

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
1433 13th Avenue
Altoona PA 16601

May/June
2011

Glad Tidings

**Holy Trinity
Greek Orthodox
Church**

**1433 13th Avenue
Altoona PA 16601**

*Greek Orthodox
Archdiocese of America
Ecumenical Patriarchate
of Constantinople
His Eminence,
Metropolitan Maximos,
Holy Metropolis
of Pittsburgh*



CHURCH BOARD

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Father John P. Hutnyan

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We welcome you to Divine Liturgy today.
Whether you are an Orthodox Christian, or this is your first visit to an
Orthodox Church, we are pleased to have you with us.
Although **Holy Communion** is reserved for baptized and chrismated (confirmed)
Orthodox Christians, all are invited to receive the "**antidoron**"
which is not a sacrament, but is a reminder of the "agape feast"
that followed worship in the early Church.

**After the Divine Liturgy this morning, please join us in the Church Hall for
fellowship and refreshments.**

We hope you will return often to worship with us,
to grow in Christ and in our Orthodox Faith.

Schedule of Divine Services

- Sunday, MAY 1:** 10:30am Sunday of Doubting St. Thomas
- Sunday, MAY 8:** 10:30am Sunday of Myrrhbearing Women
MOTHER'S DAY- Memorial Service for all departed mothers,
grandmothers, Godmothers
- Sunday, MAY 15:** 10:30am Sunday of the Paralytic
- Sunday, MAY 22:** 10:30am Sunday of Samaritan Woman
- Sunday, MAY 29:** 10:30am Sunday of Blind Man
Memorial Day Weekend
- Sunday, JUNE 5:** 10:30am Sunday of Holy Fathers of 1st Ecumenical Council
- Sunday, JUNE 12:** 10:30am Pentecost Sunday
Kneeling Prayers
All Souls Memorial Service
- Sunday, JUNE 19:** 10:30am Sunday of All Saints
FATHER'S DAY- Memorial Service for departed fathers,
Grandfathers, Godfathers
- Sunday, JUNE 26:** 10:30am 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

WHEN RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION, please make sure you state your baptized name after Fr. John states "The servant (or handmaiden) of God..." We also ask that you hold the red cloth underneath your chin in case an accident happens. Once again, we ask that children come first to receive Holy Communion, then the adults. Those who are not receiving, we ask that you stand QUIETLY in the pews – with NO TALKING, please!

OUR MISSION IS TO GLORIFY OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST
THROUGH OUR WORDS AND ACTIONS, ACCORDING TO THE HOLY TRADITIONS
AND SACRED TEACHINGS OF OUR ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FAITH!

THE PROPER GREETING DURING THIS PASCHAL SEASON:

Christos Anesti! Alithos Anesti!
Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!

This greeting should be used for the next forty days until Ascension Thursday of our Lord. If you know this greeting in another language, please feel free to do so, to spread the joy of our Lord's Resurrection!

FATHERS DAY

God took the strength of a mountain,
The majesty of a tree,
The warmth of a summer sun,
The calm of a quiet sea.

The generous soul of nature,
The comforting arm of night,
The wisdom of the ages,
The power of the eagle's flight,

The joy of a morning in spring,
The faith of a mustard seed,
The patience of eternity,
The depth of a family need,

Then God combined
these qualities,
When there was nothing
more to add,
He knew His masterpiece
was complete,
And so, He called it.....DAD.



A Father Means...

A Father means so many things...
An understanding heart,
A source of strength and support right from the very start.

A constant readiness to help
In a kind and thoughtful way
With encouragement and forgiveness,

No matter what comes our way.
A special generosity and always affection, too.
A father means so many things
When he's a man like you...

HOW OFTEN DO YOU ATTEND CHURCH SERVICES??

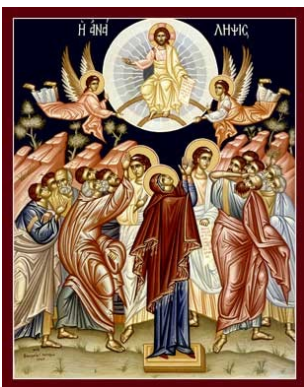
- Every Sunday
- Almost every Sunday
- Twice a month
- Once a month
- A few times a year
- Not sure, but every time I attend, there are poinsettias or lilies there!



A SPECIAL THANK YOU
to Cheryl Papadeas and
Lee Papadeas for
preparing the fish for the
Annunciation/Greek
Independence Day Fish
Dinner held on Palm
Sunday, and also to
others who helped and to
those who brought side
dishes to share. It was a
wonderful meal!!

**FEAST OF THE ASCENSION
OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR
JESUS CHRIST**

The Feast of the Ascension of our Lord is celebrated each year on the fortieth day after the Great and Holy Feast of Pascha (Easter). Since the date of Pascha changes each year, the date of the Feast of the Ascension changes. The Feast is always celebrated on a Thursday. The Feast itself commemorates when, on the fortieth day after His Resurrection, Jesus led His disciples to the Mount of Olives, and after blessing them and asking them to wait for the fulfillment of the promise of the Holy Spirit, He ascended into heaven.



