

Why We're Proud to be Greek

- Because Socrates, Plato and Aristotle were Greek
- Because we gave birth to Democracy
- Because we discovered logic and higher mathematics
- Because we jump-started science and fathered modern medicine
- Because we invented theatre
- Because we dance when we are sad
- Because we never visit others empty handed
- Because we always make it ...even if it's at the last moment
- Because we are not ashamed to cry and show emotion
- Because nights in Greece finish in the morning
- Because we go out almost every night—even if we are penniless
- Because we know how to spend better than we know how to save
- Because for the sake of a woman and honor, we made war for 10 years
- Because we love, and occasionally hate, with utmost passion
- Because whenever other cultures can't find a word, they use one of ours
- Because we work to live and we do not live to work
- Because we speak loudly and laugh even louder
- Because our parents do not forget that we still exist when we reach 18
- Because the Olympic games were born in our homeland
- Because our Olympic light unites the world and passes a message of peace
- Because 40% of the Oxford dictionary is defined by Greek words
- Because we are a poor country with very rich citizens
- Because we know the meaning of "Kefi" (propensity for fun)
- Because in Greece nobody is hungry
- Because in Greece nobody is homeless – we take care of our own
- Because we have a small, poor country full of people with big hearts
- Because we gave meaning to the ultimate oath – "freedom or death"
- Because "filotimo" (friend of honor, helping someone because it's a shame not to) doesn't exist in any other language
- Because "Greeks do not fight as heroes, heroes fight like Greeks"

(Winston Churchill, 1941)

5th Annual

GREEK FESTIVAL

*...when the corner of
13th Avenue & 15th Street in
Downtown Altoona becomes
"a little bit of Greece"*

SATURDAY—SEPT. 11, 2010

11AM TO 7PM

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

1433 13TH AVENUE ~ ALTOONA, PA 16601

814.943.0091

www.holytrinityaltoona.org

A Message from our Priest...

Kalos Orisate! Welcome!

It is with great joy that our Greek Community welcomes you to our 5th Annual Greek Festival. This annual celebration is an effort of love of our parishioners preparing the foods and delicacies you will enjoy! We are thankful that you have come to be with us. Our hope is to offer you a fun-filled day, while introducing you to our rich culture.

Our parishioners and festival volunteers have worked very hard recently to bring you a nice variety of music, dancing, cultural experiences, church tours, and of course, our delicious Greek foods and pastries.

We are very proud of our culture, which is steeped in history, tradition and hospitality. We also invite you to take a tour of our beloved church. This is the heart of our parish life. We gather weekly to worship our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The beauty of the church visually and the hymns and chanting lift the soul heavenward as we leave behind all "earthly cares" and direct our hearts and minds towards the Lord. Our church is a living expression of Greek Orthodoxy that has been handed down from generation to generation for over two thousand years— "standing firm...and keeping the traditions that we taught you..." as St. Paul articulates in his epistle to the Thessalonians (2 Thes. 2:15). If you have not had the opportunity to experience an Orthodox Service we invite you to visit us on Sundays at 10:30am. A schedule of services is available over the phone. You and your family are always welcome!

Step into our culture and experience the sights, sounds and tastes of the birthplace of democracy—Greece. Enjoy the Greek food, feel the rhythm of the music, and dance a little!

We thank you for your support of our community and we look forward to serving you. Have a great Greek time! Be Greek for a day!!

God be with you ~

Father John P. Hutnyan

Speak Greek for a Day!

Yiassou (pronounced ya-soo): **hello** or **goodbye**

Tekanes (pronounced te-ka-nes): **how are you**

Polli Kalla (pronounced po-le ka-la): **very good**

Efharisto (pronounced ef-ha-ri-sto): **thank you**

Parakalo (pronounced pa-ra-ka-lo): **you're welcome** or **please**

Kali Mera (pronounced ka-li-mer-ra): **good morning**

Kali Spera (pronounced ka-li spe-ra): **good evening**

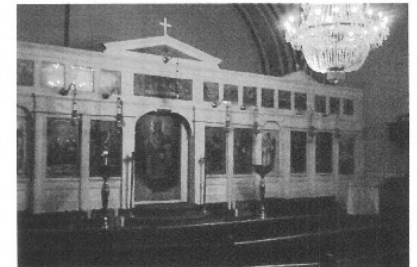
Kali Nihta (pronounced ka-li nih-ta): **good night**

