January 19, 2025
1-Yr. Memorial & Coffee Hour - Justin Gesquiere

Condolences

Aristides (Art) Amentas, age 85, fell asleep in the Lord on December 9, 2024.

May his memory be eternal!

Please join Sunday School at coffee hour following Liturgy TODAY for carols and joys of the season!



2025 Ecclesiastical Calendars are available now!

Pick one up at the Pangari or outside the Church Office.

FOOD PANTRY HOLIDAY HELP!

During this holiday season, please consider a donation (monetary or non-perishable goods) to the Food Pantry to help those less fortunate during the holiday season.

Offering Envelopes are available for pickup in the hallway across from the bathrooms. If you would like envelopes for 2025, please contact the Church Office. Thank you!

COFFEE HOURS AT HOLY TRINITY

Coffee Hours are a great start at making our visitors and friends feel welcome. Our goal continues for 2025 to have a coffee hour following each Sunday Liturgy. Individuals and families are welcome to sign up. Pastries, coffee and juice are plenty; no need for a light meal. Tables will be set up. **Will you consider hosting one?** Please call the Church Office if interested!

Have you turned in your 2025 Stewardship Commitment Card?

Thank you, good and faithful servants of God! For 2025, let's continue our journey with God and have Stewardship fully sustain the Church's operating costs. Your ongoing love and support will ensure that the light of Christ continues to shine brightly for the next 108 years in our Parish.

Thank you for completing your 2024 pledge and giving by December 31, 2024!

All gifts given to our church, whether given online or dropped in the mail before December 31st will appear on your contributions for 2024.

Thank You!

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to making John's one-year memorial meaningful. Your generosity and support have touched our hearts deeply.

A special note of thanks goes to Father Nick for his guidance, prayers, and comforting words, which brought so much solace to us all. We are also incredibly grateful to the wonderful Koraes ladies, whose dedication and hard work were instrumental in bringing everything together so seamlessly.

Thank you all for honoring John's memory with us in such a thoughtful and loving way. May his memory be eternal!

-Anne, Sydney, and Eli Papadopoulos

Calendar for the Week

All Services are streaming online @ *www.htgoc.net/live*

Sunday, December 15
10-Yr. Memorial - Sophie Pergins
Sunday School Coffee Hour and Carol Sing 11:30 AM
Boys Basketball 5:00 PM
At St. Haralambos weekly

Monday, December 16
Aristides Amentas Funeral
Calling Hours 10:00 AM
Funeral 11:00 AM
Girls Basketball 6:00 PM

Tuesday, December 17
Holy Unction 9:00 AM
Parish Council 6:00 PM
Ladies Exercise Class 6:00 PM

Wednesday, December 18
Bible Study 11:00 AM
Food Pantry 1PM - 3PM
Paraklesis 6:00 PM
Boys Basketball 7:00 PM

Thursday, December 19
OFFICE CLOSED - Lori Vacation
Eliana Hall Use 5:30 PM
Young Adult Basketball 7:30 PM

Friday, December 20
No Scheduled Events

Saturday, December 21
No Scheduled Events

Sunday, December 22
Parish Council Coffee Hour 11:30 AM

The Church Office will be closed on THURSDAY, December 19 as Lori will be on Vacation, and on December 25 - 27 for the Christmas holiday.

NO CASH? NO PROBLEM!
Scan code with smart phone to make a payment instantly!

THE HOLY FOREFATHERS OF CHRIST

The Sunday before our Lord's Nativity is a unique day in the liturgical life of our Orthodox Church. We look AHEAD to the great Mystery that is about to occur: GOD BECOMING MAN. At the same time, we look BACK over the centuries, remembering the patriarchs, prophets and other devout people who eagerly awaited the coming of the Messiah. This day is commonly referred to as the SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FOREFATHERS.