The story of the Ascension of our Lord, celebrated as one of the Twelve Great Feasts of the Church, is found in the Book of Acts of the Apostles (1:3-11). It is also mentioned in the Gospels of Mark (16:19) and Luke (24:50-53). The moment of the Ascension is told in one sentence: "He was lifted up before their eyes in a cloud which took Him from their sight" (Acts 1:9).

SAINTS CONSTANTINE AND HELEN: JUNE 3RD

Constantine's parents were the Emperor Constantius Chlorus and the Empress Helena. Chlorus had further children by another wife, but by Helena he had only the one, Constantine. Constantine fought two great battles when he came to the throne: one against Maxentius, a tyrant in Rome, and the other against Licinius not far from Byzantium. At the battle against Maxentius, when Constantine was in great anxiety and uncertainty about his chances of success, a shining cross, surrounded by stars, appeared to him in the sky in full daylight. On the cross were written the words: "In this sign, conquer!" The wondering Emperor ordered that a great cross be put together, like the one that had appeared, and be carried before the army. By the power of the Cross, he gained a glorious victory over enemies greatly superior in number. Maxentius drowned himself in the Tiber. Immediately after this, Constantine issued the famous Edict of Milan, in 313, to put an end to the persecution of Christians. Conquering Byzantium, he built a beautiful capital city on the Bosphorus, which from that time was named Constantinople.

At this time, Constantine fell ill with leprosy. The pagan priests and doctors advised him to bathe in the blood of slaughtered children, which he refused to do. Then the Apostles Peter and Paul appeared to him and told him to seek out a bishop, Sylvester, who would heal him of the disease. The bishop instructed him in the Christian faith and baptized him, and the leprosy vanished from the Emperor's body.

When there was discord in the Church about the troublesome heretic Arius, the Emperor summoned the First Ecumenical Council in Nicea, in 325, where the heresy was condemned and Orthodoxy confirmed.

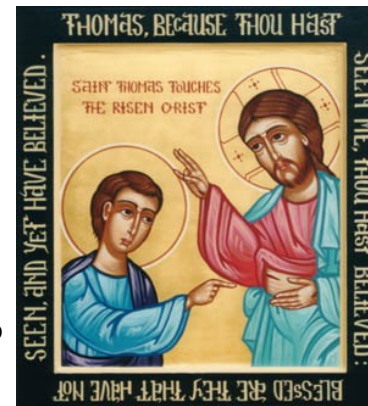
St. Helena, the Emperor's devout mother, was very zealous for the Christian faith. She visited Jerusalem and found the Precious Cross of the Lord, and built the Church of the Resurrection over Golgotha and many other churches in the Holy Land. This holy woman went to the Lord in 327, at the age of eighty. The Emperor Constantine outlived his mother by ten years and entered into rest at the age of about sixty in 337, in the city of Nicomedia. His body was buried in the Church of the Holy Apostles in Constantinople.

THE GREAT AND HOLY FEAST OF PASCHA

On the Great and Holy Feast of Pascha, Orthodox Christians celebrate the life-giving Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This "feast of feasts" is the most significant day in the life of the Church. It is a celebration of the defeat of death, as neither death itself nor the power of the grave could hold our Savior captive. In this victory that came through the Cross, Christ broke the bondage of sin, and through faith offers us restoration, transformation, and eternal life.

**2ND SUNDAY AFTER PASCHA:
FEAST OF THE SUNDAY OF THOMAS**

The Orthodox Church observes the Sunday of Thomas one week following the celebration of the Sunday of Holy Pascha. The day commemorates the appearance of Christ to His disciples on the evening of the Sunday following Passover. It also commemorates the appearance of the Lord to His disciples eight days later when Thomas was present and proclaimed "My Lord and my God" upon seeing the hands and side of Christ. This Sunday is also called Antipascha (meaning "instead of Pascha," not "in opposition to Pascha") because with this day, the first Sunday after Pascha, the Church consecrates every Sunday of the year to the commemoration of Pascha, that is, the Resurrection.



**3RD SUNDAY AFTER PASCHA:
FEAST OF THE HOLY MYRRHBEARERS**

The third Sunday after the Feast of Holy Pascha is observed by the Orthodox Church as the Sunday of the Holy Myrrhbearers. The day commemorates when the women disciples of our Lord came to the tomb to anoint His body with myrrh-oils but found the tomb empty. As the woman wondered what this meant, angels appeared proclaiming that Christ had risen from the dead.

(continued next page)

THE WEEK FOLLOWING PASCHA, namely April 25-30, is entitled a FAST FREE WEEK. The eating of meat products on that Wednesday and Friday is permitted because we have celebrated the "Feast of Feasts" – the Resurrection of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ!