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The Greek community was established in Altoona in 1898, when A. A. Notopoulos initiated the Greek Settlement. By 1933, as it celebrated its 35th anniversary, the Church was comprised of 400 men, women and children, 200 of whom were American citizens. Subsequently covering a four-county area, its membership expanded to at least 500 persons. The Greek population peppered the Altoona landscape in those early immigrant days with restaurants, lunch rooms, bars and taverns, grocery stores, bakeries, business enterprises, and real estate investments.

When the church building fund reached a little more than \$28,000, the Commonwealth was petitioned for a State Charter for the Hellenic Community of the Holy Trinity-Agia Trias-of Altoona, Pennsylvania. In 1924 the Mountain City Hebrew Reform Congregation sold its synagogue to Mr. Notopoulos and Charles Miles on behalf of the Greek Orthodox Congregation for \$37,500, and the sale included the three adjacent houses.

When the building was converted to a Greek Orthodox Church it was described as the "most elegant church between Pittsburgh and Philadelphia." The crystal chandelier, imported from Czechoslovakia, was purchased by the Congregation in 1925. In the 1930s, Holy Trinity supported a resident priest with his family, a psalti and Greek School teacher. During World War II, women of the congregation supported the Greek War Relief effort by holding fundraisers and collecting clothing to be sent to Greece. When the war ended, returning servicemen were honored at a dance in the Penn Alto's Logan Room.



In the decades after the war, when the employment situation in Altoona drastically changed, the population of Holy Trinity started a sliding decline, and with the exodus for employment elsewhere and natural attrition, the congregation reached a point when it could no longer afford a full-time resident priest. Continually since 1982, the Metropolis, through his Eminence Metropolitan Maximos, has blessed Holy Trinity with priests to serve the community on a Sundays-only basis, with special arrangements for other needs.

SPECIAL SERVICES

Marriages, Baptisms, Funerals, and Memorial Services are scheduled by contacting the priest and/or a member of parish council.

Holy Week services begin with Palm Sunday, followed by Holy Wednesday, Holy Thursday and Good Friday services in the evening.

Morning services are held on Good Friday and Holy Saturday and the Apokathelosis Service is held in the afternoon on Good Friday.

The Anastasis (Resurrection) Service on Holy Saturday begins at 11:30pm, with the "Receiving of the Light" at midnight, followed by the Paschal Divine Liturgy.

The Blessing of Water is celebrated on the Sunday closest to the date—January 6. The Annunciation is celebrated on the Sunday closest to the date—March 25. Sunday of the Holy Cross is observed on the Sunday closest to September 14.

Other special Holy Days include Saturday of the Souls, Meat Fare, Cheese Fare, Beginning of Lent, Sunday of Orthodoxy, Saturday of Lazarus, Ascension, Pentecost, All Saints, the Transfiguration, the Nativity of the Theotokos, and the Presentation of Christ to the Temple.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

The Congregation hosts its Greek Festival each year at the Church, featuring Greek food and pastries, Church tours, live Greek music and Greek dancing. The festival traditionally boasts hundreds of attendees eager to experience Greek culture, and has become a landmark event for Altoona and its surrounding communities.

A Coffee and Fellowship Hour, each Sunday after Liturgy, is generously hosted by a member of the Congregation in the James Parros Social Hall in the lower level of the Church. Everyone is welcome.

A Fish Dinner, on the Sunday closest to March 25, is traditionally held in honor of the Annunciation and also of Greek Independence Day.

A Buffet Luncheon is held after the Palm Sunday Divine Liturgy in the James Parros Hall to honor our out-of-town guests. Easter Trapezi (dinner) is hosted by the Congregation after the Resurrection Divine Liturgy in the James Parros Hall.

Also, during the Nativity Season, the Parish has often held a Christmas Dinner, at a date to be announced, to commemorate the Holiday.