As we contemplate the hymns and readings prescribed by the Church for this day, one word is placed before us again and again: FAITH. The Epistle lesson for today is taken from St. Paul's letter to the Hebrews. In it, St. Paul skillfully traces the history of the Hebrew nation, pointing out the great faith possessed by their prominent leaders of the past. "By FAITH, ABRAHAM, when he was tested, offered up Isaac. By FAITH, ISAAC, blessed Jacob and Esau. By FAITH, JACOB, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph." Others are mentioned such as Moses, David and Samson.

The message on this day is a clear one. We are about to celebrate the culmination of centuries of anticipation. The faith of the Holy Forefathers is about to be rewarded. Soon, we will rejoice along with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as we bear witness to the Birth of Christ. We will ". . . run with patience the race set before us, looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our FAITH." (Hebrews 12:2)

The spirit of this jubilant day is captured wonderfully by today's Troparion: "Through faith, You justified the patriarchs, and through them, You made a commitment to a church with gentiles. The saints in glory rejoice, because from the seed of these forefathers has come forth the blessed fruit which gave birth to You without seed."

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin . . . . . Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey . . . . . Litho in U.S.A.

Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

-:- Holy Forefathers -:-

Abraham, Isaac & Jacob



They lived in hope & with
the promise of God's Faithfulness

Resurrectional Apolytikion.
Mode pl. 4.

You descended from on high, O compassionate One, and consented to a three-day burial, to free us from the passions. O Lord, our life and resurrection, glory to You!

For the Forefathers.
Mode 2.

By faith You justified the Forefathers, having through them betrothed to yourself the Church that came out of the nations. The saints are boasting in glory; for the glorious fruit, the Virgin who without seed gave birth to You, is from their progeny. At their entreaties, O Christ our God, save our souls.

For the Saint.
Mode pl. 1. *As the Father and Spirit.*

You were fully adorned with the sacred priestly robes. * You were dripping with streams of your own martyric blood. * In this state, you ran to Christ your Master, O blessed Saint * Eleftherius, destroyer of Satan; you are wise. * Therefore cease not interceding * for us who loyally honor * your blessed contest of martyrdom.

Apolytikion of Our Church
Mode pl. 4.

Blessed are You, O Christ our God; Who did show forth the fishermen to be all-wise, by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit. And through them You drew the world into Your net, O Friend of man, glory to You!

Kontakion.
Mode 3. *Automelon.*

On this day the Virgin * goes to the cave to give birth * to the pre-eternal Word * in an ineffable manner. * Dance for joy, all the inhabited earth, on hearing. * Glorify along with Angels and with the shepherds * Him who willed that He appear as * a newborn Child, * the pre-eternal God.

St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 1:8-18

Prokeimenon. Grave Mode

Psalm 115.5,3 (116.15,12)

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.

Verse: What shall I render to the Lord for all that he has given me?

The reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 1:8-18

TIMOTHY, my son, do not be ashamed then of testifying to our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel in the power of God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not in virtue of our works but in virtue of his own purpose and the grace which he gave us in Christ Jesus ages ago, and now has manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. For this gospel I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, and therefore I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me. Follow the pattern of the sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus; guard the truth that has been entrusted to you by the Holy Spirit who dwells within us.

You are aware that all who are in Asia turned away from me, and among them Phygelos and Hermogenes. May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphoros, for he often refreshed me; he was not ashamed of my chains, but when he arrived in Rome he searched for me eagerly and found me - may the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that Day and you well know all the service he rendered at Ephesos.

The Gospel According to Luke 14:16-24

The Lord said this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time of the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I must go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and there is still room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet. For many are called, but few are chosen.'"

Ἀπολυτίκιον Ἀναστάσιμον.
Ἦχος πλ. δ΄.

Ἐξ ὕψους κατῆλθες ὁ Εὔσπλαγχνος, ταφὴν κατεδέξω τριήμερον, ἵνα ἡμᾶς ἐλευθερώσῃς τῶν παθῶν. Ἡ ζωὴ καὶ ἡ ἀνάστασις ἡμῶν, Κύριε δόξα σοι.

Τῶν Προπατόρων.
Ἦχος β΄.

