

# *Dynamis*

December 2011

*"... Since the kingdom of God is not just words, it is power."*

1 CORINTHIANS 4:20

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL + PORTLAND + OREGON

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## **The Birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**

Reflections: Why did He come?

Why did God choose to come to us in Person? What were the reasons that impelled Him to visit us? They must have been awfully important reasons to make God empty Himself and take the form of a servant. Couldn't He have sent someone else? Couldn't He have ordered an angel or an archangel to come? Why did the Lord of the Universe Himself have to come?

We see an indication of why God would ultimately come to earth in the Old Testament where we hear God saying in Exodus 3:7-8, "I have seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt, and heard their cry... for I know their sorrows and suffering and trials. And I have come down to deliver them."

He would come because He cared. He would come to deliver His people from the slavery of sin and death. He would come because He loved us. The Apostle John expressed superbly the great reason for His coming in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

*Presbytera Emily Harakas & Fr. Anthony Coniaris*

Why did He come?

"Do you ask why God was born among men?"

"Here is the reason for God's presence among men. Our nature was sick and needed a doctor. Man had fallen and needed someone to raise him up. He who had ceased to participate in the good needed someone to bring him back to it. He who was shut in darkness needed the presence of life. The prisoner was looking for someone to ransom him, the captive for someone to take his part. He who was under the yoke of slavery was looking for someone to set him

free. Were these trifling and unworthy reasons to impel God to come down to visit human nature...?"

*Saint Gregory of Nyssa*

Christ is Born! Glorify Him! Christ comes from heaven, go to welcome Him; Christ is on earth, be lifted up! Sing to the Lord, all the earth!

Christmas celebrates the most important meeting in the history of humanity. God has sent His Son to us. Heaven has come to earth! Man through sin separated himself from God and was expelled from paradise. Man left God, but God never left us. St. Athanasios, in his spiritual classic, The Incarnation, wrote, "God saw man growing further and further

away from Him. Because of love, God sent His only begotten Son to save us." Even before the Birth of Jesus Christ, God would make covenants with man. They were broken by man, and always restored by God. The first covenant was given to Noah, and

after Abraham and the patriarchs. With Moses the covenant with God becomes even stronger. Despite our errors, God never gave up on His plan to save humanity. The prophet and king David is anointed by the Holy Spirit and tells the people that the Messiah, who is greater than he, will come after him. The covenant is the Coming of the Messiah!

The Nativity celebrates Christ coming to us. He has come to make a covenant of an eternal bond and promise. Let us respond to Christ, and offer our covenant of faith and obedience. I pray that the weeks leading up to Christmas, will be a wonderful time of spiritual growth.

With love in Christ,

*Father Jordan*



**Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox  
Cathedral 3131 NE Glisan St.,  
Portland, OR 97232**

*Dynamis* is the monthly newsletter of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Portland, Oregon. Articles for the next month's issue of *Dynamis* are due in the church office on the 11<sup>th</sup> of the current month. Deadlines will be strictly adhered to.

**Dynamis Editorial Guidelines**

How to contribute: Email to: [Gail@goholytrinity.org](mailto:Gail@goholytrinity.org) or on a CD with a hard copy to the church office. If you do not use a computer, please fax submissions to 503-236-8379 or bring a typed copy to the church office.

We reserve the right to edit or decline a submission. All inserts must be approved by the church office and the postal service.

Announcements policy: Unpaid announcements for church-related events are limited to a half page. Non-church-related community event announcements are limited to a quarter page.

Advertising rates:

Full advertising section –	
half of back page .....	\$.400
Half advertising section –	
¼ of back cover .....	\$225
Quarter advertising section –	
1/8 of last page .....	\$125

**Holy Trinity Cathedral  
Parish Council Meeting  
Minutes  
October 10, 2011**

Present:

Father Jordan, Mike Rouches, Jace Thompson, Irini Souris, Andy Fraser, Nick Triantafillou, Father Deacon David, Christina Geist, John Spathas

Excused Absence:

Jim Aspros, Ted Papas, Sophia Stamatis, Demetri Touhouliotis, Father Dimos, John Sarigiannides

Opening Prayer:

Father Jordan offered the opening prayer.

