THE ULTIMATE "PROTECTIVE PARENTS"

Being a parent can be described as a multi-faceted vocation. A father and mother are called upon to provide for every need of their child - sometimes at great expense and often with greater sacrifice. A child must be taught, nurtured, fed and disciplined. These are just a few parental responsibilities that a father and mother are obligated to meet.

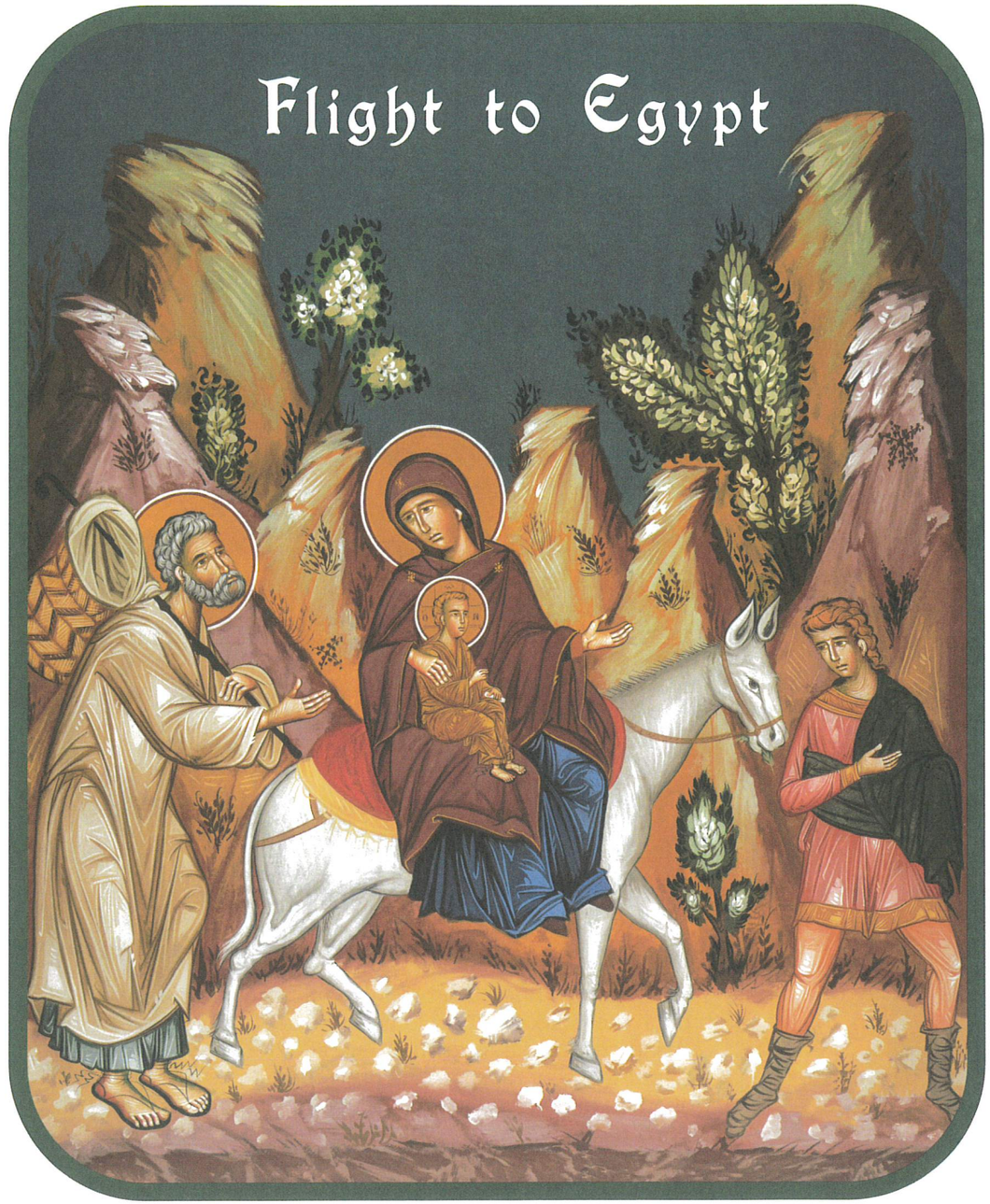
Perhaps the most important duty, however, that every parent must embrace is protecting their child from harm and misfortune. Sometimes lost in the story of our Lord's Nativity is the effort made by Joseph and the Virgin Mary to protect their precious Child from King Herod. He slaughtered scores of innocent children in Bethlehem and its surrounding region in his rage-driven quest to eliminate anyone who would dare be referred to as the "King of the Jews."