Ἐν πίστει τοὺς Προπάτορας ἐδικαίωσας, τὴν ἐξ Ἐθνῶν δι' αὐτῶν προμνηστευσάμενος Ἐκκλησίαν. Καυχῶνται ἐν δόξῃ οἱ Ἅγιοι, ὅτι ἐκ σπέρματος αὐτῶν, ὑπάρχει καρπός εὐκλεής, ἡ ἀσπόρως τεκοῦσά σε. Ταῖς αὐτῶν ἱκεσίαις, Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός, σῶσον τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

Τοῦ Ἁγίου.
Ἦχος πλ. α΄. *Τὸν συνάναρχον Λόγον.*

Ἱερέων ποδήρει κατακοσμούμενος, καὶ αἱμάτων τοῖς ῥείθροις ἐπισταζόμενος, τῷ Δεσπότῃ σου Χριστῷ μάκαρ ἀνέδραμες, Ἐλευθέριε σοφέ, καθαιρέτα τοῦ Σατᾶν. Διὸ μὴ παύσῃ πρεσβεύων, ὑπὲρ τῶν πίστει τιμώντων, τὴν μακαρίαν σου ἄθλησιν.

Τοῦ Ναοῦ.
Ἦχος πλ. δ΄.

Εὐλογητὸς εἶ Χριστὲ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, ὁ πανσόφους τοὺς ἁλιεῖς ἀναδείξας, καταπέμψας αὐτοῖς τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ Ἅγιον, καὶ δι' αὐτῶν τὴν οἰκουμένην σαγηνεύσας, Φιλάνθρωπε, δόξα σοι.

Κοντάκιον.
Ἦχος γ΄. *Αὐτόμελον.*

Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον, τὸν προαιώνιον Λόγον, ἐν Σπηλαίῳ ἔρχεται, ἀποτεκεῖν ἀπορρήτως. Χόρευε ἡ οἰκουμένη ἀκουτισθεῖσα, δόξασον μετὰ Ἀγγέλων καὶ τῶν Ποιμένων, βουληθέντα ἐποφθῆναι, Παιδίον νέον, τὸν πρὸ αἰώνων Θεόν.

Πρὸς Τιμόθεον β' 1:8-18

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος βαρύς
ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 115.5,3 (116.15,12)

Τίμιος ἐναντίον Κυρίου ὁ θάνατος τῶν ὁσίων αὐτοῦ.

Στίχ. Τί ἀνταποδώσωμεν τῷ Κυρίῳ περὶ πάντων, ὧν ἀνταπέδωκεν ἡμῖν;

Πρὸς Τιμόθεον β' 1:8-18 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Τέκνον Τιμόθεε, μὴ οὖν ἐπαισχυνθῇς τὸ μαρτύριον τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν, μηδὲ ἐμὲ τὸν δέσμιον αὐτοῦ· ἀλλὰ συγκακοπάθησον τῷ εὐαγγελίῳ κατὰ δύναμιν θεοῦ, τοῦ σώσαντος ἡμᾶς καὶ καλέσαντος κλήσει ἁγίᾳ, οὐ κατὰ τὰ ἔργα ἡμῶν, ἀλλὰ κατ' ἰδίαν πρόθεσιν καὶ χάριν τὴν δοθεῖσαν ἡμῖν ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ πρὸ χρόνων αἰωνίων, φανερωθεῖσαν δὲ νῦν διὰ τῆς ἐπιφανείας τοῦ σωτῆρος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, καταργήσαντος μὲν τὸν θάνατον, φωτίσαντος δὲ ζωὴν καὶ ἀφθαρσίαν διὰ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου, εἰς ὃ ἐτέθην ἐγὼ κῆρυξ καὶ ἀπόστολος καὶ διδάσκαλος ἐθνῶν. Δι' ἣν αἰτίαν καὶ ταῦτα πάσχω, ἀλλ' οὐκ ἐπαισχύνομαι· οἶδα γὰρ ᾧ πεπίστευκα, καὶ πέπεισμαι ὅτι δυνατός ἐστιν τὴν παραθήκην μου φυλάξαι εἰς ἐκείνην τὴν ἡμέραν. Ὑποτύπωσιν ἔχε ὑγιαινόντων λόγων ὧν παρ' ἐμοῦ ἤκουσας, ἐν πίστει καὶ ἀγάπῃ τῇ ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ. Τὴν καλὴν παραθήκην φύλαξον διὰ πνεύματος ἁγίου τοῦ ἐνοικοῦντος ἐν ἡμῖν. Οἶδας τοῦτο, ὅτι ἀπεστράφησάν με πάντες οἱ ἐν τῇ Ἀσίᾳ, ὧν ἐστιν Φύγελος καὶ Ἑρμογένης. Δώῃ ἔλεος ὁ κύριος τῷ Ὀνησιφόρου οἴκῳ· ὅτι πολλάκις με ἀνέψυξεν, καὶ τὴν ἅλυσίν μου οὐκ ἐπαισχύνθη, ἀλλὰ γενόμενος ἐν Ῥώμῃ, σπουδαιότερον ἐζήτησέν με καὶ εὗρεν - δώῃ αὐτῷ ὁ κύριος εὑρεῖν ἔλεος παρὰ κυρίου ἐν ἐκείνῃ τῇ ἡμέρᾳ - καὶ ὅσα ἐν Ἐφέσῳ διηκόνησεν, βέλτιον σὺ γινώσκεις.