Approval of Minutes:

9-12-2011 meeting minutes approved by Parish Council.

Agenda

Guest: Past Presidents Committee, Holy Trinity Ad Hoc Committee Report

Vasiliki Vlahakis, Zach Stoumbos, E John Rumpakis, Mike Rumpakis, Alex Christy, John Marandas, John Skimas

Mike Rumpakis opened the discussion by reminding us what the goal and objective is for the Ad-Hoc Committee. The committee's responsibility is to identify existing liability exposures that Holy Trinity has. Mike R discussed the liability issues that the Catholic Church has dealt with over the years in regards to sex abuse lawsuits. He explained concerns about the current liability insurance that the church has, and that it would not be adequate to address many of the liabilities that Holy Trinity is exposed to. The current insurance only covers employees and members of the church during their duties and not outside of church responsibilities. A large liability also exists with festival volunteers seeing that there is no monitoring of the volunteers.

Zach Stoumbos put together document of recommendations that the committee has discussed as potential solutions. Five options were presented. All options recommended the creation of new legally entities and one viable option that was discussed is to create a new legal entity (non-profit corporation) named "Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral Foundation." All Endowment Fund assets could be held by the Foundation. This would limit the liability exposure to the Endowment Fund if the church ever faces a lawsuit. Three recommendations were made by the Ad-Hoc committee: (Document of recommendations and options was passed out)

The Ad-Hoc Committee asked parish counsel for permission to continue their work and to be allowed to further discuss their concerns with the Archdiocese.

Priests Report - Father Jordan

Father Dimos has had a great turnout for the community youth activities.

Father is pleased that attendance is up in Sunday school and at Church.

Father spoke about going to Dallas, and the new things the church is doing to increase stewardship. The initiative is called "parish renewal". Father passed out a handout for everyone to review.

This will be Don Ossey's last year on the stewardship committee. Don is working hard to recruit new members for the stewardship committee.

This weekend the Denver choir will be in Portland for a concert on October 14<sup>th</sup> at Holy Trinity and October 15<sup>th</sup> at St. John the Baptist.

Father Apostolos of Denver will be giving the sermon this Sunday which will focus on stewardship.

There will be a luncheon following church on October 16<sup>th</sup>.

Father shared some concerns about a lack of a "check in process" for volunteers at the Festival. Mike R recommended having some uniformed security guards during next year's Festival.

Presidents Report - Nick T

Nick spoke about stewardship. The overall message is to lead by example. We need to look at ourselves to see if we can contribute more. A telephone calling effort will be coordinated with the stewardship committee. A date and time will be forthcoming.

The next scheduled parish council meeting will be November 7<sup>th</sup> rather than November 14<sup>th</sup>.

Treasurer's Report - Jace T

If we were to take out the one time giving via bequest we would be slightly behind 2010 year to date numbers.

We need feedback from the different youth ministries to prepare their budgets for next year.

The Archdiocese assessment is flat from last year.

Final figures for Festival were estimated at \$535K up \$40K over prior year.

Jace will be setting up new accounting for the Festival

Building and Maintenance - Ted P (Nick T shared the following)

The annex floor was replaced in front of the oven and will be paid for by the Festival committee.

Power washing the walkway around the church took place at a cost of \$450.00.

Timberline Electric replaced the ballast in the small hall. The dishwasher in the kitchen was repaired.

The Fire Marshal completed his walk through and visit.

An analysis of the roof malignance took place on August 22nd.

The maintenance committee meeting took place on September 22nd where they worked on the 2012 maintenance budget. This will be presented at the November general assembly for approval.

The elevator was malfunctioning and the subsequently was serviced.

Thermostats were reset in both halls. The church thermostat was fixed in the sanctuary as it was mentioned that the church was warm and stuffy.

Shane cleaned the alter as well as the narthex and exonarthex.

The sidewalk at the corner of 32nd and Glisan needs to be repaired as there is a crack in the sidewalk.