THERE IS NO KNEELING in the Orthodox Church or at home for our prayers until Pentecost Sunday (June 12). This standing position signifies that we too, will rise with Christ. Special kneeling prayers are taken on the Feast of Pentecost (50 days after Pascha – Easter).

DON'T FORGET THAT OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM is continuing for the children of our parish every Sunday at 10:30am. Our teachers will come up to the Divine Liturgy if no one is there by 10:35am. Please make sure you bring your children to our ever-growing educational program. They need to learn to be that example of our Resurrected Christ to others in the world!

EVEN THOUGH IT IS AFTER GREAT LENT, why not stop by our church library to pick up a book to read? There are many books, for the very young and for our older parishioners also. See Alice Laskaris-Kotala to take one out!

ATTENTION PARISHIONERS! As always, we ask you please be considerate of how you leave the pews after Sunday Divine Liturgy. Clean-up any crumbs or garbage left by family members. This will keep our church beautiful and neat!

A SINCERE THANK YOU to all who helped out during Holy Week — whether during the processions, carrying the kouvouklion, donating for flowers, decorating the kouvouklion, donating red Paschal eggs, to Connie Russo for printing our Holy Week service booklets, and to those who made this Holy Week something special spiritually. May the Risen Christ live within your spiritual lives always!

ON BEHALF OF MY FAMILY, I wish to thank all those who showed concern for Presvytera Nancy during her hospital stay, through their telephone calls, e-mails, cards and prayers. She is recuperating slowly and gaining strength every day. Your concern for her health shall never be forgotten by us. May our Risen Messiah bless you with many years of spiritual joy and health!

**4TH SUNDAY AFTER PASCHA:
FEAST OF THE SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC**
The third Sunday after the Feast of Holy Pascha is observed by the Orthodox Church as the Sunday of the Paralytic. The day commemorates the miracle of Christ healing a man who had been paralyzed for thirty-eight years. The Biblical story of the event is found in the Gospel of John 5:1-15.

**5TH SUNDAY AFTER PASCHA:
SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN**
The fifth Sunday after the Feast of Holy Pascha is observed by the Orthodox Church as the Sunday of the Samaritan Woman. The day commemorates the encounter of Christ with the Samaritan Woman at Jacob's well. The Biblical story of this event and the dialog between Christ and the woman is found in the Gospel of Saint John 4:5-42.

**6TH SUNDAY AFTER PASCHA:
SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN**
The sixth Sunday after the Feast of Holy Pascha is observed by the Orthodox Church as the Sunday of the Blind Man. The day commemorates the miracle of Christ healing the man who was blind since birth. The Biblical story of this event is found in the Gospel of Saint John 9:1-41.

THE FEAST OF HOLY PENTECOST

The Feast of Holy Pentecost is celebrated each year on the fiftieth day after the Great and Holy Feast of Pascha (Easter) and ten days after the Feast of the Ascension of Christ. The Feast is always celebrated on a Sunday. The Feast commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles on the day of Pentecost, a feast of the Jewish tradition. It also celebrates the establishment of the Church through the preaching of the Apostles and the baptism of the thousands who on that day believed in the Gospel message of salvation through Jesus Christ. The Feast is also seen as the culmination of the revelation of the Holy Trinity and is found in The Acts of the Apostles.

M - O - T - H - E - R

"M" is for the million things she gave me
"O" means only that she's growing old
"T" is for the tears she shed to save me
"H" is for her heart of purest gold
"E" is for her eyes, with love-light shining
"R" means right, and right she'll always be
Put them all together, they spell "MOTHER,"
A word that means the world to me!

QUOTATIONS FOR MOTHER'S DAY

A *mother* is a person who, seeing there are only four pieces of pie for five people, promptly announces she never did care for pie.

Hundreds of dewdrops to greet the dawn,
Hundreds of bees in the purple clover,
Hundreds of butterflies on the lawn,
But only one *mother* the wide world over.

Being a full-time *mother* is one of the highest salaried jobs...since the payment is pure love.

A man's work is from sun to sun, but a *mother's* work is never done.

God could not be everywhere and therefore He created *mothers*.

May God's blessings be on you
Today and every day
For you have more than been a blessing,
And shown others the way.
I just want you to know today
How much you've really meant,
And that I love you very much
A *mother* heaven sent.



Building a life with God means that His time is NOT the priority among a number of other possibilities.

Building a life with God means that His time is His alone, and you allow nothing else to stand in the way.

MEMORIAL DAY MEANING - THE HISTORY

Each May, the United States celebrates a day called Memorial Day. Does Memorial Day have meaning? What is the history of Memorial Day? Memorial Day was first widely observed in May 1868. The celebration commemorated the sacrifices of the Civil War and the proclamation was made by General John A. Logan. Following the proclamation, participants decorated graves of more than 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers.

In years since World War 1, the day has become a celebration of honor for those who died in all American's wars, as well as those who are Veterans and current members of the U.S. military. In 1971, Memorial Day was declared a national holiday. The United States celebrates this holiday the last Monday of May.