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 14:16-24 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος τήν παραβολὴν ταύτην· Ἄνθρωπός τις ἐποίησε δεῖπνον μέγα καὶ ἐκάλεσε πολλούς· καὶ ἀπέστειλε τὸν δοῦλον αὐτοῦ τῇ ὥρᾳ τοῦ δείπνου εἰπεῖν τοῖς κεκλημένοις· ἔρχεσθε, ὅτι ἤδη ἕτοιμά ἐστι πάντα. καὶ ἤρξαντο ἀπὸ μιᾶς παραιτεῖσθαι πάντες. ὁ πρῶτος εἶπεν αὐτῷ· ἀγρὸν ἠγόρασα, καὶ ἔχω ἀνάγκην ἐξελθεῖν καὶ ἰδεῖν αὐτόν· ἐρωτῶ σε, ἔχε με παρῃτημένον. καὶ ἕτερος εἶπε· ζεύγη βοῶν ἠγόρασα πέντε, καὶ πορεύομαι δοκιμάσαι αὐτά· ἐρωτῶ σε, ἔχε με παρῃτημένον. καὶ ἕτερος εἶπε· γυναῖκα ἔγημα, καὶ διὰ τοῦτο οὐ δύναμαι ἐλθεῖν. καὶ παραγενόμενος ὁ δοῦλος ἐκεῖνος ἀπήγγειλε τῷ κυρίῳ αὐτοῦ ταῦτα. τότε ὀργισθεὶς ὁ οἰκοδεσπότης εἶπε τῷ δούλῳ αὐτοῦ· ἔξελθε ταχέως εἰς τὰς πλατείας καὶ ῥύμας τῆς πόλεως, καὶ τοὺς πτωχοὺς καὶ ἀναπήρους καὶ χωλοὺς καὶ τυφλοὺς εἰσάγαγε ὧδε. καὶ εἶπεν ὁ δοῦλος· κύριε, γέγονεν ὡς ἐπέταξας, καὶ ἔτι τόπος ἐστί. καὶ εἶπεν ὁ κύριος πρὸς τὸν δοῦλον· ἔξελθε εἰς τὰς ὁδοὺς καὶ φραγμοὺς καὶ ἀνάγκασον εἰσελθεῖν, ἵνα γεμισθῇ ὁ οἶκος μου. λέγω γὰρ ὑμῖν ὅτι οὐδεὶς τῶν ἀνδρῶν ἐκείνων τῶν κεκλημένων γεύσεταί μου τοῦ δείπνου. Πολλοί γὰρ εἰσιν κλητοί, ὀλίγοι δέ ἐκλεκτοί.