Personnel - Mike R  
No updates at this time.

#### Liaison Reports:

Festival Report – Jim A next meeting is October 18, 2011

Philoptochos – Sophia S they are adopting a Seminarian

Stewardship – Ted P no update

Choir – Father Jordan no updates

AHEPA – John S no update

ASA – Mike R no update

Endowment – Nick T no report

Youth and Family – Christina G provided update on Youth Director position

Sunday school – Christina G attendance is up

Maintenance and Beautification – Ted P see above

HACCM – Sophia S - no report

Activity and Calendar Coordination –

Sophia S no update

AHEC – Andy F upcoming AHEC event in November

Greek School – Irimi S no update

Philoxenia Table – Sophia S. No update

#### Other Business:

Jim Aspros to provide November article in Dynamis

Agro Dinner coming up on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. The parish council has reserved a table.

#### Closing Prayer/Adjournment:

Closing Prayer offered by Father Jordan

<u>Action</u>	<u>Person Responsible</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
Hoyt Property Communication	Nick T	TBD
Stewardship Calling Effort	Irimi S	10-17-11
Upcoming Dynamis Article	Jim A	10-15-11
ARGO Dinner Event	Irimi S	10-23-11
Coffee Hour Schedule	Sophia S	01-01-12
UPR Project	Zak S	Ongoing
Ad Hoc Committee Updates	Committee	Ongoing

Minutes compiled by Jim Aspros



## **CAMP ANGELOS 14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL LAMB/SALMON DINNER**

**Sunday, December 11, 2011**

2:00 PM appetizers

4:00 PM Dinner

Tickets \$50 per person

RSVP to Helen Stratikos 503-666-8815 or

Mary Jo Brobeck 503-695-5888

Send checks to

Camp Angelos, 32149 SE Stevens Rd.,

Corbett, Oregon 97019

## Our People

### Baptism:

November 5, 2011: Athanasios Eleftherios Katsavopoulos, son of Eleftherios Athanasios Katsavopoulos and Nicole Lyn Paras Katsavopoulos. The Godparents are Vasili and Katerina Tsirimiagos.

### Wedding:

November 12, 2011: Spiro Kosta Sassalos and Stephani Joy Spence. Spiro is the son of Kosta Sassalos and Ingeborg Hause (Haroula Peterson) and Stephani is the daughter of John Spence and Kathie Berry. The Sponsor was Eugenia Terzis.

## Intersections

As Orthodox Christians we stand at the intersection of modern life and ancient faith. Intersections can be viewed as dividers or opportunities depending on how we enter them. In our parish council we endeavor to keep one foot planted in the reality of the 'business' of the church and to straddle the intersection to keep the other foot in the beauty, truth and tradition of our faith.

In tempering our actions decisions as Orthodox Christians first, we have a profound and usable framework to work issues in a modern manner, but we have to be careful to not allow the intersection and turn to divide or separate us. In looking at our collective church life, we have been faced with many intersections and opportunities, many twists and turns, and many traffic jams that could have thrown us from the road and left us wandering and lost.

Our parish has remained on the road, on this trail to build our faith, to praise and serve God and to inspire each other through love to have the courage to meet the next

intersection. The intersections we face everyday are chances to react, opportunities to connect, and places for us to see God revealed in our service. All members of our parish are responsible to build and grow our cathedral, to work together to move valuable missions, and to direct each other between the intersections of faith and life.

Mike Rouches

## The Best Gift



The days are darker, colder, and wetter. Yet our spirit soars and our hearts are at peace. We *know* our Lord and our Savior is born of the blessed Theotokos. The Son of God has come to earth to dwell among us, His creation, to make the ultimate sacrifice and to redeem us. And *nothing* will ever be the same. What greater gift than this?

During this season of Advent, as we approach Christmas, please remember your Holy Trinity Cathedral with your best gifts – your presence at Divine Liturgy and your gifts of your treasury. St. Gregory the Theologian writes, “You will never overcome God’s generosity, even if you give away all that you have....And however much you bring to Him, always more remains. Nor will you give anything that is your own; for all things flow from God.” Yet we can give a *true* gift – one born of

generosity and of willingness to give God back just a fraction of all he has already given us. Ultimately, we give out of love, because He loved us first.