Greek Festival Menu

Souvlaki (*soo-vla-ke*)— marinated lamb or chicken skewers

Gyro (*ye-ro*)— sliced lamb, shredded lettuce, sliced tomato, diced onion and tzatziki sauce on a pita

Pastitso (*pa-stit-sioh*) — “Greek lasagna”
Baked macaroni with spiced ground beef, topped with a béchamel sauce

Spanakopita (*spa-na-ko-pita*) — spinach pie

Moussaka (*moo-sah-kah*) — eggplant casserole

Tiropita (*te-ro-pita*) — cheese pie

Dolmades (*dol-ma-des*) — grape leaves stuffed with spices and ground beef in a lemon sauce

Salata (*sah-la-ta*) — lettuce, green peppers, red onions, pepperocinis, tomatoes, feta cheese, kalamata olives with a vinegar, olive oil, and spice-based salad dressing

Pilafi (*pe-la-fe*) — Greek style rice pilaf in chicken stock and butter

Roasted Lamb Dinner — roasted lamb, pilaf and salata

Greek Festival Pastries

Baklava (*bak-la-va*)— Phyllo pastry, baked with butter and walnuts topped with honey syrup



Diples (*de-ples*)— Egg dough fried and topped with honey and nuts



Koolourakia (*kou-lo-ra-kia*)— Twisted or circular shaped butter cookies

Kourambiedes (*kou-ram-ti-e-des*)— Butter cookies topped with powdered sugar

Malomakaroma (*mal-o-ma-ka-ro-ma*)— Cookies dipped in honey syrup and sprinkled with chopped walnuts



Paximadia (*pax-i-ma-di-a*)— Toasted butter cookies (similar to biscotti)



Loukoumades (*lou-ko-ma-des*)— feather light Greek fried dough puffs dipped in honey and topped with cinnamon

Trigona (*tre-go-na*)— triangular shaped phyllo and almonds with honey sauce, topped with cherry

Vasilopita (*vas-e-lo-pita*)— Greek sweet bread



Kataifi (*ka-ta-e-fe*)— layered “shredded wheat” phyllo dough, sprinkled with walnuts, baked and laced with honey syrup, then topped with a layer of vanilla custard and whipped topping

CHURCH HISTORY

Holy Trinity was founded in 1917 when Altoona's Greek immigrant settlement justified formation of a church reflecting the values of the "home country." The congregation met in a third floor hall in the Shannon Building, Eleventh Avenue, downtown Altoona, and in 1924 purchased the current church from the Mountain City Hebrew Reform Congregation, predecessor to the current Temple Beth Israel which had outgrown the facility to relocate at Union Avenue.

Historically, the church, a Moorish and Byzantine design by Altoona's premier architect, Charles M. Robinson, was erected in 1898 by Orr and Blake as the first Jewish Temple in Altoona and its style lent itself to easy conversion to Eastern Orthodox requirements.

The church congregation was honored in the 1930s by two visits by Archbishop Athenagoras, who later became Patriarch of the Eastern Orthodox Church internationally. The present pastor, Father John P. Hutnyan, commutes from Buffalo, New York to serve the Divine Liturgy each Sunday.

TERRITORY

Holy Trinity's jurisdiction involves the City of Altoona and environs and extends through Central Pennsylvania to include State College, Milesburg, Lewistown, Lock Haven, DuBois, Bedford, and other communities north to Williamsport, east to Harrisburg and west to Johnstown.

Its broad scope makes cohesive membership on a consistent basis challenging and fluctuating. Holy Trinity serves the Eastern Orthodox needs of those residing in the Central Pennsylvania Area, substantially between Pittsburgh and Harrisburg.

REGULAR SERVICES

Divine Liturgy is held each Sunday, starting at 10:30 a.m. Special services for major Holy Days, as well as memorial services (scheduled by the family in advance) may follow the Divine Liturgy, except for Holy Week, when special services are scheduled. Services are in both Greek and English.

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church is supported by the generous donations of its congregation members and through the thoughtful contributions of former parish members who have moved elsewhere. If you are interested in making a contribution or regularly supporting the church, contributions may be mailed directly to the church. Continuation of the church is ultimately dependent on this generous participation and on the regular attendance of its members.