The Gospel of St. Matthew gives us the account of the courageous actions of our Lord's earthly parents. An angel of the Lord warns Joseph in a dream: "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him. " (Matthew 2:13) In the dead of night, they fled from their home in Bethlehem and embarked upon a long and dangerous journey, traveling hundreds of miles over rugged, unfamiliar terrain. Somehow, they safely arrived in Egypt, remaining there until Joseph received another heavenly visitor saying: "Arise, take the Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the Child's life are dead." (Matthew 2:20) Their stay in Egypt is shrouded in mystery. What we do know is this: Joseph and Mary were the ultimate "protective parents," preserving unharmed the One Who would grow up to be the Savior of the world!

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

Matthew 2:14

When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt.



METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

December 29, 2024

Rev. Fr. Nicholas Halkias
Parish Priest
Home: 330-956-9039
Email: frnick@htgoc.net

Deacon Michael El-Bardawil
Cell: 330-209-7235

Dan Speece
Parish Council President
Cell: 240-483-6930
Email:djspeece@aol.com

Office: 330-494-8770
office@htgoc.net
www.htgoc.net

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
Galatians
1:11-19

Gospel
Matthew
2:13-23

Attendance
12/22/24
177

Today's Prosfora & Communion Wine

Given by Steve and Kathy Dimos & Family
In Loving Memory of George Dimos

Given by Alex and Maria Bourlas
For the health of Kosta, Eleni, Alexander, Kalliope and Baby Ioannis Demetrios Koufos.

REMINDER: It is fast-free until Sunday, January 5, 2025.

Upcoming Memorials

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

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

January 25, 2025
40-Day Memorial & Coffee Hour - Aristides Amentas

Condolences

George Macrides, age 93, fell asleep in the Lord on December 19, 2024.

May his memory be eternal!

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.

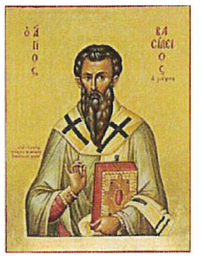
Sunday School Collection through January 2025

Help take care of our Furry Friends this holiday season through the Stark County Humane Society. Supplies are being collected through January 26, 2025 in the bin under the coat racks. A list of needed items can be found on the bulletin board outside the Church Office. Donation of time is also needed. Thank you!

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!



Saint Basil the Great



Apolytikion of Basil the Great

First Tone

Your voice resounded throughout the world that received your word by which, in godly manner, you taught dogma, clarified the nature of beings, and set in order the character of people. Venerable father, Royal Priesthood, intercede to Christ God to grant us great mercy.

Kontakion of Basil the Great

Fourth Tone

For the Church art thou in truth a firm foundation, granting an inviolate lordship unto all mortal men and sealing it with what thou hast taught, O righteous Basil, revealer of heavenly things.

Thank You

MANY THANKS!

On behalf of the Amentas family, we deeply thank Father Nicholas for his comforting services and prayers for our father, Aristides, which brought us great solace. We are also grateful to the Ladies of Koraes for their loving efforts in preparing the Makaria and to those who gifted flowers or donated to the church in his memory. Your kindness and generosity have touched our hearts. Father Nicholas, your leadership and the church community's support have been a true blessing. We pray for your continued strength as you guide others in faith and love. With gratitude, The Amentas Family

Calendar for the Week

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

Sunday, December 29
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY
40-Day Blessing - Ioannis Koufos
Parish Council Coffee Hour 11:30 AM
*SENIOR CHRISTMAS DINNER RESERVATIONS **DUE TODAY!***

Monday, December 30
Girls Basketball 6:00 PM

Tuesday, December 31
OFFICE CLOSES at 11:30 AM
Circumcision of Christ/ Divine Liturgy of St. Basil 6:00 PM

Wednesday, January 1, 2025
OFFICE CLOSED

Thursday, January 2
Koraes Board Meeting 7:00 PM
Young Adult Basketball 7:30 PM

Friday, January 3
Royal Hours 9:00 AM

Saturday, January 4
No Scheduled Events

Sunday, January 5
Eve of Theophany
Great Water Blessing 11:00 AM
Great Vespers 5:00 PM

SOMETHING NEW On the **first Sunday of each month**, the first 3 rows of pews on the left side of the church will be roped off for our new Youth Sermon Dates.