Let us encourage each other these last weeks of the year. May we fulfill – or exceed – our pledge commitments; may we give generously and cheerfully and may God receive our gifts and increase them to His purpose.

## Stewardship Update through November 11

Pledges from 380 families:	\$341,535
Gifts from pledging families:	\$287,000
Gifts from additional 160 families:	\$ 51,730
Total gifts received:	\$338,730

We are on track to reach our annual goal of \$476,000, with your participation. Almost half of our pledging families have already fulfilled their pledge and some have exceeded their personal goal. Many other parishioners have also given generously. There are still 100 families who have not pledged or contributed so far this year. Please hesitate no longer – please respond generously in faith and in love for your Holy Trinity Cathedral.

## CHRISTMAS CHEER AT THIS TIME OF YEAR!!!

See the creative Christmas centerpieces designed by your very own Philoptochos circles....on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. Visit us in the hall to make your special selection. Find your perfectly themed centerpiece...and bless your table. Buy your special Tsourekia bread as well. Proceeds benefit the works of Philoptochos

# The Meaning of Church Membership

by Fr. Jim Kordaris

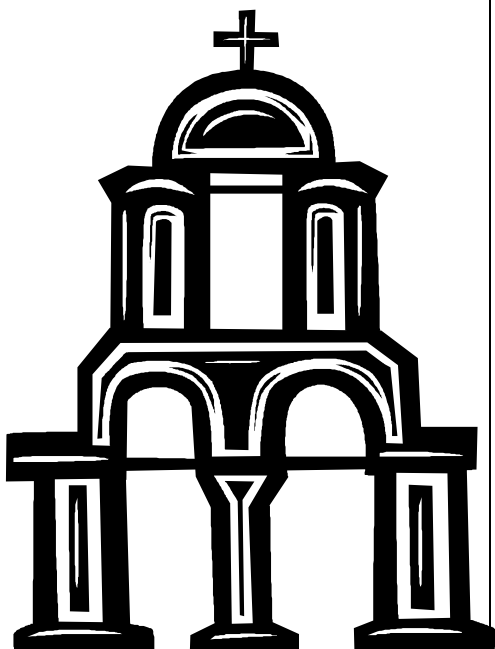
**“Now you are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.”**  
(1 Corinthians 12:27)

To be a member of the Church is not the same as being a member of a club or civic group. The Church is the “Body of Christ” (1 Corinthians 12). Therefore, to be a member of the Church is to be a part of the living body of Christ.

Just as every member has a different function in the human body, so do we, each, have a specific function or calling in His Church. God did not create each of us to do the same thing.

If a member of the human body is missing or not functioning, the entire body does not reach its full potential. In the same way, without all the members of the Church participating and working together, our ministries do not reach their full potential.

The Church needs not only to maintain its current ministries, but also to grow its ministries and add new ministries as needs or opportunities arise. Often new ministries come about because one member has an idea and the gifts, talent, training, abilities, education and skills to make it a reality. Each of us is called to offer



our gifts as we have been blessed and serve according to the task that God has placed before us in service to His Church.

## WHAT CAN WE DO?

Holy Scripture provides guiding principles for us as members of the Church for building up the body of Christ:

### Promote Truth and Unity

In Ephesians 4:25 we read, "Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body."

**Use Our God-given Abilities to Serve** In I Corinthians chapter 12 we read of the importance of using our gifts to serve the Church. Your gift is unique and important. The proper functioning of the body requires that you use your gifts in service to God.

### Regular and Cheerful Giving

In I Corinthians 16:2 we read "On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his/her income." In this way, we offer back to God's Church the "first fruits" of our labor, realizing that all we possess comes from Him.

In II Corinthians 9:7 we read "Each person should give what he/she has decided in his/her heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." Keep in mind that the expenses of the Church increase every year. In order to grow our ministries, your stewardship contributions must also increase each year.

**Let your life be an example to others** In chapter 5 of the Gospel of Matthew Jesus tells us that we "...are the light of the world." He calls on us to let our "...light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

### Worship God

In Psalm 92 we read "It is good to

praise the LORD and make music to your name, O Most High, to proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night." We are healed by praying and worshipping with others. There is a great sense of community that gives us strength when we pray and worship together in liturgy. We pray for ourselves and others, and we thank God for the many blessings in our lives.

### Love each other

In I John 4 we read, "Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." And in the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Gospel of John, Jesus tells us, "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

## EVALUATE YOUR LIFE

Are you a contributing member of the body of Christ? Are you actively serving God and sharing Him with others? Are you contributing to peace and unity within His body? Do you worship regularly? Take a moment to evaluate your life in light of these principles.

We are called to apply our gifts, training, abilities, education and skills to the tasks that God places before us. If we do this humbly and prayerfully, the body of Christ will function to its full potential.

The New Testament's motivation for giving is grace; giving is an act of worship in response to the generosity of God. You are to give, Paul says, "as God has prospered you." II Corinthians 8 and 9 teaches clearly, "He who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." God blesses those who give with generosity."

Giving is a way to thank God for His grace and generosity. The question is not, "How much do I give to stay in the club?" or "What are the dues?" but "How can I thank God for my many blessings?"

(Fr. Jim Kordaris serves the Archdiocese as director of Stewardship, Outreach & Evangelism. Article reprinted from the *Orthodox Observer*, September 2010.)

**HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL**  
3131 N.E. Glisan Street  
Portland, OR 97232

*Change Service Requested*

## Feast Days

December 6 ~ St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra  
8:30 am ~ Orthros, 9:30 am ~ Divine Liturgy  
December 9 ~ St. Anna  
7:00 am ~ Divine Liturgy  
December 12 ~ St. Spyridon  
8:30 am ~ Orthros, 9:30 am ~ Divine Liturgy  
December 13 ~ St. Herman  
7:00 am ~ Divine Liturgy  
December 15 ~ St. Eleutherios  
8:30 am ~ Orthros, 9:30 am ~ Divine Liturgy  
December 20 ~ St. Ignatios  
7:00 am ~ Divine Liturgy  
December 22 ~ St. Anastasia  
8:30 am ~ Orthros, 9:30 am ~ Divine Liturgy

**See Nativity Schedule →**

December 27 ~ St. Stephen the Protomartyr  
8:30 am ~ Orthros, 9:30 am ~ Divine Liturgy

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## Nativity Christmas Service Schedule

**Friday, December 23**

9:00 am ~ Nativity Royal Hours

**Saturday, December 24**

Forefeast Nativity/St. Eugenia

8:00 am ~ Orthros

9:00 am ~ Liturgy

**Saturday, December 24**

Evening Nativity Service

5:00 pm ~ Orthros

6:00 pm ~ Liturgy

**Sunday, December 25**

8:45 am ~ Orthros

10:00 am ~ Divine Liturgy

On Thursday, November 10

we had our annual

## Seniors Luncheon and

## Bingo.

Stan Tsoumas and Bill Pappas prepared a delicious lunch of Eggplant and Zucchini casserole and salad with cheesecake for dessert. It was great! There was lots of time for visiting and then we played Bingo. Thank you to Stan and Bill for cooking and of course, thank you to all the ladies who helped with the set up, serving and clean up.



To get on the Seniors Ministry list to get mailings about events, call the church office.



*Photos by Gail*

## Upcoming Senior Events

### include:

**St. Nicholas Luncheon on December 6<sup>th</sup> in the small hall**

**Dinner and Christmas Boats viewing at the Old Spaghetti Factory on December 12<sup>th</sup> (No-host)**

**You must RSVP for these events - call the church office to RSVP at 503-234-0468.**

***On Friday, October 28*** Holy Trinity's Greek Folk Dance group Anatoli performed before 80 residents of Terwilliger Plaza, where Georgia Varedzis resides. These dancers are in 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades.



*Photo by Maria Corvallis*