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

METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

December 22, 2024

Rev. Fr. Nicholas Halkias
Parish Priest
Home: 330-956-9039
Email: frnick@htgoc.net

Deacon Michael El-Bardawil
Cell: 330-209-7235

Dan Speece
Parish Council President
Cell: 240-483-6930
Email:djspeece@aol.com

Office: 330-494-8770
office@htgoc.net
www.htgoc.net

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
Hebrews
11:9-10; 32-40

Gospel
Matthew
1:1-25

Attendance
12/15/24
181

Today's Prosfora & Communion Wine

Given by the Amanatides Family and Georgene & Paul Forrest
In Loving Memory of Merle Amanatides

Given by Karen Kotanides
In Loving Memory of Steve & Stella Bournos

Given by Frank Rizzo & Family
In Loving Memory of Pauline Rizzo

December 25, 2024
Given by Anatole Willoughby

Upcoming Memorials

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

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

Church Office Holiday Hours

The Church Office will be closing on Tuesday, December 24, 2024 at 11:30 AM for Christmas Eve. **The Office will remain closed on Wednesday, December 25, 2024 through Friday, December 27, 2024 for the Christmas Holiday.** The Church Office will be closing on December 31, 2024 at 11:30 AM for New Year's Eve. The Office will be closed on Wednesday, January 1, 2025 for the New Year's Holiday. Many blessings to all during this season and thank you for allowing me to serve as your Church Office Administrator.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

~Lori Hohman

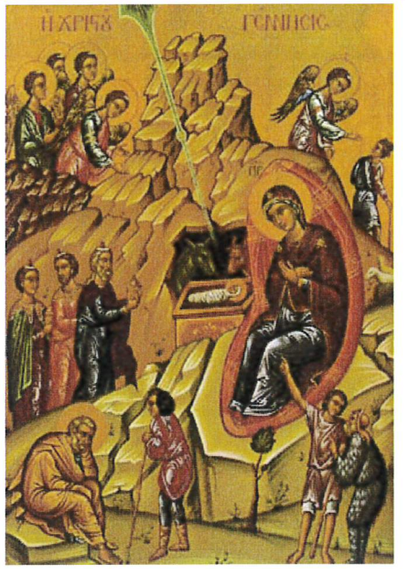
Have you turned in your 2025 Stewardship Commitment Card?

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.

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!



The Feast of the Nativity of Jesus is one of the most joyful days of the Orthodox Church. It ranks next to the greatest holiday, the Resurrection of Jesus. The Feast of the Birth of Jesus is also known as the "Incarnation of Christ." This means that Jesus became a man and came into the world to save us. We also refer to this joyous feast as Christmas.

COFFEE HOURS AT HOLY TRINITY

Welcome

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!

Calendar for the Week

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

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

Monday, December 23
Girls Basketball 6:00 PM

Tuesday, December 24
OFFICE CLOSES at 11:30 AM
Royal Hours 9:00 AM
Great Vespers of the Nativity 5:00 PM
"Away in the Manger" Pageant Following Liturgy

Wednesday, December 25
OFFICE CLOSED
Nativity of Christ
Orthros 8:30 AM
Liturgy 9:30 AM

Thursday, December 26
OFFICE CLOSED - Lori Vacation
Set up for Wedding

Friday, December 27
OFFICE CLOSED - Lori Vacation
Set up for Wedding
St. Stephen
Orthros 8:30 AM
Liturgy 9:30 AM

Saturday, December 28
Wedding 4:00 PM
Evan Monnot & Eliana Antoniades

Sunday, December 29
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY
Parish Council Coffee Hour 11:30 AM
*SENIOR CHRISTMAS DINNER RESERVATIONS **DUE TODAY**!*

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

"LET US NOW GO TO BETHLEHEM"

Some five miles south of Jerusalem, a small, unassuming town sits nestled among the rugged Judean hills. Its residents live in poverty today, as they have for centuries. Ordinarily, history would barely give such a place a passing glance, but this is no ordinary city of which we speak. This is BETHLEHEM, the site chosen by God to manifest Himself to the world in the Divine Person of Jesus Christ.

The word "Bethlehem" literally means "house of bread." Numerous references to this city are found in both the Old and New Testaments. It was the home of Ruth and the setting of the tender story of love and devotion related in the Book of Ruth. King David spent his youth in the hills around Bethlehem, and was anointed here by Samuel to be King of Israel. The tomb of Rachel, Jacob's wife, who died giving birth to Benjamin, is located just north of Bethlehem. Bethlehem was also one of the strongholds fortified by Solomon's son, Rehoboam, to guard the approaches to the city of Jerusalem.

All of these things, however, are greatly overshadowed by Bethlehem being the birthplace of Christ. Christians of all generations know every detail of the "Christmas Story" as related in the Gospel accounts of St. Matthew and St. Luke. The image of an exhausted Mary and Joseph, finally finding lodging in a stable on the outskirts of Bethlehem after their long journey from Jerusalem will forever be imbedded in the hearts and minds of all faithful believers. It was here, amidst the animals and in the stillness of the night that our Saviour was born!

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

Luke 2:4-7

Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.



THE FEAST OF OUR LORD'S NATIVITY